



Reveling in Ease & Arrogance

- 'At ease in Zion' (v1)
- 'Feel secure on Mount Samaria' (v2)
- Better than the rest (v2b)
- Affluence, comfort, hedonism

Pride in Defence & Achievement

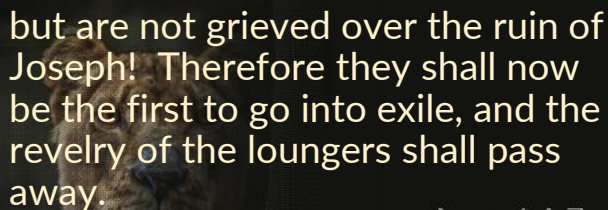
- 'Secure on Mount Samaria'
- Territorial extent of the nation (v2)
- A belief in their own 'manifest destiny'

The Temptation

- Tendency to boast in ourselves
- Egocentric arrogance
- Trusting in self and personal achievement rather than God

The Prophetic Critique

Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall; who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David improvise on instruments of music; who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils,



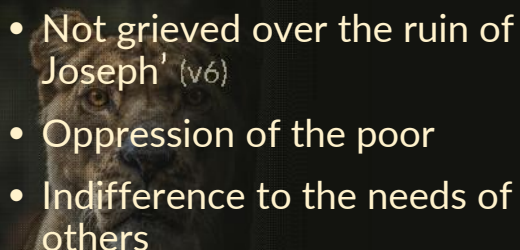
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Amos 6:4-7

Individual Affluence

- Lifestyle of luxury and ease
- Seven verbs: lie, lounge, eat, sing, improvise, drink, anoint (v4-6)
- Luxury seen in ivory, eating lambs, idle pleasure, wine by the bowl, finest oils
- A party atmosphere – ‘revelry of the loungers’ (v7)

Social Indifference

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- Not grieved over the ruin of Joseph' (v6)
 - Oppression of the poor
 - Indifference to the needs of others

Therefore, because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain,

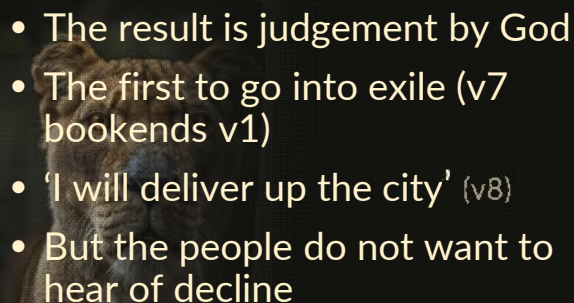
Amos 5:11a

Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground!

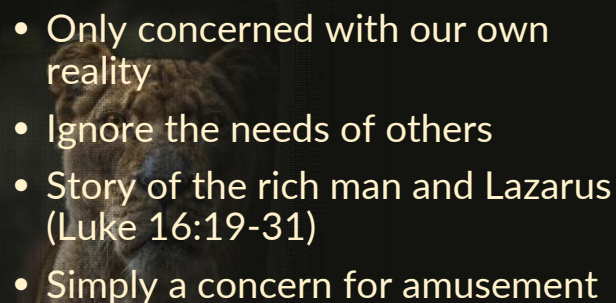
Amos 5:7

Wormwood = bitterness, grief

The Nation Will Be Judged

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- The result is judgement by God
 - The first to go into exile (v7 bookends v1)
 - ‘I will deliver up the city’ (v8)
 - But the people do not want to hear of decline

The Problem of Indifference

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- Only concerned with our own reality
 - Ignore the needs of others
 - Story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)
 - Simply a concern for amusement



So What?

The Message

- To those with a relatively high standard of living - not to be indifferent to the needs of others
- Not a time for pious words

From Indifference to Action

- Rouse ourselves to heal, feed, clothe
- To bring shalom where there is no shalom

Live With

- Live in dependence upon and in relationship with God
- Be active in God's Kingdom
- The humility of servanthood

I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men can build up.

Martin Luther King, Jr.