

《阿摩司书》 讲章 (王保罗 牧师)

《AMOS》 SERMON (Pastor Paul Wang)

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牧人出場 【摩 1:1-2】

引言

今天我們講阿摩司書，這是一卷奇特的書。可以說對我們今天的時代意義非凡，給人以儆醒禱告、免得入了迷惑，提供了歷史解讀的意義。原本是牧人的阿摩司，從神那兒領受使命，向神的子民及列國發出八個警告、三個宣告、五個異象。我們來看第一點：

時代的呼召

阿摩司卑微如牧人，出場勝君王！一個小小的牧羊人，所面對的卻是一個宏大的時代。首先，古老的帝國。聖經作者並沒有直接提到亞述帝國，因為神的眼目僅僅關注祂的子民。其他的哪怕再偉大的帝國，也不過是祂選民的陪襯。這時，環繞在神選民南北國周圍的，南邊有埃及，北邊有亞述帝國。此時的亞述帝國處於新亞述時期，即主前 1000 年以後。直至主前 612 年亞述帝國覆滅，為新巴比倫帝國所取代。阿摩司書大致寫於主前 760 至 753 年，距離北國以色列亡國 721 年，僅 32 年。滅掉北國的亞述王薩爾貢二世（Sargon II）有點兒像今天的當年的沙皇或是今天的普金，以開疆拓土為己任。其次，南北國君王。當我們研究南北國時，大概有一個“常識”，就是北國的二十個國王都是神眼中的惡王。而南國十三個王之中，卻有七個王是善王。其中阿摩司所處的時代，恰好是南國的善王烏西亞王，及北國的耶羅波安王。這個耶羅波安不是北國的開國國王耶羅波安，乃是一百三十三年之後的耶羅波安二世。烏西雅王在位 52 年，有一點像康熙帝與鰲拜的關係。前面 25 年與其父亞瑪謝王共同執政，後 10 年與其子約坦王共同攝政。聖經對他的評價是：“烏西雅王行耶和華眼中看為正的事，效法他父亞瑪謝一切所行的……耶和華神就使他亨通。”

最後，地震前兩年。以色列文物局於去年 8 月 4 日發表最近在耶路撒冷掘出聖經阿摩司書和撒迦利亞書中記載的地震證據，證明 2,800 年前震撼以色列土地的大地震同時震動耶路撒冷。說明神一直在對祂的子民說話，不斷地發出警告！以色列文物局發掘主任約爾·烏茲爾（Joe Uziel）和 奧塔爾·察喇夫(Ortal Chalaf) 表示：「當我們掘出公元前 8 世紀的破壞層時，我們感到非常驚訝，因為我們知道耶路撒冷繼續存在，直至約 200 年後被巴比倫攻破。阿摩司未必知道地震與耶路撒冷被毀有什麼關係，但是，重要的是聖經如此這般地介紹阿摩司，使我們感受到神在那個時代對先知呼召的心意。我們看第二點：

上帝的聲音

其實，地震就是上帝在對我們說話。阿摩司先知應該是親身經歷了那場地震，以致聖經的作者特意記載了那場地震。首先，時間的印記。很多人問我，上帝怎麼對人說話？我說，神可以用任何方式來對我們傳遞信息呀！當猶大王烏西雅、以色列王約阿施的兒子耶羅波安在位的時候，就是一個時代的信息。上帝藉著一個善王、一個惡王的環境向阿摩司傳遞一個挑戰的信息。這個時點上帝有信息，就是警告的信息。正如申命記所言：“我今日呼天喚地向你作見證、我將生死、禍福、陳明在你面前、所以你要揀選生命、使你和你的後裔都得存活（申 30:19）。”外面有強敵，內部有背叛，何去何從？

其次，路程的見證。阿摩司蒙召向北國以色列傳達神警告的信息，知道他是何許人也嗎？他可是從南國猶大的提哥亞山地來的。提哥亞在哪兒呢？他是在伯利恆以南約十公里、往東距離死海不到二十公里的山坡上、眾多牧人中的一位。他每次去北邊傳道，都要步行約兩百公里。一路走去，既觀察到南北國拜偶像的光景。也將南國烏西雅王遵行神旨意的見證，向北國以色列人傳揚。這是一個大使命模式：所以你們要去！只要去，就有使命、就可以傳使命、就可以見證使命！一個放羊娃，奉主的名走出去，一路上都有見證！

最後，聖城的叫聲。面對如此子民，情何以堪？耶路撒冷是上帝的聖城，錫安山是上帝聖山。但是，北國卻不肯到聖殿來敬拜祂！一面用金牛犢來代替神，一面追隨巴力和各種外邦偶像，但神卻仍然守約施慈愛、並沒有離棄自己的百姓。殿裡的祭司和文士未必願意跑這趟辛苦路，神揀選了山上的牧羊人阿摩司北上宣教佈道。神讓他帶去神從錫安發出的吼叫：以色列啊，快快悔改吧！審判馬上就要來了！也如同約拿在尼尼微城所宣告的那樣：再過四十天，尼尼微城就要毀滅了！終於，過了 32 年，主後 721 年，以色列北國就真的亡國了！我們看第三點：

牧人的出場

從聖經啟示的模式看來，彷彿都是卑微的僕人去傳揚大使命。首先，牧人的草場。阿摩司的本身就是來自牧場，是在猶大南國的南端、提哥亞山坡上。他在牧場上蒙了上帝的呼召，感受到神子民屬靈光景的悲哀。於是乎，他心裡火熱，走出自己的牧場。來到北國的牧場，可

能是北國在约旦河東最適合放牧的基列地。同為牧人，或許容易溝通交往、分享上帝的信息。在那裡，就是在北國的牧場上，阿摩司同樣感受到悲哀！南北國的牧場都是一樣的荒涼，人們的口中已經沒有禱告的聲音、心靈深處也失去了敬拜的感動！

其次，迦密的山頂。迦密山是以色列的戰略要地，山的北面是北邊的出海口，海法港就坐落在那裡，見證著時代的輪轉。第六次阿以戰爭的坦克大戰就在那裡發生，因以色列的坦克射程比埃及坦克遠二百米而去得最終勝利。以利亞與四百五十名事奉巴力的先知，並耶洗別所供養事奉亞舍拉的那四百個先知（王上 18:19）在迦密山上獻祭，要看哪一位才是真神。結局是理所應當的：“眾民看見了、就俯伏在地、說、耶和華是 神、耶和華是 神（王上 18:39）。”所以，迦密山預表著基督的得勝、也是神子民的得勝。如今，迦密的山頂要枯乾了，也就是代表教會屬靈的光景正在衰微。

最後，牧人的樣式。什麼是牧人的樣式？就是去完成一項不可能完成的使命，一項無法靠自己的能力完成的使命！南北牧場都跑了，都去看了，都是荒涼悲哀的。撒瑪利亞還去嗎？明知這是一條苦難的道路，還繼續走下去嗎？主耶穌走到客西馬尼園，也幾乎走不下去了。祂甚至求天父挪去祂將要喝的苦杯，最終祂在“然而”處轉向父神，願神旨意成全在他的身上。也如邊雲波弟兄的詩，說：“是自己的手，甘心放下世上的享受：是自己的腳，甘心到苦難的道路上奔走！”

結語

感謝主！祢呼召阿摩司出場，走上一條使命之路，讓後來的人看見就去效法、跟隨！也在預表著主祢自己，作為我們的大牧人，當時候滿足的時候，道成肉身、降世為人、捨命十架！求祢也讓我們聽見祢在這時代中向我們發出的呼召、聽見上帝的聲音、走上福音的牧場！我們一同禱告……

（摩 1:1-2）

1:1 當猶大王烏西雅、以色列王約阿施的兒子耶羅波安在位的時候、大地震前二年、提哥亞牧人中的阿摩司得默示論以色列。

1:2 他說、耶和華必從錫安吼叫、從耶路撒冷發聲。牧人的草場要悲哀、迦密的山頂要枯乾。

Shepherd appears 【Amos 1:1-2】

INTRODUCTION

Today we are talking about the book of Amos, which is a special book. It can be said that it is of great significance to our times today, giving people a watchful prayer, lest they fall into confusion, and providing the meaning of historical interpretation. Amos, who was originally a shepherd, received a mission from God to issue eight warnings, three declarations, and five visions to God's people and the nations. Let's look at the first point:

THE CALL OF THE TIMES

Amos is as humble as a shepherd, and his appearance wins against the king! A small shepherd faces a grand age. First, the ancient empire. The biblical writers did not directly mention the Assyrian Empire because God's eyes were only on His people. Other empires, no matter how great, are only foils to His chosen people. At this time, surrounding the northern and southern kingdoms of God's chosen people, there was Egypt to the south, and the Assyrian Empire to the north. The Assyrian Empire at this time was in the New-Assyrian period, that is, after 1000 BC. Until the fall of the Assyrian Empire in 612 BC, it was replaced by the Neo-Babylonian Empire. The book of Amos was roughly written between 760 and 753 BC, just 32 years before the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel in 721 years. Sargon II, the Assyrian king who destroyed the northern kingdom, is a bit like the tsar of today or Putin today, who took the responsibility of expanding the territory.

Second, the kings of the northern and southern kingdoms. When we study the northern and southern kingdoms, there is probably a "common sense" that the twenty kings of the northern kingdom are all evil kings in the eyes of God. Among the thirteen kings of the Southern Kingdom, seven were good kings. Among them, the era of Amos happened to be King Usiah, the good king of the southern kingdom, and King Jeroboam of the northern kingdom. This Jeroboam was not Jeroboam, the founding king of the northern kingdom, but Jeroboam II, who was one hundred

and thirty-three years later. King Uzziah reigned for 52 years, a bit like the relationship between Emperor Kangxi and Aobai. For the first 25 years, he co-ruled with his father, King Amaziah, and for the next 10 years, he co-reigned with his son, King Jotham. The Bible's evaluation of him is: "King Uzziah did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, following all that his father Amaziah did...And the LORD God made him prosperous."

Finally, two years before the earthquake. The Israel Antiquities Authority announced on August 4 last year that it had recently unearthed evidence of earthquakes recorded in the biblical books of Amos and Zechariah in Jerusalem, proving that the massive earthquake that rocked the land of Israel 2,800 years ago simultaneously shook Jerusalem. Explain that God has been speaking to His people, giving constant warnings! Joe Uziel and Ortal Chalaf, excavation directors at the Israel Antiquities Authority, said: We were very surprised when we unearthed the damage layer from the 8th century BC because we knew that Jerusalem continued to exist until it was conquered by Babylon some 200 years later. Amos may not have known what the earthquake had to do with the destruction of Jerusalem, but it is important that the Bible introduces Amos in such a way to let us feel about God's will of calling of the prophets in that stage. Let's look at the second point:

GOD'S VOICE

In fact, the earthquake is God speaking to us. The prophet Amos must have experienced the earthquake firsthand, so that the writers of the Bible recorded the earthquake deliberately. First, the mark of time. Many people ask me, how does God speak to people? I said, God can send messages to us in any way! When Uzziah, king of Judah, and Jeroboam, son of Joash, king of Israel, reigned, it was a message of an age. God sent Amos a message of challenge through the environment of a good king and an evil king. At this point God has a message, a message of warning. As Deuteronomy says: "This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live. (Deuteronomy 30:19)" There are strong enemies outside, and betrayals inside. Where should we go?

Second, the testimony of the journey. Amos was called to convey the message of God's warning to the northern kingdom of Israel. Do you know who he is? He came from the mountain of Tekoa in the southern kingdom of Judah. Where is Tekoa? About ten kilometers south of Bethlehem and less than twenty kilometers east of the Dead Sea, he was one of many shepherds on a hillside. Every time he went to the north to preach, he had to walk about 200 kilometers. Along the way, he observed idol worship in the northern and southern kingdoms. He also shared the testimony of King Uzziah of the southern kingdom of obeying God's will to the Israelites of the northern kingdom. It's a Great Commission mode: Therefore you should go! As long as you go, you have a mission, you can preach the mission, and you can witness the mission! A sheep shepherd goes out in the name of the Lord, with testimony along the way!

Finally, the cry of the holy city. In the face of such people, how can it be? Jerusalem is the holy city of God and Mount Zion is the holy mountain of God. However, the North Kingdom refused to come to the temple to worship Him! On the one hand, they replaced God with a golden calf, and on the other hand, he followed Baal and various foreign idols, but God still kept his covenant and showed mercy and did not abandon his own people. The priests and scribes in the temple might not be willing to take this hard journey. God chose Amos, the shepherd on the mountain, to go north to preach and preach. God let him bring the roar of God from Zion: O Israel, repent quickly! Judgment is coming soon! Also as Jonah proclaimed in Nineveh: In forty days, Nineveh will be destroyed! Finally, after 32 years, in AD 721, the northern kingdom of Israel was truly destroyed! Let's look at the third point:

THE SHEPHERD'S APPEARANCE

From the pattern of biblical revelation, it seems that all lowly servants preach the Great Commission. First, the shepherd's pasture. Amos himself came from pastures, on the slopes of Mount Tekoa, at the southern tip of the southern kingdom of Judah. He was called by God on the pasture and felt the sorrow of the spiritual condition of God's people. As a result, he was

hot in his heart and walked out of his ranch . Coming to the pastures of the northern kingdom may be the most suitable land for grazing in the northern kingdom of Gilead on the east side of the Jordan River. As shepherds, it may be easy to communicate and share God ' s message. There, on the pastures of the Northland, Amos felt the same sorrow! The pastures in the northern and southern countries are all the same desolation. People have lost the voice of prayer in their mouths and lost the touch of worship in their hearts!

Second, the top of Carmel. Mount Carmel is a strategic place in Israel. The north of the mountain is the estuary of the north. The port of Haifa is located there, witnessing the rotation of the times. The tank battle of the sixth Arab-Israeli war took place there, and the Israeli tanks won the final victory because the range of the Israeli tanks was 200 meters farther than the Egyptian tanks. Elijah was with the four hundred and fifty prophets who served Baal, and the four hundred prophets who served Asherah, whom Jezebel had provided (1 Kings 18:19), offered sacrifices on Mount Carmel to see which Bit is the true God. The ending is as it should be: “When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!” (1 King 18:39) ” Therefore, Mount Carmel typifies the victory of Christ and the victory of God ' s people. Now, the top of Carmel is drying up, which means that the spiritual condition of the church is declining.

Finally, the shepherd ' s pattern. What is a shepherd ' s pattern? It is to accomplish an impossible mission, a mission that cannot be accomplished by one ' s own abilities! The pastures in the north and south have all been to and observed, but they are all desolate and sad. Is Samaria still going? Knowing that this is a path of suffering, do you still continue to walk? When the Lord Jesus walked to the Garden of Gethsemane, he could hardly go any further. He even begged the Father to remove the bitter cup He was about to drink, and in the end He turned to God the Father at the “yet” , and the will of God was fulfilled in Him. It is also like Brother Bian Yunbo ' s poem, saying: “It ' s my own hands, willing to let go of the world ' s enjoyment: it ' s my own feet, willing to run on the road of suffering!”

CONCLUSION

Thank God! You called Amos to appear on the stage and embark on a mission path, so that people who will see it later will imitate and follow! It also typifies the Lord Yourself, as our Great Shepherd, when the time is full, the Word becomes flesh, descends into the world as a man, and lays down Your life on the cross! Please let us also hear your call to us in this age, hear the voice of God, and go to the pasture of the gospel!

(Amos 1:1-2)

1:1 The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa—the vision he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash[a]was king of Israel.

1:2 He said: “The Lord roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds dry up, and the top of Carmel withers.”

對列國的審判（一）大馬色 【摩 1:3-5】

引言

這一堂道本想一次講完對列國的審判，但寫講章的時候，發現不得不慢下來。或許今天就單講神對大馬色的審判吧！我們來看第一點：

過了三次的審判

自古以來，屬神的先知服事神是目標，要對準神！但不代表神不可以藉著先知向列國發出聲音，包括審判的聲音。阿摩司先知正是一位這樣的先知。首先，三番四次的含意。第三節這裡所說的“大馬色三番四次的犯罪”，原文中說的是“三次犯罪，第四次我必不收回刑罰”。所以，中文並沒有翻出其中的意味。其實每一次神的管教、或是刑罰，都給足了人機會，讓人悔改！直到最後，實在是罪無可赦了。巴別塔如此，所多瑪、蛾摩拉也是這樣。埃及法老起初幫助以色列人有功，神紀念。但不能成為新王上台，逼迫神子民的藉口。欺凌百年，可以了吧？兩百年呢？還真要到二百五十年嗎？最後，足足有四百三十年啊！看看今天那些欺凌基督身體即教會的人，神在忍耐你，知道嗎？更加可怕的是，說因為所謂政治的緣故，牧師還不能公開譴責敵基督對教會的逼迫。情何以堪啊！

其次，物非所用的濫用。人類在發展，科技在前進。諸般的工具本無害，但是，一但用於反人類、敵基督，那就另當別論了。摩西帶領以色列人進入迦南以先，當地的非利士人、亞蘭人、亞瑪力人等就已經開始用鐵器了。用鐵器打糧食、種莊稼，無可厚非，也是神所賜的恩典！但是，當大馬士革人將鐵器用於戰爭，物非所用的時候，就不討神的喜悅了。列王記下十三章七節記載，說：“亞蘭王滅絕約哈斯的民、踐踏他們如禾場上的塵沙。”用今天的話講，就是用高科技的手段來行惡。如廣島原子彈、電子設備監控本國人民的一舉一動、用紅黃綠碼控制人們出行等。

最後，不可霸凌神子民。耶戶的兒子約哈斯在撒瑪利亞登基、作以色列王十七年（王下 13:1）。北國以色列二十個王，沒一個是良善之輩。聖經說約哈斯行耶和華眼中看為惡的事（王下 13:2）。神的子民犯罪，神必管教。你大馬色人憑什麼來攻打基列？難道你們不知道這是瑪

拿西的領地嗎？俄羅斯難道不知道克里米亞、烏東四州是烏克蘭領土嗎？如同今天的敵基督政權，貌似手裡有權，就怕過期作廢。趕緊揣摸上意，盡量在自己的任上討好上面的人。就去毀教堂、拆十字架、酷刑神僕。從 2013 年到如今，仍是逼迫不斷。你還真以為神的審判只是兒戲？我們看第二點：

亞蘭難逃神審判

惡人是難逃神的審判的，不信你就繼續作惡，看你橫行到幾時？首先，惡人自有惡人磨。約哈斯作為北國的王，從父親耶戶手裡接管王權，卻行耶和華眼中看為惡的事，怎麼辦呢？你在神家裡行惡、做惡人，神就會用其他惡人來對付你！亞蘭王就是神在當時用來對付這個惡人的棋子。“在那些日子、耶和華纔割裂以色列國、使哈薛攻擊以色列的境界（王下 10:32）。”不但如此，“於是耶和華的怒氣向以色列人發作、將他們屢次交在亞蘭王哈薛和他兒子便哈達的手裡（王下 13:3）”。烏克蘭國內政治腐敗、貪污成風、官僚階層冗長、躺平不作為。好吧，神就興起比你更兇惡、更腐敗的俄羅斯來攻打你！

其次，神必回頭收拾你。可能這裡所說亞蘭王哈薛，自以為得意。心想我終於可以收拾一下上帝的選民了，你說我威風不威風？「哈薛」是主前九世紀的亞蘭王（Hazeal，主前 842-796 年在位），由於他的功績很大（王下 10:32-33），一百年多後亞述王提革拉·毗列色三世（Tiglath-Pileser III，主前 745-727 年在位）的年表裡，還把亞蘭称作「哈薛的家」。我相信亞述帝國的民族主義，遠勝世界任何國家或民族吧？人家才是真真的上下五千年呢，單單是楔形文字的泥板就是主前 2600 多年以前的。所以呀，驕傲到以為可以欺凌神子民的時候，神就回頭收拾你！

最後，犯在有約人手上。第四節，“我卻要降火在哈薛的家中、燒滅便哈達的宮殿。”可能亞蘭王也想不通，我身居世界文化的巔峰，還不能教訓一下你小小的希伯來人嗎？也如同今天些偉光正的大黨大國大人物，心想我已經了不起到可以給世界指明方向的地步了，還不能隨意蹂躪一下你們這些小小的基督徒嗎？也可能有些人會說，你們基督徒也沒好到哪兒去呀，怎麼能與我心中的民族、國家情懷相比呢？難道不是先愛國，才能成為天國子民嗎？對不起，還真的不是！你不能去惹神的子民，不是因為他們的道德水準的高低，乃是單單是因

為他們與神有約！聖經說：“耶和華卻因與亞伯拉罕、以撒、雅各所立的約、仍施恩給以色列人、憐恤他們、眷顧他們、不肯滅盡他們、尚未趕逐他們離開自己面前（王下 13:23）。”

我們看第三點：

形同虛設的抵擋

「大馬士革」位於北國以色列東北方，是亞蘭諸國中最大的城邦，代表亞蘭。首先，不攻自破的空虛。亞蘭的驕傲當然認為他們是堅不可摧的，但是，屬神的人都知道若非耶和華看守城池，看守的人也必枉然勞力。若要取其城，必先毀其城門。既然是大馬色最大的城邦，城門就不會太小。大馬色的門需要神親手來折斷，顯然，此門必是極其不簡單的設防。亞文平原是什麼地方，已經查無可查了。但是，亞文在原文中是空虛的意思，表明這個地方應該是敬拜亞蘭偶像巴力的地方。這個地方與經文中提到的“伯·伊甸”有關聯。“伯·伊甸”是一個反叛的亞蘭人王國（Bit-Adini），位於幼發拉底河以南。

其次，先於北國的被擄。為什麼我在描述亞蘭時與亞述帝國混為一談呢？這是因為於主前 733-732 年，亞述王提革拉·毗列色三世發動第二次西征，攻陷大馬士革，把亞蘭人擄到吉珥（王下 16:9），應驗了阿摩司的預言。阿摩司這句預言是直接對神選民以外的人說的，特別是對以色列身邊的敵國說的話。或許今天有人會說，阿摩司啊，你怎麼能講這麼政治的話呢？我也不知道這些人的聖經依據何在？憑什麼聖經就不能談論政治？你剝奪神僕人在先知講道的恩賜中，談論對列國的審判，有何聖經依據？對不起，這是從神而來的權柄！

最後，這是耶和華說的。毫無疑問，神的僕人本身是卑微的。但是，他們口中的話語卻是大有能力的！憑什麼？不是憑自己，單單這是耶和華說的。任何抵擋神話語的人，都將被神折斷大馬色的門，剪除然人心中的虛幻，拿走撒但的偶像權柄！諷刺的是，北國以色列王亞哈斯將耶和華殿裡和王宮府庫裡所有的金銀、都送給亞述王為禮物。有些氣人，對不對？然後呢，亞述王竟然應允了他、還真的就上去攻打大馬色、將城攻取、殺了利汛。把居民擄到吉珥。從此，亞蘭與亞述就混為一個民族了，再難分出彼此了。以色列北國哪裡想得到，十年之後，約主前 721 年，亡國被擄的事情再現，甚至會臨到自己的頭上。

結語

好，對大馬色的審判，今天就講到這裡。歷史上的一切都掌握在上帝的手中，以史為鑒，就是以耶和華的話語為準。講了三次都不聽，第四次就將帶來刑罰了。亞蘭與亞述的命定，是出於上帝的主權。神藉著阿摩司對大馬色發出的審判，有耳可聽的，就應當聽！

我們一同禱告……

(摩 1:3-5)

1:3 耶和華如此說、大馬色三番四次的犯罪、我必不免去他的刑罰。因為他以打糧食的鐵器打過基列。

1:4 我卻要降火在哈薛的家中、燒滅便哈達的宮殿。

1:5 我必折斷大馬色的門門、剪除亞文平原的居民和伯。伊甸掌權的。亞蘭人必被擄到吉珥。這是耶和華說的。

Judgment of the nations (1) Damascus

【Amos 1:3-5】

INTRODUCTION

Originally I wanted to finish the sermon “the judgment of the nations” at once, but when I was writing the sermon, I found that I had to slow down. Maybe today we will just talk about God’s judgment on Damascus! Let’s look at the first point:

THE JUDGMENT AFTER THREE TIMES

Since ancient times, God’s prophets serve God as the goal, aiming at God! But that doesn’t mean that God can’t speak to the nations through prophets, including the voice of judgment. The prophet Amos was one such prophet. First, the meaning of repeatedly. In the third verse, “the repeated sins of Damascus,” the original text says, “Three sins, and the fourth time I

will not take back the punishment.” Therefore, the Chinese translation did not translate the meaning. In fact, every time God’s discipline or punishment gives people an opportunity to repent! Until the end, the sin is truly unforgivable. So was the Tower of Babel, so was Sodom and Gomorrah. The pharaoh of Egypt was very successful in helping the Israelites at first and God remembered it. But it cannot be an excuse for a new king to come to power and persecute God’s people. Bullying for a hundred years, okay? What about two hundred years? Is it really going to be two hundred and fifty years? Finally, four hundred and thirty years! Look at those who bully the body of Christ, the church today, God is patient with you, do you know? What is even more terrifying is that because of so-called political reasons, pastors cannot publicly condemn the persecution of the church by the Antichrist. What a shame!

Second, the abuse of using things in the wrong direction. Human beings are developing, and technology is advancing. All kinds of tools are harmless, but once they are used against humanity and antichrist, it is another matter. Before Moses led the Israelites into Canaan, the local Philistines, Aramean, and Amalekites had already begun to use iron tools. It is understandable to use iron tools to beat grain and grow crops, is also a grace bestowed by God! However, when the Damascus people used iron tools for warfare, using them in the wrong direction, they were not pleasing to God. 2 Kings 13:7 records, saying: “for the king of Aram had destroyed the rest and made them like the dust at threshing time.” (2 King 13:7) In today’s words, it is to use high-tech means to do evil. Such as the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, electronic equipment to monitor every move of the people of their own country, and the use of red, yellow and green codes to control people’s travel, etc.

Finally, do not bully the people of God. Jehoahaz son of Jehu became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned seventeen years. (2 King 13:1) Of the twenty kings of the northern kingdom of Israel, none of them were good. The bible says, Jehoahaz did evil in the eyes of the Lord. (2 King 13:2) When God’s people sin, for sure God will discipline them. Why did you Damascus attack Gilead? Don’t you know that this is the domain of Manasseh? Doesn’t Russia know that

Crimea and Ukrainian Oblast are Ukrainian territory? Just like today's Antichrist regime, it seems that it has power in its hands, however, it will expire and become invalid. Quickly figure out what the upper authority likes, and try one's best to please the authority above in his own post. He went to destroy churches, demolished crosses, and tortured servants of God. From 2013 to the present, the persecution continues. Do you really think that God's judgment is just child's play? Let's look at the second point:

ARAM CAN'T ESCAPE GOD'S JUDGMENT

The wicked cannot escape God's judgment. If you don't believe in it, you will continue to do evil. How long will you run rampant? First, the wicked to be dealt by the wicked. As the king of the northern kingdom, Jehoahaz took over the kingship from his father Jehu, but he did what was evil in the eyes of the LORD. What should God do? If you do evil and be a wicked person in God's house, God will use other wicked people to deal with you! The king of Aram was the pawn that God used to deal with this wicked man at that time. "In those days the Lord began to reduce the size of Israel. Hazael overpowered the Israelites throughout their territory." (2 King 10:32) Not only this, "So the Lord's anger burned against Israel, and for a long time he kept them under the power of Hazael king of Aram and Ben-Hadad his son. (2 King 13:3)" Domestic political corruption in Ukraine, corruption is rampant, the bureaucracy is lengthy and inaction. Well, God will raise up Russia, which is more vicious and corrupt than you, to attack you!

Second, God will turn around and take care of you. Perhaps Hazael, the king of Aram, was proud of himself. Thinking he could finally clean up God's chosen people, do you think I am prestige or not? "Hazael" was the ninth century B.C. king of Aram (Hazael, reigned 842-796 B.C.), due to his great exploits (2 Kings 10:32-33), the king of Assyria more than a hundred years later The chronology of Tiglath-Pileser III (745-727 BC) also refers to Aram as "the house of Hazael". I believe that the nationalism of the Assyrian Empire, far more than any country or nation in the world, right? They are really five thousand years old, and the clay tablets with cuneiform characters alone are more than 2,600 years ago. So, when you are so proud that you think you can bully the people of God, God will turn around and take care of you!

Lastly, mess with the ones with God's covenant. Verse 4, "I will send fire on the house of Hazael that will consume the fortresses of Ben-Hadad." Maybe the king of Aram can't figure it out. I am at the peak of world culture, can't I teach you a little Hebrew? It is also like today's great figures of big parties, and big countries, thinking that I'm already good enough to point the way to the world, can't I just harass you little Christians at will? Some people may also say that you Christians are not much better, how can you compare with the nation and national feelings in my heart? Don't you have to love your country first before you can become a citizen of the kingdom of heaven? Sorry, not really! You can't mess with God's people, not because of their moral standards, but simply because they have a covenant with God! The bible says, "But the Lord was gracious to them and had compassion and showed concern for them because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. To this day he has been unwilling to destroy them or banish them from his presence. (2 King 13:23)" Let's look at the third point:

FAKE RESISTANCE

"Damascus" is located in the northeastern part of the northern kingdom of Israel. It is the largest city-state among the kingdoms of Aram, representing Aram. First, the self-defeating emptiness. Of course Aram's pride thought they were indestructible, but the people of God knew that unless the LORD guarded the city, the guard would labor in vain. In order to take the city, you must first destroy its gate. Since it is the largest city-state in Damascus, the city gate will not be too small. The door of Damascus needs to be broken by God's own hands. Obviously, this door must be an extremely difficult fortification. Where is the Valley of Aven, there is no way to find out. However, Aven means emptiness in the original, indicating that this place should be the place where Baal, the idol of Aram, was worshiped. This place is associated with the "Beth Eden" mentioned in the scriptures. "Beth Eden" was a rebellious Aramaic kingdom (Bit-Adini), south of the Euphrates.

Second, before the captivity of the northern kingdom. Why am I conflating Aram with the Assyrian Empire? This is because in 733-732 B.C., King Tiglath-pileser III of Assyria launched the

second westward expedition, captured Damascus, and took the Arameans captive to Kir (2 Kings 16:9), which fulfilled the prophecy of Amos. This prophecy of Amos was addressed directly to people outside of God's chosen people, especially to the enemy nations beside Israel. Maybe some people today will say, Amos, how can you speak such political words? I also don't know what the biblical basis of these people is? Why can't the Bible talk about politics? What is the biblical basis for you to deprive God's servants of the gift of prophecy and to speak of judgment on the nations? Sorry, this is authority from God!

Lastly, this is what the Lord says. There is no doubt that the servants of God themselves are humble. But the words of their mouths are powerful! Why? Not on their own, but what the LORD says. Anyone who opposes God's words will be broken by God, like the door of Damascus, the delusions in people's hearts will be cut off, and Satan's idol authority will be taken away! Ironically, Ahaz, the king of the northern kingdom of Israel, gave all the gold and silver in the house of the Lord and the treasury of the king's palace to the king of Assyria as a gift. Kind of irritating, right? Then, the king of Assyria actually agreed to him, and he went up to attack Damascus, captured the city, and killed Lizin. Take the inhabitants captive to Kir. From then on, Aram and Assyria became one nation, and it was difficult to tell them apart. How can the northern kingdom of Israel imagine, ten years later, about 721 BC, the matter of the country's subjugation and captivity will reappear, and it will even happen to themselves.

CONCLUSION

Well, the judgment on Damascus, that's all for today. Everything in history is in the hands of God. Taking history as a mirror means taking God's words as the criterion. If you don't listen to it three times, you will be punished for the fourth time. The destiny of Aram and Assyria came from the sovereignty of God. God's judgment on Damascus through Amos, he who has ears to hear, let him hear!

(Amos 1:3-5)

1:3 This is what the Lord says: “For three sins of Damascus, even for four, I will not relent. Because she threshed Gilead with sledges having iron teeth,

1:4 I will send fire on the house of Hazael that will consume the fortresses of Ben-Hadad.

1:5 I will break down the gate of Damascus; I will destroy the king who is in[a] the Valley of Aven[b] and the one who holds the scepter in Beth Eden. The people of Aram will go into exile to Kir,” says the Lord.

對列國的審判（二）非利士諸城

【摩 1:6-8】

引言

講非利士人，通常要同時提到非利士人的五城，他們是迦薩、亞實突、亞實基倫、以革倫及迦特，其中以迦薩為代表。阿摩司沒有提迦特，應該此時迦特已經被亞述帝國吞併。看來，大國吞併小國、小島、小城的事情自古就有。我們來看第一點：

再次三番四次

原文中說非利士人與說大馬色人的三番四次是一樣的，說的都是一而再、再而三地警告。但是，到第四次就不再有機會了。首先，逼迫以撒。以撒因為一次饑荒，以撒就往基拉耳去，並住在那裡。以撒被非利士人逼迫，退避三舍。挖了三口井，前面兩口都被非利士人給填上土了。這裡是一而再、再而三，沒有四了，加上神的時候沒到，彷彿敵基督仍在耀武揚威。以撒怎能不知道非利士人的逼迫，只是因為神吩咐他，說：“你不要下埃及去、要住在我所指示你的地（創 26:2）。”於是，聖經就為他做見證，說：“以撒就住在基拉耳（創 26:6）。”基拉耳就成了選民先祖受逼迫的鐵證。

其次，誘殺參孫。不錯，神的子民有軟弱的時候，屬靈的領袖也有跌倒犯罪的時候。參孫迷戀大力拉的美色，最終被所愛的女人所出賣。我們可能比較多地從個人角度去看參孫，卻沒有從整個非利士人對以色列人的逼迫來看這個問題。神的僕人犯罪，自有神自己去管教。你非利士人憑什麼來趁虛而入、色誘神的僕人跌倒殺害？神會因為參孫出賣自己拿細耳人不得剃頭的秘密而拿走參孫的能力，也會因參孫的悔改禱告而恢復他的能力！王明道牧師因懼怕而軟弱，寫下悔過書。但神是他的神，他回頭走向陰冷的監獄，擔當自己犯的罪。誰敢論斷他？

最後，對陣王國。從士師記開始，非利士人就已經成了以色列人的敵人。撒母耳膏立掃羅王時，神就應許說：“他必救我民脫離非利士人的手（撒下 9:16）”。歌利亞向以色列人挑戰

時，大衛問：“這未受割禮的非利士人是誰呢、竟敢向永生 神的軍隊罵陣麼（撒下 17:26）？”大衛有參孫打死獅子和熊的勇猛，僅憑著溪中五塊光滑石子，手中拿著甩石的機弦迎戰。結局大家都知道了，大衛戰勝了歌利亞。當時間來到阿摩司的時代，南國烏西雅作王的時候，非利士人仍干以色列人為敵。最終，非利士人消失在歷史的長河中，不再出現。我們看第二點：

迦薩歷史命定

迦薩在歷史上一直是一個邊界，總是到了迦薩就為止了！上帝說她三番四次的犯罪，到底這迦薩遭誰惹誰了？首先，源於含的後裔。如果追述迦薩的源起，我們可以在創世記挪亞之後的後裔中尋找到一些根由：“迦南的境界是從西頓向基拉耳的路上、直到迦薩、又向所多瑪、蛾摩拉、押瑪、洗扁的路上、直到拉沙（創 10:19）。”這個迦南就是含的小兒子，也是受父親牽連遭咒詛的可憐孩子。聖經沒有介紹迦南的生命光景，但是，從上面 19 節的經文來看，與迦南為伍的都不是什麼好地方。人以群分、物以類聚，由此我們也可以看出迦薩的屬靈根源並不討神的喜悅！

其次，居於水火之地。如果說非利士人早已消失殆盡，找不到蹤影。那麼，迦薩卻成了歷史的見證。她距離耶路撒冷以南偏西約 50 英里的地方，離地中海僅僅是 3 英里。由於她處於非利士沿海大道上，自古以來就是埃及、亞述、巴比倫、波斯、希臘和羅馬的軍隊通行。如此一來，迦薩就成了歷代帝國經過時的蹂躪地。有點兒像是今天的烏克蘭，拿破崙、希特勒、斯大林、普丁等帝國，都在烏克蘭境內的第涅吡河展開過戰爭。主前 332 年，亞力山大大帝攻佔迦薩，殺光了所有男人，把婦孺賣作奴隸，慘不忍睹！

最後，與神選民糾纏。迦薩見證了應許之地的原居民，與神選民之間的彼此相互糾纏關係。迦薩與神選民的關係始於約書亞領兵進迦南攻城掠地，將土地分給各個支派。按照約書亞的分地計劃，迦薩等地配分給了猶大支派：“亞實突、和屬亞實突的鎮市村莊。迦薩、和屬迦薩的鎮市村莊。直到埃及小河、並大海、和靠近大海之地（書 15:47）。”然而，到約書亞年老時，迦薩和非利士五城中之四城被視作還未收復的屬地（書 13:3）。直到士師記一章的記載，猶大支派應該已經取得該地。當然，迦薩直到今天，仍然是與以色列人一直糾纏不清的歷史見證。我們看第三點：

非利士必滅亡

非利士人彷彿就是一個悲劇，來無影、去無蹤。好像他們的出現，就是來做陪練的，是為以色列人做陪練。這麼講似乎有一些殘忍，但是，聖經就是這麼說的：“非利士人所餘剩的必都滅亡。這是主耶和華說的。”首先，非利士的起源。從考古學的角度來看，非利士人可以在希臘愛琴海沿岸找到他們的痕跡。從歷史學的角度來看，在主前 1180-1150 間，我們可以從埃及二十王朝拉美西斯三世的文獻中，可以找到非利士人的痕跡。可能也是在這個歷史階段，非利士人從埃及來到迦南地居住。坦率地說，關於他們的資料不多，證據也不足。很難有一個完整的證據鏈條來證明什麼，但至少可以說明，非利士並不是迦南地的原住民。這一點在人本主義的論調中很重要，說明他們和以色列人一樣都是外來人。

其次，非利士人的歷史。非利士人曾經與先祖亞伯拉罕的關係甚佳，他們曾經在別是巴立約。亞伯拉罕也曾在非利士人的地裏居住，還買過一塊地作日後四代先祖的墓地。根據他勒目（The Talmud, Chullin 60b），有兩種完全不同的非利士人。自從士師記以來，非利士人就與神的選民為敵。這些後來的非利士人是從迦斐托（Caphtor，即革哩底或克里特島 Crete）出來，入侵非利士地的海民。

最後，非利士人的結局。我相信造成非利士人最終滅亡的原因，是他們拜偶像。非利士人敬拜三個假神：亞斯他錄、大衮、與巴力西卜。其中他們的大衮，是非利士人的主神。撒母耳記上第五章記載了神的約櫃與非利士人的大衮相遇的故事：“非利士人將 神的約櫃抬進大衮廟、放在大衮的旁邊（撒上 5:2）。”結果是，不但“大衮仆倒在耶和華的約櫃前、臉伏於地、並且大衮的頭和兩手都在門檻上折斷、只剩下大衮的殘體（撒上 5:4）。”當然，最重要的是，非利士必都滅亡，這是耶和華說的。

結語

好，親愛的弟兄姊妹，神對非利士人的審判，有他們與神選民關係的緣故，有他們自己本身的歷史緣由，甚至與他們所處的地利位置有密切相關。但正如聖經所說的，這是主耶和華說的。

我們一同禱告……

（摩 1:6-8）

1:6 耶和華如此說、迦薩三番四次的犯罪、我必不免去他的刑罰。因為他擄掠眾民交給以東。

1:7 我卻要降火在迦薩的城內、燒滅其中的宮殿。

1:8 我必剪除亞實突的居民、和亞實基倫掌權的。也必反手攻擊以革倫。非利士人所餘剩的必都滅亡。這是主耶和華說的。

Judgment of the nations (2) Philistine cities

【Amos 1:6-8】

INTRODUCTION

When we talk about the Philistines, we usually mention the five cities of the Philistines at the same time. They are Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron, and Gath, of which Gaza is the representative. Amos did not mention Gath, and Gath should have been annexed by the Assyrian Empire at this time. It seems that the annexation of small countries, small islands and small cities by big countries has existed since ancient times. Let's look at the first point:

REPEATEDLY AGAIN

The original text says that the Philistines and the Damascus are the same repeatedly, saying that they are warned again and again. However, by the fourth time there was no more chance. First, persecute Isaac. Because of a famine, Isaac went to Gerar and lived there. Isaac was persecuted by the Philistines and retreated. Three wells were dug, and the first two were filled

with soil by the Philistines. Here it is again and again, and the third time, there is no fourth time, plus the time of God has not come, as if the Antichrist is still showing off his power. How could Isaac not know about the persecution of the Philistines, only because God commanded him, saying: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. (Gen. 26:2)" So the Bible testified of him, saying: "So Isaac stayed in Gerar. (Gen. 26:6)" Gerar became the ironclad evidence of the persecution of the patriarchs of the elect.

Second, trapped and killed Samson. Yes, God's people have times of weakness, and spiritual leaders have times of stumble and sin. Samson fell in love with Delilah's beauty and was eventually betrayed by the woman he loved. We may look at Samson more personally than from the persecution of Israel by the Philistines as a whole. When God's servants sin, God himself disciplines them. Why do you, the Philistines, come in and seduce the servant of God to fall and kill him? God will take away Samson's power because Samson betrayed his secret that the Nazarites were not allowed to shave his head, and will restore his power because of Samson's prayer of repentance! Pastor Wang Mingdao was weakened by fear and wrote a letter of repentance. But God is his God, and he turned back to the gloomy prison to bear the sins he had committed. Who dares to judge him?

Finally, against the kingdom. The Philistines have been the enemies of Israel since the book of Judges. When Samuel anointed King Saul, God promised: "he will deliver them from the hand of the Philistines. (1 Samuel 9:16)" When Goliath challenged the Israelites, David asked: "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?(1 Samuel 17:26)" David had the valour of Samson to kill lions and bears, fighting with only five smooth stones in the stream and a sling in his hand. Everyone knows the ending, David defeated Goliath. When it came to the time of Amos and the southern kingdom of Uzziah was king, the Philistines still made Israel their enemies. In the end, the Philistines disappeared into the long river of history and never appeared again. Let's look at the second point:

THE HISTORY AND DESTINY OF GAZA

Gaza has always been a frontier throughout history, and it always ends at Gaza! God said that she had sinned again and again, who did this Gaza offend? First, from the descendants of Ham. If we trace the origin of Gaza, we can find some roots in the descendants after Noah in Genesis: "and the borders of Canaan reached from Sidon toward Gerar as far as Gaza, and then toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim, as far as Lasha. (Gen. 10:19)" This Canaan was Ham's youngest son, and he was also a poor child who was implicated and cursed by his father.

The Bible does not introduce the life situation in Canaan, but from verse 19, it is not a good place to be in the company of Canaan. People are divided into groups and things are gathered in groups. From this, we can also see that the spiritual roots of Gaza are not pleasing to God!

Second, live in a land of fire and water. If the Philistines have long since disappeared, there is no trace of them. Then, Gaza has become a witness to history. She is about 50 miles west-south of Jerusalem and just three miles from the Mediterranean Sea. Since she was on the coastal highway of the Philistines, the armies of Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, Greece and Rome passed through it in ancient times. In this way, Gaza has become a ravaged land when the empires of the past dynasties passed by. It's a bit like today's Ukraine, where Napoleon, Hitler, Stalin, Putin and other empires fought wars on the Dnieper River in Ukraine. In 332 B.C., Alexander the Great captured Gaza, killed all the men, and sold the women and children into slavery. How appalling it was.

Finally, entanglement with God's elect. Gaza witnessed the entanglement between the original inhabitants of the Promised Land and God's elect. The relationship between Gaza and God's chosen people began when Joshua led his troops into Canaan to conquer the city and plunder the land, dividing the land among the tribes. According to Joshua's land allocation plan, Gaza and other lands were allocated to the tribe of Judah: "Ashdod, its surrounding settlements and villages; and Gaza, its settlements and villages, as far as the Wadi of Egypt and the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea. (Joshua 15:47)" However, by the time of Joshua's old age, Gaza and four of the five Philistine cities were considered unrecovered territories (Joshua 13:3). By the time of the record in Judges 1, the tribe of Judah should have acquired the land. Of course, Gaza remains a historical witness that has been entangled with the Israelites to this day. Let's look at the third point:

THE PHILISTINES WILL PERISH

The Philistines seem to be a tragedy, coming and going without a trace. It seems that their appearance is to do sparring, to do sparring for the Israelis. It may seem cruel to say that, but

here' s what the Bible says: "till the last of the Philistines are dead, says the Sovereign Lord." First, the origin of the Philistines. From an archaeological point of view, the Philistines can find their traces on the coast of the Aegean Sea in Greece. From a historical point of view, between 1180 and 1150 BC, we can find traces of the Philistines in the documents of Ramses III of the twentieth dynasty of Egypt. It may also be at this stage in history that the Philistines came to live in Canaan from Egypt. Frankly, there is not much information about them and the evidence is not enough. It is difficult to have a complete chain of evidence to prove, but at least it can be said that the Philistines were not native to Canaan. This is important in the humanistic argument that they are foreigners like the Israelites.

Second, the history of the Philistines. The Philistines had a very good relationship with the patriarch Abraham, and they had made a covenant at Beersheba. Abraham also lived in the land of the Philistines and bought a piece of land as a burial place for the next four generations of ancestors. According to the Talmud (The Talmud, Chullin 60b), there are two completely different kinds of Philistines. Since the book of Judges, the Philistines have been enemies of God' s chosen people. These later Philistines were seamen from Caphtor (Crete or Crete) who invaded the Philistines.

Finally, the ending of the Philistines. I believe the cause of the Philistines' ultimate demise was their idolatry. The Philistines worshiped three false gods: Ashtoroth, Dagon, and Baalzebub. Among them, Dagon, was the chief god of the Philistines. The fifth chapter of 1 Samuel records the story of the encounter between the Ark of God and Dagon the Philistine: "Then they carried the ark into Dagon' s temple and set it beside Dagon. (1 Samuel 5:2)" It turned out, " there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the Lord! His head and hands had been broken off and were lying on the threshold; only his body remained. (1 Samuel 5:4)" Most importantly, of course, all the Philistines will perish, says the Lord.

CONCLUSION

Well, dear brothers and sisters, God’ s judgment on the Philistines was due to their relationship with God’ s elect, their own historical reasons, and even closely related to their geographical position. But as the Bible says, “says the Sovereign Lord.”

(Amos 1:6-8)

6 This is what the Lord says: “For three sins of Gaza, even for four, I will not relent. Because she took captive whole communities and sold them to Edom,

7 I will send fire on the walls of Gaza that will consume her fortresses.

8 I will destroy the king of Ashdod and the one who holds the scepter in Ashkelon. I will turn my hand against Ekron, till the last of the Philistines are dead,” says the Sovereign Lord.

對列國的審判（三）推羅 【摩 1:9-10】

引言

推羅雖然一個小國，歷史卻可以與亞述帝國媲美，可以追溯到主前兩千七百年前。重要的是，推羅的興盛時期與以色列王國時期並行，這就有了許多的互動。不幸的是，阿摩司時代的推羅已經是落入“三番四次地犯罪”的地步了。我們看第一點：

審判罪的慣性

自從亞當以來，人類就處在一個不斷犯罪的慣性中，且代代相傳。亞當夏娃吃禁果、該隱殺亞伯，直到連天使也貪戀人的女子美貌，神就後悔造人。首先，虧缺神的美意。推羅進入聖經的眼簾，是在約書亞分地給亞設支派的時候：“轉到拉瑪、和堅固城推羅。又轉到何薩、靠近亞革悉一帶地方、直通到海（書 19:29）”神將他的選民安放在你的範圍，這是給了你認識神的機會呀！但是，推羅人並沒有珍惜神向他們啟示及認識神自己的恩典，熟視無睹、驀然無感。這與我們今天的世界也是何其相似啊！身邊有教堂、連網上都有教會了，可是忽略神恩典的人，仍不在少數呀！你呢？你是否珍惜神的恩典呢？

其次，貪圖世間財物。推羅人與自古以來的是人一樣，都是貪戀世界的族類！到大衛王想為神建聖殿時，曾經與推羅有過來往：“推羅王希蘭，將香柏木運到大衛那裡，又差遣使者，和木匠石匠，為大衛王建造宮殿。（撒下 5:11）”打開門做生意，公平交易也無妨。只是心起貪念，就過了行事為人的準則了。大衛去世以後，所羅門繼任，繼續與推羅往來。“推羅王希蘭曾照所羅門所要的、資助他香柏木、松木、和金子。所羅門王就把加利利地的二十座城、給了希蘭（王上 9:11）。”這位希蘭王對所羅門王送給他的二十座城不滿，並且給這城起名字叫迦步勒，意思是“如同無物”，也就是毫無價值的意思。他哪裡曉得，加利利可是日後主耶穌成長地方啊！

最後，對選民起惡意。自古以來想滅掉以色列人的不在少數，但是，像推羅人那樣聯合那麼多人來一起對付神選民的還的確為數不多。詩篇 83 篇 6-8 節記載，說推羅人聯合了以東人、

和以實瑪利人、摩押和夏甲人、迦巴勒、亞捫、和亞瑪力、非利士、並推羅的居民、亞述也與他們連合。他們作羅得子孫的幫手。有時候我們真的找不到原因，惡人為什麼會如此惡，到了如此地步？除了從惡人的慣性上找原因，彷彿也不知道是什麼緣故。人類在罪的工價乃是死的結局中是絕望的，沒有出路的！我們看第二點：

審判罪的動機

推羅與西頓的淵源極深，他們的價值觀與地域環境都非常近。直到主前一千年左右，推羅才脫離了西頓的管轄。那時並沒有一個國家的概念，但至少已經成為一個獨立的城邦。首先，巴力偶像的淵源。在當時近東各民族的宗教文化傳承中，巴力假神偶像崇拜盛行。可以說巴力神祇是巴勒斯坦最早的偶像之一，也是影響最大的、破壞最深的。巴力不但是太陽神、農業神，也是生育神。其獻祭形式甚至必需獻上活人或小孩，其邪惡程度可想而知。我們很熟悉的耶洗別，就是敬拜巴力神的西頓王的女兒。在列王紀上十六章 30-31 節記載了，是暗利的兒子亞哈娶了耶洗別。從此，整個以色列國都陷入拜偶像的災難之中。其中，我們比較熟知的故事，是以色列王亞哈的妻子耶洗別曾下令所有國民只能拜巴力。先知以利亞在亞哈王面前和四百五十名巴力先知比賽求火獲勝。耶戶將軍殺了約蘭和耶洗別後用計殺盡拜巴力者。

其次，幸災樂禍的代價。推羅見耶路撒冷被巴比倫攻佔，於是就說風涼話，在那裡幸災樂禍。為此，以西結先知將神啟示他的具體日子都記錄在案：“第十一年十一月初一日、耶和華的話臨到我說、人子阿、因推羅向耶路撒冷說、阿哈、那作眾民之門的、已經破壞、向我開放。他既變為荒場、我必豐盛（結 26:1-2）。”推羅當年說的時候下巴輕輕、不當一回事。但他們忘記了，神在乎他的百姓，必會回頭想起欺壓神百姓的惡人。你怎麼對人，神也必將怎麼對你呀！“所以主耶和華如此說、推羅阿、我必與你為敵、使許多國民上來攻擊你、如同海使波浪湧上來一樣（結 26:3）。”

最後，落井下石的下場。推羅、西頓是迦南地西北端的良港，商業極其發達。以西結先知說：“你由海上運出貨物、就使許多國民充足。你以許多資財、貨物、使地上的君王豐富（結 27:33）。”用今天的話講，推羅、西頓幾乎就是整個中東地區的供應鏈港灣。但是，他們

見到以色列人遭難的時候，不但沒有半點同情，還幫著亞述、巴比倫運送被擄的上帝選民。阿摩司說推羅並不紀念當年曾與大衛、所羅門訂立的“弟兄的盟約”。上帝以其人之道，還治其人之身。說：“他們必破壞推羅的牆垣、拆毀他的城樓。我也要刮淨塵土、使他成為淨光的磐石（結 26:4）。”我們看第三點：

審判罪的場所

神對推羅的審判，在場所上是最特別的了，沒有之一。其中，這條預言的應驗，堪稱史詩級的，奇妙無比！首先，欺我子民者必被他人所欺。神藉著約珥先知表達祂極大的憤慨：“推羅西頓、和非利士四境的人哪、你們與我何干。你們要報復我麼。若報復我、我必使報應速速歸到你們的頭上（珥 3:4）。”這也是對自古以來欺壓選民與教會的人發出的警告：祂必使報應速速歸到你們頭上！你們仍是繼續頑梗、硬著頸項嗎？你們今天將神的子民賣到遠方，好吧，神說：“我必將你們的兒女賣在猶大人的手中、他們必賣給遠方示巴國的人。這是耶和華說的（珥 3:8）。”今天敵基督國家裡的貪官污吏，將所貪的財富統統都轉移到歐美國家去，難道不是自己將自己給賣了嗎？歷史就是那麼諷刺！

其次，笑我城牆者必被他人所毀。啊哈，耶路撒冷被毀了？太好了！推羅人譏笑他往日的兄弟，惹動神的憤怒。神說，他們必破壞推羅的牆垣、拆毀他的城樓。推羅城邦分為岸邊一城，海島一城。巴比倫尼布甲尼撒王於主前 585-573 年圍攻推羅達十三年之久，終於攻下來了，以西結 26 章 8 節的預言也實現了。但是，推羅還沒有實現預言中的第二部分，就是“我也要刮淨塵土、使他成為淨光的磐石。”怎麼辦？預言只完成了一半，是否敵基督者又可以歡呼了，說神不信實了！別急，再往下看！

最後，倚仗驕傲者必被驕傲者拆。推羅人的確很跽、也似乎很了不起！連尼布甲尼撒王也奈何不了我，真試試看天下誰能敵！過了 240 年，時代也已經來到亞歷山大大帝的時代了。亞歷山大大帝所向披靡、戰無不勝。推羅人仍是跽呀，我在海上，你能怎麼辦呢？用船攻不容易，好吧，我就從岸上填海，再鋪上一條兩百公尺寬的大道。填了七、八個月，沒材料了，希臘人很聰明，就將推羅城原來岸上的舊城拆下來填海，終於通向海島。神的預言終於實現了：他們必破壞推羅的牆垣、拆毀他的城樓。我也要刮淨塵土、使他成為淨光的磐石（結 26:4）。”你說奇妙不奇妙？

結語

好，今天這堂對推羅的審判，就講到這裡。這堂道對我們自己、對今天的列國的有現實的意義。屬神的兒女當儆醒，列國的領袖當謙卑！無論是罪的慣性、還是罪的動機，都將在罪的場所留下我們一生的果效。

我們一同禱告……

（摩 1:9-10）

1:9 耶和華如此說、推羅三番四次地犯罪、我必不免去他的刑罰。因為他將眾民交給以東、並不記念弟兄的盟約。

1:10 我卻要降火在推羅的城內、燒滅其中的宮殿。

Judgment of the nations (3) Tyre

【Amos 1:9-10】

INTRODUCTION

Although Tyre is a small country, its history is comparable to that of the Assyrian Empire, dating back to 2,700 years ago. Importantly, the prosperity of Tyre paralleled the period of the kingdom of Israel, so there was a lot of interaction. Unfortunately, Tyre in the time of Amos had fallen into the point of “sinning again and again.” Let’s look at the first point:

JUDGING THE HABIT OF SIN

Since Adam, mankind has been in a constant habit of sin, passed down from generation to generation. Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, Cain killed Abel, until even the angels coveted the beauty of a woman, God regretted creating man. First, fall short of the good will of God. Tyre came into view of the Bible when Joshua divided the land to the tribe of Asher: “The boundary then turned back toward Ramah and went to the fortified city of Tyre, turned toward Hosah and came out at the Mediterranean Sea in the region of Akzib. (Joshua 19:29)”

God has placed His chosen people in your sphere, and this has given you the opportunity to know God! However, the people of Tyre did not cherish the grace that God revealed to them and knew God Himself. How similar is this to the world today! There are churches around you and on the Internet, but there are still many people who ignore God's grace! How about you? Do you cherish the grace of God?

Second, greed for worldly goods. The people of Tyre, like people since ancient times, are a race that covets the world! When King David wanted to build a temple for God, he had contacts with Tyre: "Now Hiram king of Tyre sent envoys to David, along with cedar logs and carpenters and stonemasons, and they built a palace for David. (2 Samuel 5:11)" Open the door to do business, and it is fine of fair trade. However, having greed in the heart has passed the standard of behavior. After David's death, Solomon succeeded him and continued to associate with Tyre. "King Solomon gave twenty towns in Galilee to Hiram king of Tyre, because Hiram had supplied him with all the cedar and juniper and gold he wanted. (1 King 9:11)" The king of Hiram was dissatisfied with the twenty cities that King Solomon had given him, and named the city Gabriel, which means "as nothing," also means worthless. How did he know that Galilee would be the place where the Lord Jesus grew up in the future!

Finally, be malicious to God's elect. Since ancient times, there are many people who want to destroy the Israelites, but there are indeed very few people who have united as many people as Tyrian to deal with God's elect. "6 the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, of Moab and the Hagrites, 7 Byblos, Ammon and Amalek, Philistia, with the people of Tyre. 8 Even Assyria has joined them to reinforce Lot's descendants." Sometimes we really can't find the reason, why are the wicked so evil, to such an extent? Apart from looking for the reason from the habit of the wicked, it seems that no other reason can be found. Human beings are hopeless and have no way out when the wages of sin is death! Let's look at the second point:

JUDGING THE MOTIVE OF SIN

The origins of Tyre and Sidon are very deep, and their values and local environment are very close. It was not until about 1,000 B.C. that Tyre was freed from the dominion of Sidon. There was no concept of a country at that time, but at least it had become an independent city-state. First, the origin of the Baal idols. In the religious and cultural heritage of various ethnic groups in the Near East at that time, the idol worship of Baal was prevalent. It can be said that Baal is one of the earliest idols in Palestine, and it is also the most influential and destructive. Baal is not only the god of sun and agriculture, but also the god of fertility. Its form of sacrifice even requires the sacrifice of living people or children, and its evil degree can be imagined. Jezebel, whom we are very familiar with, is the daughter of King Sidon who worshiped the god Baal. In 1 Kings 16:30-31 it is recorded that it was Ahab son of Omri who married Jezebel. Since then, the entire nation of Israel has fallen into the plague of idolatry. Among them, we are more familiar with the story that Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab of Israel, ordered all the people to worship Baal only. The prophet Elijah competed with 450 Baal prophets before King Ahab for the victory. General Jehu killed Joram and Jezebel with a plan to kill all the worshipers of Baal.

Second, the price of gloating. When Tyre saw that Jerusalem was captured by Babylon, he spoke rude words and rejoiced there. Due to this reason, the prophet Ezekiel recorded the specific date when God revealed him: “In the eleventh month of the twelfth[a] year, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me: 2 “Son of man, because Tyre has said of Jerusalem, ‘Aha! The gate to the nations is broken, and its doors have swung open to me; now that she lies in ruins I will prosper,’ (Ezekiel 26:1-2)” When Tyre said it back then, they were indifferent. But they forget that God cares about his people and will look back on the wicked who oppressed God’s people. As you treat people, God will treat you as you do! “Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against you, Tyre, and I will bring many nations against you, like the sea casting up its waves. (Ezekiel 26:3)”

Finally, the end of the downfall. Tyre and Sidon were good ports at the northwestern tip of the land of Canaan, with extremely developed commerce. Prophet Ezekiel said: “When your merchandise went out on the seas, you satisfied many nations; with your great wealth and your wares you enriched the kings of the earth. (Ezekiel 27:33)” In today’s terms, Tyre and Sidon are almost the supply chain ports of the entire Middle East. However, when they saw the suffering of the Israelites, not only did they have no sympathy, but they also helped Assyria and Babylon transport the exiled God’s chosen people. Amos said that Tyre did not remember the “brethren’s covenant” made with David and Solomon. God do unto others as they would do unto you. Says: “They will destroy the walls of Tyre and pull down her towers; I will scrape away her rubble and make her a bare rock. (Ezekiel 26:4)” Let’s look at the 3rd point:

JUDGING THE PLACE OF SIN

God’s judgment on Tyre was the most special in the field, no one else. Among them, the fulfillment of this prophecy is epic and incomparable! First, those who deceive my people will be deceived by others. God expressed his great outrage through the prophet Joel: “Now what have you against me, Tyre and Sidon and all you regions of Philistia? Are you repaying me for something I have done? If you are paying me back, I will swiftly and speedily return on your own heads what you have done. (Joel 3:4)” This is also a warning to those who have oppressed the elect and the church since ancient times: He will bring retribution on you quickly! Are you still stubborn and stiff-necked? You sold God’s people far away today, well, God said: “I will sell your sons and daughters to the people of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, a nation far away.” The Lord has spoken. (Joel 3:8)” Corrupt officials in today’s Antichrist country have transferred all the wealth they have embezzled to European and American countries. Didn’t they sell themselves? History is so ironic!

Second, whoever laughs at my city walls will be destroyed by others. Aha, Jerusalem is destroyed? Great! The people of Tyre made fun of his former brother which provoked the wrath of God. God said they would destroy the walls of Tyre and tear down his towers. The city-state of Tyre was divided into a city on the shore and a city on the island. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon

besieged Tyre for thirteen years from 585 to 573 B.C., and finally conquered it, and the prophecy of Ezekiel 26:8 was fulfilled. However, Tyre has not fulfilled the second part of the prophecy,

“I will also scrape away the dust and make him a clean rock.” What to do? The prophecy is only half completed, can the Antichrist rejoice again and say that God is unfaithful! Don't worry, look further down!

Lastly, those who rely on pride will be torn down by those who are proud. The people of Tyre are really proud and seem great! Even King Nebuchadnezzar can't do anything to me, really try to see who can match in the world! After 240 years, the era has come to the era of Alexander the Great. Alexander the Great was invincible. The people of Tyre are still proud, and I am at sea, what can you do? It's not easy to attack with a boat, well, I'll reclaim the sea from the shore, and then pave a two-hundred-meter-wide road. It took seven or eight months to fill in the materials, and the Greeks were very clever, so they demolished the old city on the original shore of the city of Tyre and reclaimed it, finally leading to the island. God's prophecy has finally come true: “They will break down the walls of Tyre and demolish his towers. I will also scrape away the dust and make him a clean rock (Ezekiel 26:4).” Wonderful, isn't it?

CONCLUSION

Alright, that's it for today's sermon “judgment on Tyre”. This sermon has real implications for ourselves and for the nations today. Children of God beware, and leaders of nations be humble! Whether it is the habit of sin, or the motive of sin, it will leave a lifetime effect in the place of sin.

Let us pray.....

(Amos 1:9-10)

9 This is what the Lord says: “For three sins of Tyre, even for four, I will not relent. Because she sold whole communities of captives to Edom, disregarding a treaty of brotherhood,
10 I will send fire on the walls of Tyre that will consume her fortresses.”

對列國的審判 (四) 以東 【摩 1:11-12】

引言

以東這個名字使人聽起來就感到困惑，因為這使人馬上聯想起以掃，其實他也是亞伯拉罕的子孫。歲月的流失，盡顯以東人的爭強好勝與最後消亡的歷史命定。我們看第一點：

本是同根生

以掃的來歷是源於其父以撒的一個禱告，聖經說：“以撒因他妻子不生育、就為他祈求耶和華、耶和華應允他的祈求、他的妻子利百加就懷了孕（創 25:21）。”首先，彼此相爭是命定。我們一生中難免會遇見一些莫名其妙的彼此相爭，不知怎麼回事，一場爭都就開始了。一戰、二戰的風雲還在歷史學家的筆中茫然，三戰的風雲就來了！雅各與以掃是同胞雙胞胎兄弟，本應親密無間呀！但奇怪的是，還沒出生就已經在娘胎裡“彼此相爭”了！他們的母親利百加覺得自從懷孕就感到生不如死、痛苦萬分！顯然，他的靈命還不錯，至少是遇事兒就禱告求問耶和華。當然，生他們的母親又哪裡曉得，在自己腹中的兩個孩子日後會興起怎樣時代風雲，甚至是重大的“國際糾紛”啊！又有誰會回頭問問利百加當年懷孕時，有什麼感受呢？誰又說得清楚呢？

其次，強弱大小神注定。我們今天的國際形勢可能會使我想起兩千多年前的春秋戰國時代，其共同之處就是大爭之年。可能中國人的爭強好勝，會使人想起這一百五十年來因喪權辱國而帶來的心理陰影，會不會？美國人要維護自己建立的國際秩序，俄羅斯的普丁仍活在彼得大帝的強國夢中。試問天上人間，孰強孰弱，難道不是由神定的嗎？耶和華回應利百加得禱告，說：“兩國在你腹內、兩族要從你身上出來、這族必強於那族、將來大的要服事小的（創 25:23）。”這句話秦始皇聽不懂、凱撒、亞歷山大、拿破崙、希特勒、斯大林、東條英機、毛澤東等都聽不懂！同樣，今天在世上的強人們也都聽不懂！

最後，動靜舉止神眼目。無論是命定、還是神注定，都不代表是宿命論。因為神的眼目一直在觀看以掃與雅各，看看他們的生命光景，特別是與神的關係。聖經作者給出祂的眼光：“兩個孩子漸漸長大、以掃善於打獵、常在田野。雅各為人安靜、常住在帳棚裡（創 25:27）。”

以掃顯然還是有身為長子的好基因，在當時的年代裡，練得一身好把式。打獵耕田、養家糊口、擔當家庭的責任。如此這般，當然深得父親的喜愛。雅各作為“弱勢群體”的代表，僅僅得到沒有地位的母親喜愛。只是，動靜之間，神看中了雅各的安靜，及他看重長子名份的核心價值觀。我們看第二點：

惹動神憤怒

長子名份的本身並沒有什麼了不起，畢竟也是身外之物！但是設立長子的權柄與心意，卻是不可欺慢的！首先，輕慢神恩不容恕。人的愚昧往往是分不清恩典與益處之間的區別，同意嗎？神設立長子的名份，是恩典。但以掃卻因為一碗紅湯，說：“這長子的名分於我有甚麼益處呢（創 25:32）？”這對於我們當中有人凡事以是否於我有益處、得好處的人來說，就當做醒啦！信耶穌基督的本身，不一定有益處的，對嗎？甚至大概率是得不到什麼益處的，同意嗎？背十字架、效法主，就是去捨利、捨命的！見到權力的態度是讓而不是去搶，見到名譽地位的態度是躲而不是去奪！如果我們當中仍有人過不了這一關，對這個世界仍然念念不忘，那麼，他可能還沒有真正信主。

其次，屢次傷害神子民。仇恨是可以代代相傳的，同意嗎？以掃的後裔，因著祖先們的見證，倍感羞辱。於是就將這種羞辱感牢牢記在心上，並且傳與子孫後代。也如今天的小粉紅們，動不動就不知道哪裡又被羞辱了。除了攔阻雅各回家，接下來就是當摩西帶領以色列人出埃及回迦南時，“以東王說、你們不可經過。就率領許多人出來、要用強硬的手攻擊以色列人（民 20:20）。”結果，以色列人走不了加低斯，繞道何珥山。最後，亞倫也死在山上，留下不可磨滅的記憶。到了王國時期，以東人還主動攻打大衛。最終被大衛王擊敗，根據聖經記載，說：“又在以東全地設立防營。以東人就都歸服大衛（撒下 8:14）。”阿摩司所說的應該是對以東人在歷史上作惡的一個歸納總結。

最後，趁火打劫惹忿怒。神對那些幸災樂禍、趁火打劫的人是不喜悅的！721年，北國以色列被亞述所滅。586年，南國猶大被巴比倫所滅。以東的態度與周圍的列國相仿，都是引以為高興滿足的！神藉著先知以西結說：“主耶和華對你們如此說、我真發憤恨如火、責備那其餘的外邦人、和以東的眾人、他們快樂滿懷、心存恨惡、將我的地歸自己為業、又看為被

棄的掠物（結 36:5）。”被擄的猶太人坐在巴比倫的河邊，一想到錫安就哭了！為什麼？就是因為“耶路撒冷遭難的日子、以東人說拆毀、拆毀、直拆到根基。耶和華阿、求你記念這仇（詩 137:7）。”我們看第三點：

終面對審判

天下萬事都是人在做、神在看！各人在世上所行的，都要在神面前接受審判。首先，種收因果相輔成。聖經說：“不要自欺，神是輕慢不得的。人種的是什麼，收的也是什麼（加 6:7）。”以掃以為把弟弟趕走了、家產全都霸佔了，就以為可以繼承實際家產了。還帶著家奴 400 人在半道上截住雅各，耀武揚威。但是，他的價值觀使他在神所應許的應許之地無緣。最終，以掃搬到以東地，自建家園、另起爐灶、折騰出一套自己的家族體系來。以東非常努力地耕種，收的卻是最終的毀滅與消亡。

其次，驕傲血氣付代價。從以掃出生以來，驕傲與血氣就一直纏繞著他和他的後裔。他問雅各索要紅豆湯，就是因驕傲而輕看神的恩典與祝福！當他得知雅各欺騙了父親，奪走了他的祝福，就感到絕望，卻同時也表現出自暴自棄！說明他心中並沒有以神為中心、以神為驅動力。他心中的終極關懷到以撒為止，甚至是將以撒當作神、當作是他生命蒙福與否的最終裁定！聽說弟弟回來了，就興師動眾帶人在半路上準備興師問罪。但是，雅各早就準備好的禮物，再一次將他的血氣與驕傲擊敗。最後，因為以東對以色列落井下石，導致提幔與波斯拉都被毀、以東人也最終被東方的納巴泰人所取代。俄羅斯也同樣是因為驕傲與血氣，悍然發動戰爭，他們的結局會是什麼呢？

最後，心惡行惡遭報應。以掃的生命以衝動、野蠻為特徵，以衝動、不計後果為寫照。雅各與利百加合謀騙取以撒的祝福，當然不對！他們在日後也的確付出代價、領受後果。但是，這並不等於說你以掃就有一個殺害弟弟的權柄呀！你可以禱告呀、你可以向神傾訴呀！但是，以掃的心思意念充滿惡、行事為人的模式也以惡行為慣性。這也是為什麼有人說酒後見人的真面目，說的也是這個道理。都走到這個地步了，又不肯悔改，那就只剩下一條黑道走到底了！神的咒詛也必將報應在他的身上了！

結語

好，感謝主！今天這堂對以東的審判之道就講到這裡了！求神幫助我們以史為鏡，心存感恩與憐憫，好向審判誇勝！

我們一同禱告……

(摩 1:11-12)

1:11 耶和華如此說、以東三番四次的犯罪、我必不免去他的刑罰。因為他拿刀追趕兄弟、毫無憐憫、發怒撕裂、永懷忿怒。

1:12 我卻要降火在提幔、燒滅波斯拉的宮殿。

Judgment of the nations (4) Edom

【Amos 1:11-12】

INTRODUCTION

The name Edom sounds confusing because it immediately conjures up Esau, who was also a descendant of Abraham. The passage of time shows the historical destiny of the Edomites' competitiveness and final demise. Let's look at the first point:

OF THE SAME ROOT

Esau's origin is derived from a prayer of his father Isaac, the Bible says: "Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The Lord answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. (Genesis 25:21) " First of all, it is destiny to fight each other. In our life, we will inevitably encounter some inexplicable struggles with each other. Somehow, a struggle begins. The situation of World War I and World War II is still dazed in the writings of historians, and the situation of World War III is coming! Jacob and Esau were twin brothers, and they were supposed to be very close! But the strange thing is that they "fight each other" in the womb before they were born! Their mother, Rebekah, felt that her life was worse than death, and she was in so much pain since she was pregnant! Obviously, her spiritual life is not bad, at least when she encounters problems, she prays and asks God. Of course, how can the mother

who gave birth to them know what kind of situation and even major “international disputes” will arise in the future for the two children in her womb! Who would look back and ask how Rebekah felt when she was pregnant? Who can tell?

Second, the strength and weakness are predestined by God. Our international situation today may remind me of the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period more than 2,000 years ago, the commonality of which is the Year of Great Controversy. Maybe the Chinese people’s competitiveness will remind people of the psychological shadow brought by the loss of power and humiliation in the past 150 years, will it? Americans want to maintain the international order they established, and Putin of Russia is still living in Peter the Great’s dream of becoming a powerful country. Let me ask: In heaven and earth, who is stronger and who is weaker, isn’t it determined by God? The Lord said to Rebekah, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger. (Genesis 25:23)” Qin Shihuang couldn’t understand this sentence, and Caesar, Alexander, Napoleon, Hitler, Stalin, Tojo Hideki, Mao Zedong, etc. couldn’t understand it! Likewise, the strong men in the world today do not understand!

Finally, Movement and demeanor in God’s eyes. Whether it is predestined or predestined by God, it does not mean fatalism. Because God’s eyes have been watching Esau and Jacob, looking at their life situation, especially their relationship with God. The biblical writer gave God’s insight: “The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. (Genesis 25:27)” Esau obviously still had the good genes to be the eldest son, and at that time, he had practiced a good style. Hunting and farming, raising a family, and taking on family responsibilities. Such and such, of course, is deeply loved by his father. Jacob, as a representative of the “disadvantaged group,” was only loved by his

mother who had no status. However, between the movements, God took a fancy to Jacob’s quietness and his core value of valuing the birthright. Let’s look at the second point:

PROVOKED GOD' S WRATH

Birthright is nothing special in itself, after all, it is a worldly thing! But the authority and intention of establishing the firstborn should not be taken lightly! First, it is unforgivable to despise God' s grace. People' s folly is often not able to tell the difference between grace and benefit, agree? It is grace that God established the birthright. But Esau said because of a bowl of red bean soup: “What good is the birthright to me? (Genesis 25:32)” For those of us who think that everything is good for me or not, we should be on the alert! Believing in Jesus Christ is not necessarily beneficial in itself, is it? There is even a high probability that there will be no benefit, do you agree? To bear the cross and imitate the Lord is to sacrifice and lay down your life! The attitude of seeing power is to yield rather than grab it, and the attitude of seeing reputation and status is to hide rather than grab it! If there is still one of us who can' t get past this level and still has an obsession with the world, then he may not have truly believed in the Lord.

Second, repeatedly hurting the people of God. Hatred can be passed down from generation to generation, agree? The descendants of Esau were humiliated by the testimony of their ancestors. So keep this humiliation in their heart and pass it on to future generations. Just like today' s Fenhong (fans of the red regime), they have the feeling of being humiliated easily. In addition to preventing Jacob from returning home, the next step was when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt and back to Canaan, Again Edom answered: “You may not pass through.” Then Edom came out against them with a large and powerful army. (Numbers 20:20)” As a result, the Israelites were unable to walk through Kadesh and took a detour around Mount Hor. In the end, Aaron also died on the mountain, leaving an indelible memory. During the kingdom period, the Edomites also took the initiative to attack David. He was eventually defeated by King David, who, according to the Bible, said: “He put garrisons throughout Edom, and all the Edomites became subject to David. (2 Samuel 8:14)” What Amos said should be a generalization of the evil deeds of the Edomites in history.

Finally, loot a burning house to provoke God' s wrath. God is not pleased with those who gloat and take advantage of misfortune! In 721, the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed by

Assyria. In 586, the southern kingdom of Judah was destroyed by Babylon. Edom's attitude is similar to that of the surrounding nations, and they are all delighted and satisfied! God said through the prophet Ezekiel: "this is what the Sovereign Lord says: In my burning zeal I have spoken against the rest of the nations, and against all Edom, for with glee and with malice in their hearts they made my land their own possession so that they might plunder its pastureland." (Ezekiel 36:5)" The Jews in captivity sat by the river in Babylon and cried at the thought of Zion! Why? That's because "Remember, Lord, what the Edomites did on the day Jerusalem fell. "Tear it down," they cried, "tear it down to its foundations!" (Psalms 137:7)" Let's look at the third point:

FACING JUDGMENT AT THE END

Everything in the world is done by humans and watched by God! Every man will be judged before God for everything he does in the world. First, sowing and reaping complement each other. The Bible says: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. (Galatians 6:7)" Esau thought that he had driven away his younger brother and occupied all the property, so he thought he could inherit the actual property. He also took 400 slaves to intercept Jacob in the middle of the road, showing off his power. However, his values kept him out of the promised land that God had promised. In the end, Esau moved to Edom, built his own home, started a new business, and tossed out a family system of his own. Edom worked very hard to till and reap the eventual destruction and demise.

Second, pride and flesh would pay a price. Pride and flesh have haunted Esau and his descendants since his birth. When he asked Jacob for red bean soup, he despised God's grace and blessing out of pride! When he learned that Jacob deceived his father and robbed him of his blessing, he felt desperate, but at the same time he showed self-defeating! It shows that he is not God-centered and God-driven in his heart. The ultimate concern in his heart is until Isaac, and

even regards Isaac as God and the final judgment on whether his life is blessed or not! When he heard that his younger brother was back, He invited a group of people on the way to make a

punitive expedition against his brother. However, Jacob's long-prepared gift once again defeated his flesh and pride. In the end, because Edom cast stones on Israel, both Teman and Bosra were destroyed, and the Edomites were eventually replaced by the Nabataeans of the East. Russia also brazenly launched a war because of pride and flesh. What will be their outcome?

Finally, evil deeds got punished. Esau's life is characterized by impulsiveness and brutality, and is portrayed by impulsiveness and recklessness. Jacob and Rebekah conspired to defraud Isaac, of course this is wrong! They do pay the price and suffer the consequences in the future. However, this does not mean that you, Esau, have the authority to kill your brother! You can pray, you can talk to God! However, Esau's heart and mind were full of evil, and his pattern of conduct was habitually evil. This is also why some people say that you can see people's true colors after drinking, and that's what they meant. They have come to this point, and they are unwilling to repent, then there is only one underworld left to go to the end! God's curse will surely be punished on him!

CONCLUSION

Well, thank the Lord! That's it for today's sermon " judgment on Edom"! Pray for God to help us take history as a mirror, and be gracious and merciful in our hearts to triumph over judgment!

Let us pray.....

(Amos 1:11-12)

1:11 This is what the Lord says: " For three sins of Edom, even for four, I will not relent. Because he pursued his brother with a sword and slaughtered the women of the land, because his anger raged continually and his fury flamed unchecked,

1:12 I will send fire on Teman that will consume the fortresses of Bozrah. "

對列國的審判（五）亞捫與摩押

【摩 1:13-15, 2:1-3】

引言

原本要講兩堂道，今天我們將亞捫與摩押並作一堂道來講。摩押與亞捫是誰，可能我們大多數人都知道了，就是羅得與其兩個女兒亂倫所生的孩子。神容讓這兩個國家或民族在選民的旁邊，成為歷代神兒女的一個反面教材。我們來看第一點：

對內心殘忍的審判

人看外表，神看我們的內心。因為人一生的果效，都由心而發。首先，受制情慾的祖先。如果是說情慾的祖先，當屬亞當、夏娃。接下來就是該隱，一事不合己意，就大打出手！也如今天的獨裁者一樣，說不得，多說一句就警察上門，也同樣是大打出手！紅衛兵或白衛兵，其本質是如出一轍！羅得的兩個女兒，抱著自以為是良好的願望，媽媽沒了，乾脆就自己親自上陣，替父親傳宗接代！羅得說是喝醉了，也不致於一而再、再而三地糊塗。亂倫是情慾失控的殘暴，不計後果的任憑。羅得與大女兒生的摩押，意思是從父親而來，已經是舔不知恥！羅得與二女兒生的亞捫，意思是“先天”的意思，已經遠超過不知羞恥的地步了。

其次，內心不安的反應。摩押與亞捫人深知自己的由來，摩西說：“亞捫人、或是摩押人、不可入耶和華的會。他們的子孫雖過十代、也永不可入耶和華的會（申 23:3）。”他們與亞伯拉罕的子孫有著天壤之別，自知不配，無法進入正統血緣體系。怎麼辦？那當然就是有我沒你啦！當以色列人出埃及、返迦南時，不但是百般阻攔，摩押王還特別請了巴蘭咒詛他們。不僅如此，還利用摩押美色及偶像來誘惑神的選民（民 25:1-5）。普丁也是如此，總想著自己與彼得大帝、及凱瑟琳女王有的一比，便以入侵烏克蘭來表達他的驕傲。現在眼看著戰敗的結局已成定局，騎虎難下，便釋放核戰威脅論。

最後，貪婪成性的本性。可能我們對此並不太敏銳，覺得世人誰人不貪呢？有點兒貪心也情有可原嘛，會不會？但是，聖經說：“貪財是萬惡之根。有人貪戀錢財、就被引誘離了真道、

用許多愁苦把自己刺透了（提前 6:10）。”亞們與摩押乃亂倫之子，遇見神的聖潔就表現為“不可入耶和華的會”。但是，神仍將他們安置在選民的東邊，觀看上帝的作為。難道這不是神的恩典嗎？你犯了罪，教會給你紀律處分，停你的聖餐、暫時停止你的服事、也包括停止你的會籍，難道不也同樣是神的恩典嗎？就不能安靜領受、欣然接受嗎？神要的就是一個態度，難道你仍是不明白嗎？俄烏戰爭拖了這麼長時間了，普丁仍沒有體會出來，這是神仍在等候他最後悔改的態度。我們看第二點：

拆毀對世界的依靠

罪人的特徵是什麼？無非就是對世界的依靠大於對神的依靠，對不對？首先，屢教不改的秉性。如果一開始羅得就單單地依靠神，繼續跟隨亞伯拉罕走信心之路，結局就會完全不一樣。假如羅得夫妻同心，妻子也不會回頭變成鹽柱。若是羅得家庭有家庭祭壇，常常禱告、求問神的心意、建立屬神的核心價值觀，兩個女兒也不致於與父親去亂倫生子。即使如此，如果羅得的後裔能夠有知恥之心、悔改之意，定睛仰望耶和華，也不至於三番四次的犯罪。以色列人來到迦南地，與摩押人、亞捫人彼此糾纏了幾百年，不得安寧。他們覺得自己比以色列人更有資源、更有人脈，更有資格迦南地與神的選民一較高下！亞摩利王西宏被殺，摩押、亞捫人也不能醒悟，仍然去找巴蘭，要咒詛以色列人回到迦南。士師以笏、所羅門王、大衛王等都曾經多次擊敗摩押人、亞捫人。當然，摩押人與亞捫人也從來都不服氣，多次反叛，屢教不改！

其次，燒毀亂倫的宮殿。我們其實不難想像神面對摩押、亞捫時的感受，亂倫的污穢與骯髒使人感到羞恥，神也一樣。但是，神仍然給了他們多年悔改的機會。直到他們的罪惡滿盈、惡行累累，神就叫比你更加可怕的敵人來對付你。主前 733 年，亞述王提格拉·毗列色三世發動第二次西征，征服了亞捫，應驗了阿摩司的預言。亞捫的首都拉巴、摩押的首都家略盡都毀壞，其實，這是神賜悔改的機會。宮殿毀了，對世界的依靠沒了，就有可能回轉、轉向神！這豈不也是我們今天信仰的反思嗎？教堂被毀了、十字架被拆了、牧師被捕了、領袖走散了，我們是否還要繼續我們的信仰呢？

最後，這是審判的信號。挪亞洪水之後，神賜下彩虹，應許不再用洪水毀滅人類。但是，到了末日，神會降下火來。神會在亞捫、摩押的爭戰中發出吶喊、颳起旋風、點火在拉巴的城

內、燒滅加略的宮殿。普丁的核威脅已經使歐美開始預備，平民也訓練如何逃避核災難。美、俄、中三大國的核爭鬥，若是統統引爆，誰能倖免呢？戰爭的背後，是神審判的信號。如果說戰爭可怕，倒不如說戰爭過後的審判來得更加可怕！每個人都必須面對上帝的審判，而且審判還要從神的家開始。請問，你是否準備好了呢？我們看第三點：

擄殺一切王與首領

阿摩司書充滿了警告、審判、及關於末日的預言，這是我們未必能夠完全了解的。首先，王與首領的被擄。阿摩司講完這句話幾十年之後，世界發生了巨大變化。但是，整個世界都處於被擄的光景中。歷代君王看似風光無限，時則被罪網綁擄掠。神讓以色列人經歷兩次被擄，向全世界展示生命的奧秘。自古以來，所有君王，特別是獨裁者，後果都不堪設想、晚景淒涼。為什麼？因為王與首領都處於被擄的光景之中，威風背後是網綁。為了保住地位、預防暗殺、權鬥得勝，所有在上掌權者都活得如驚弓之鳥，惶惶不可終日！

其次，王與首領的被殺。如果說君王被擄是過程，那麼，大概率的被殺則是結局了。亞捫與摩押王被殺是必然結局，猶大王瑪拿西被判了鋸刑，也不足為奇。因為亞捫人他們剖開基列的孕婦、摩押人將以東王的骸骨焚燒成灰。擴張自己的境界。普丁為了擴張俄羅斯貪得無厭的領土野心，開啟了侵略烏克蘭的戰爭，他的結局會是什麼呢？土耳其總統直言相告：這是一場必敗的戰爭！快點停戰和談吧！這應該算是朋友之間的肺腑之言，但是普丁肯聽嗎？還說要開啟核戰，他的結局應該已經定了！

最後，王與首領的儆醒。有時我們會比較多地關注君王領袖，忽略百姓，就是所謂的吃瓜群眾。事實上，有什麼樣的百姓，才會有怎麼樣的領袖。文革過了，大家都把矛頭對準四人幫、對準毛澤東。好像當時的七億人民都沒有責任了，個個都是受害者，彷彿找不到害人的了。今天也是如此，好像除了彭載週等少數幾個人，大多數都是大白，或是大白的擁護者。以後或許就沒有人會承認，自己曾經就是那些砸們、抓人、打人的大白。反正又沒有人看見面具裡的真面目，對不對？但是，有神在，誰又能躲避祂的審判呢？

結語

好，感謝主！今天這堂對亞捫、摩押的審判，就談到這裡。內心的殘忍，神必審判！心中的偶像，主必拆除！那些逼迫神兒女的君王，神必擄殺！這是耶和華說的。

我們一同禱告……

(摩 1:13-15, 2:1-3)

1:13 耶和華如此說、亞捫人三番四次的犯罪、我必不免去他們的刑罰。因為他們剖開基列的孕婦、擴張自己的境界。

1:14 我卻要在爭戰吶喊的日子、旋風狂暴的時候、點火在拉巴的城內、燒滅其中的宮殿。

1:15 他們的王和首領必一同被擄去。這是耶和華說的。

2:1 耶和華如此說、摩押三番四次的犯罪、我必不免去他的刑罰。因為他將以東王的骸骨焚燒成灰。

2:2 我卻要降火在摩押、燒滅加略的宮殿。摩押必在鬨嚷吶喊吹角之中死亡。

2:3 我必剪除摩押中的審判者、將其中的一切首領和他一同殺戮。這是耶和華說的。

Judgment of the nations(5): Ammon and Moab

【Amos 1:13-15, 2:1-3】

INTRODUCTION

Originally I will preach two sermons, but today I will preach Ammon and Moab together in one sermon. Most of us probably know who Moab and Ammon were, the children of Lot and his two daughters incest. God allows these two nations to be next to the elect, becoming a negative teaching material for the children of God throughout the ages. Let's look at the first point:

JUDGMENT OF THE CRUELTY OF THE HEART

Man looks at the outside, God looks at our heart. Because the results of a person's life come from the heart. First, the ancestors are subject to lust. If it is said that the ancestors of lust are Adam and Eve. Next is Cain, if something doesn't suit him, he will fight! Just like today's

dictators, he can't be criticized with anything. If you say more, the police will come to your door, which is also a big fight! Either Red Guards or White Guards, the essence is the same! Lot's two daughters, with their self-righteous wishes, when they lost their mother, just went into the sex relation by themselves and passed on their father's lineage! Lot said that he was drunk, however, he would not be confused again and again. Incest is the brutality of uncontrollable lust, reckless abandonment. Moab, who was born to Lot and his eldest daughter, means that he came from his father, and he is already shameless! Ammon, who was born to Lot and his second daughter, means "inborn", and has gone far beyond shameless.

Second, the inner uneasy reaction. Moab and the Ammonites knew their origins, Moses said: "No Ammonite or Moabite or any of their descendants may enter the assembly of the Lord, not even in the tenth generation. (Deuteronomy 23:3)" They were so different from the descendants of Abraham that they knew they were unworthy and could not enter the orthodox bloodline. What can they do? Of course it is with me and without you! When the Israelites left Egypt and returned to Canaan, not only did they block them in every possible way, but the king of Moab specially invited Balaam to curse them. Not only that, but also used the beauty and idols of Moab to tempt God's chosen people (Numbers 25:1-5). The same is true of Putin, always thinking of his own comparison with Peter the Great and Queen Catherine, and expressing his pride by invading Ukraine. Now that the outcome of defeat is a foregone conclusion, and it is difficult to get off, the theory of the threat of nuclear war is released.

Finally, the greedy nature. Maybe we are not too keen on this, and think who in the world is not greedy? A little bit of greed is understandable, right? However, the Bible says: "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (1 Timothy 6:10)" Amon and Moab were the sons of incest, and when they met God's holiness, they were "not allowed to enter the assembly of the Lord." However, God still placed them east of the elect to watch God's work.

Isn't this the grace of God? You have sinned, and the church disciplines you, suspends your communion, temporarily suspends your service, and also suspends your membership. Isn't it also the grace of God? Can't you just accept it quietly and embrace it? What God wants is an attitude, don't you still understand? The Russian-Ukrainian war has dragged on for so long, and Putin still hasn't realized it. This is the attitude that God is still waiting for him to change the most. Let's look at the second point:

DESTROY THE DEPENDENCE ON THE WORLD

What are the characteristics of a sinner? It is nothing more than relying on the world more than God, right? First, the indomitable nature. If Lot had just relied on God from the beginning and continued to follow Abraham on the path of faith, the outcome would have been completely different. If Lot and his wife were of one mind, his wife would not turn back into a pillar of salt. If the Lot family had a family altar, and they prayed often, asked God's will, and established God's core values, the two daughters would not have had an incestuous relationship with their father to have children. Even so, if the descendants of Lot could have a sense of shame, repentance, and fix their eyes on God, they would not have sinned repeatedly. The Israelites came to the land of Canaan, and they entangled with the Moabites and Ammonites for hundreds of years, without rest. They feel they have more resources and connections than the Israelites, and are more qualified to compete with God's chosen people in Canaan! King Sihon of the Amorites was killed, and the Moab and Ammonites could not wake up. They still went to Balaam to curse the Israelites for returning to Canaan. The judges Efluene, King Solomon, and King David have all defeated the Moabites and Ammonites many times. Of course, the Moabites and the Ammonites were never convinced, they rebelled many times, and they never learned the lesson!

Second, burn down the palace of incest. In fact, it is not difficult for us to imagine how God felt when He faced Moab and Ammon. The filth of incest made people feel ashamed, and so did God. However, God still gave them the opportunity to repent for many years. Until their sins and wicked deeds are full, God will call upon you enemies even more formidable than you.

In 733 B.C., the Assyrian king Tiglath-pileser III launched the second westward expedition and conquered Ammon, fulfilling the prophecy of Amos. Rabbah, the capital of Ammon, Calvary, capital of Moab, were all destroyed. In fact, this is an opportunity for repentance given by God. When the palace is destroyed and the dependence on the world is gone, it is possible to turn around and turn to God! Isn't this also a reflection of our faith today? Churches are destroyed, crosses are torn down, pastors are arrested, leaders are scattered, should we continue our faith?

Finally, this is the signal for judgment. After Noah's flood, God gave a rainbow and promised not to use the flood to destroy mankind again. However, at the end of the day, God will send down fire. In the battles of Ammon and Moab, God will cry out, blow a whirlwind, set fire to the city of Rabbah, and burn down the palace of Calvary. Putin's nuclear threat has made Europe and the United States begin to prepare, and civilians are also trained to escape nuclear disaster. If the nuclear battle between the three major powers of the United States, Russia and China is detonated, who will be spared? Behind the war is the signal of God's judgment. If the war is terrible, it is better to say that the judgment after the war is even more terrible! Everyone must face the judgment of God, and the judgment must begin in the house of God. Excuse me, are you ready for it? Let's look at the third point:

CAPTURE AND KILL ALL KINGS AND OFFICIALS

The book of Amos is full of warnings, judgments, and end-time prophecies that we may not fully understand. First, the captivity of kings and officials. Decades after Amos said this, the world has changed dramatically. But the whole world is in a state of captivity. The kings of the past dynasties seemed to have infinite beauty, but at times they were bound and plundered by sin. God made the Israelites go through two captivity, showing the world the mystery of life. Since ancient times, all kings, especially dictators, have had unimaginable consequences and poor lonely situations. Why? Because both the king and the leaders were in captivity, and behind the majesty was bondage. In order to maintain their position, prevent assassination, and win the power struggle, all those in power live like frightened birds, panicking all day long!

Second, the king and the officials were killed. If the captivity of the king is a process, then the high probability of being killed is the end. The killing of Ammon and the kings of Moab was inevitable, and it is not surprising that King Manasseh of Judah was sentenced to be sawed. Because the Ammonites cut open the pregnant women of Gilead, and the Moabites burned the bones of the king of Edom to ashes. Expand their boundaries. In order to expand Russia's insatiable territorial ambitions, what will be the outcome of Putin's war of aggression against Ukraine? The President of Turkey bluntly said: This is a war that must be lost! Let's stop the war and talk! This should be regarded as the heartfelt words of friends, but will Putin listen? He also said that to start a nuclear war, his ending should have been set!

Finally, the vigilance of kings and officials. Sometimes we pay more attention to kings and leaders and ignore the people, the so-called spectator. In fact, what kind of people will have what kind of leaders. After the Cultural Revolution, everyone targeted the Gang of Four and Mao Zedong. It seems that the 700 million people at that time are no longer responsible, all of them are victims, and it seems that no victimizer can be found. The same is true today. It seems that except for a few people such as Peng Zaizhou, most of them are Dabai (the person wearing protective clothing), or Dabai's supporters. In the future, perhaps no one will admit that he used to be the the person wearing protective clothing who smashed the door, arrested people, and beat people. No one sees the real face in the mask anyway, right? But, with God, who can escape His judgment?

CONCLUSION

Well, thank the Lord! Today's sermon "judgment against Ammon and Moab" is finished. The cruelty of the heart will be judged by God! The idol in the heart, the Lord will surely remove! Those kings who persecute God's children will be captured and killed by God! This is what the Lord said.

Let us pray.....

(Amos 1:13-15, 2:1-3)

1:13 This is what the Lord says: “For three sins of Ammon, even for four, I will not relent.

Because he ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead in order to extend his borders,

1:14 I will set fire to the walls of Rabbah that will consume her fortresses amid war cries on the day of battle, amid violent winds on a stormy day.

1:15 Her king[a] will go into exile, he and his officials together,” says the Lord.

2:1 This is what the Lord says: “For three sins of Moab, even for four, I will not relent. Because he burned to ashes the bones of Edom’ s king,

2:2 I will send fire on Moab that will consume the fortresses of Kerioth.[a]Moab will go down in great tumult amid war cries and the blast of the trumpet.

2:3 I will destroy her ruler and kill all her officials with him,” says the Lord.

對猶大的審判 【摩 2:4-5】

引言

當我們談猶大南國的時候，一種難掩的羞恥感油然而生。因為神的子民在鬧分裂，神的名受到羞辱、受到損害。也如今天教會的分裂，神也同樣並不得榮耀！我們看第一點：

南北國分裂緣由

在神的子民中間，立一個王的本身，並不是必要的。即使是摩西、亞倫，統領以色列人出埃及、過紅海、經曠野也沒有稱王的慾望，約書亞帶領十二支派入迦南，也是輕輕地來、輕輕地離去，從來沒有稱王的打算。首先，王國並非出於神。俗話說，自古忠臣出逆子，難得三代寫春秋。撒母耳繼承了他的前任以利的屬靈傳承，兩個兒子“不行他的道、貪圖財利、收受賄賂、屈枉正直（撒下 8:3）。”面對如此光景，怎麼辦呢？聖經記載說：“以色列的長老都聚集、來到拉瑪見撒母耳（撒下 8:4）。”撒母耳家庭的見證不好，失去了話語權。於是，以色列眾長老就說了：“你年紀老邁了、你兒子不行你的道。現在求你為我們立一個王治理我們、像列國一樣（撒下 8:5）。”重點是“像列國一樣”，眼光朝向了世界，遠離了上帝！這是神任憑以色列人的一次寫照。

其次，態度決定了高度。所謂好景不長，富難過三代，王位也難傳三代。從掃羅王、大衛王、所羅門王開始拜偶像，聯合王國就已經開始走下坡路了。所羅門的兒子羅波安登位時，約主前 931 年，整個王國面對著一場嚴重的經濟危機。羅波安圖使北方十個支派承認及接受他的統治，但是，羅波安並竟是正統王室，驕橫跋扈，不肯減輕北方十支派的賦稅與徭役。身段放不下來，話就談不攏，結局當然也就是不歡而散。面子是人給的，羞辱當然就是自找的了。結果是羅波安回耶路撒冷作了南國的王，北方十支派就請了以法蓮人耶羅波安作了北方十個支派的王。

最後，兩地懸殊的原因。客觀地講，南國猶大與北國以色列力量相比懸殊，南國屬於較弱的一方。土地比較貧瘠，領土也只有北國的五份之一。人數差異也是顯而易見的，南國人口只有北國人口的三分之一。但是，屬靈資源則是恰恰相反的。南國始終在聖殿敬拜耶和華，而

耶羅波安即位以來，立都示劍，讓以色列人敬拜金牛犢。他甚至改變整個獻祭制度，讓非利未人的普通人為祭司，意圖改變神所定的祭司制度。這與今天在坊間流行的某些四不像的職場牧師、職場長老有些相像。明明沒有全時間的呼召，卻硬要擠破頭、抓破臉地弄一個牧師、長老混混。其結局將與耶羅波安類似。我們看第二點：

南國犯罪的緣由

人類的罪孽始於順服撒但的驕傲，要如神那般能識別善惡，且有另類的眼睛明亮。南國二十個王中有八位是好王，其餘的都是壞王。首先，立國根基的虛幻。羅波安本可以聽從前輩們的建言，好言相勸北方十個支派，延續聯合王國的榮耀。但是，當以色列人請求減輕重軛苦工時，羅波安卻聽從與自己一同長大的玩伴的話，說：“我的小拇指頭、比我父親的腰還粗（王上 12:10）。”羅波安將自己置於神所不喜悅的位置上，失去了神的祝福。回到耶路撒冷，還招聚十八萬人，要去攻打以色列人（王上 12:21）。他的愚昧造成聯合王國的分裂，使他的兄弟跌倒，成為拜偶像的一族。

其次，惡事根源的延續。當年所羅門娶了亞捫的女子拿瑪為妻，藉此，猶太人就行耶和華眼中看為惡的是。聖經說他們“犯罪觸動神的憤恨、比他們列祖更甚（王上 14:22）。”聖經對源於亞捫的惡行描述得很詳細，說：“他們在各高岡上、各青翠樹下築壇、立柱像、和木偶，甚至國中還有變童。”他們行一切可憎惡的事，真可以說罪大惡極！神就差派埃及王示撒來攻打耶路撒冷，仗打敗了，就將聖殿中的一切金器盡數擄走。所羅門建的聖殿金碧輝煌，榮耀無比，如今被這位敗家子全都敗光了！

最後，瑪拿西惹神憤怒。瑪拿西是希西家的兒子，是猶大南國第十四位國王，作王 55 年，是南北國中在位時間最長的一個。按理說，有一位敬虔的父親，應該對他產生正面的影響。但是，事與願違，他在猶大所行的惡事之大，足以影響猶大國的滅亡。聖經說他“重新建築他父希西家所毀壞的丘壇、又為巴力築壇、作亞舍拉像、效法以色列王亞哈所行的、且敬拜事奉天上的萬象（王下 21:3）。”這還沒完，還“使他的兒子經火、又觀兆、用法術、立交鬼的、和行巫術的、多行耶和華眼中看為惡的事、惹動神的怒氣（王下 21:3）。”我們今天喜歡看星座的、算命的、玩瑜伽的，當做醒了！我們看第三點：

南國受審的緣由

阿摩司先知講得很清楚，就是因為他們不肯聽神的話！首先，三番四次得罪神。我們可以嘗試站在神的感受來看，面對一個蒙神厚恩的南國猶大，可以說是情何以堪啊！神多次吩咐羅波安王不可與他的弟兄以色列爭戰，甚至還專門派先知來攔阻他們的爭戰。但是，從羅波安一生的歷史來看，他與北國耶羅波安王可以說是連年征戰，從未停止過。如果我們打開列王紀上下來看，就是一部南北國君王的史記。從主前 930 年到主前 586 年，聖經作者幾乎用“梅花間竹”的間隔，將南北國君王輪替史向我們展示出來。北國的十九個王盡都是惡王，南國的二十個王中有八個王是惡王。就是說，在 344 年中南北國共有 27 位作惡的王，平均每十二年就出現一個惡王。當然，如果單單看南國，應該是稍好一點。344 年中有八位惡王，就是每 43 年出一個惡王。

其次，神是不可輕慢的。當南國的君王走到約雅敬登基的時候，已經是幾乎是窮途末路了。他二十五歲作王十年，然後他兒子續位，只作王三個月。最後一個王是西底家，由此就結束了南國的歷史。聖經說：“約雅敬行耶和華眼中看為惡的事、效法他列祖一切所行的（王下 23:37）。”此時的猶大王，早已失去了所有的尊嚴。巴比倫王尼布甲尼撒上到耶路撒冷，約雅敬王如同勾踐服事夫差那樣三年。他當然心不甘、情不願，於是就反抗、背叛了巴比倫。結果怎樣？可能我們會想不到，竟然是“耶和華使迦勒底軍、亞蘭軍、摩押軍、和亞捫人的軍來攻擊約雅敬毀滅猶大、正如耶和華藉他僕人眾先知所說的（王下 24:2）。”

最後，如羊走迷偏離道。身在其中的約雅敬王，當然沒有能力、沒有眼光體會到：“這禍臨到猶大人、誠然是耶和華所命的、要將他們從自己面前趕出、是因瑪拿西所犯的一切罪（王下 24:3）”約雅敬一生迷失方向，到死那天都不明白他所領受的後果是因為“他流無辜人的血、充滿了耶路撒冷”，以致“耶和華決不肯赦免。”原來神真的會追討我們的罪，直至三、四代。約雅敬死了，兒子約雅斤十八歲即為僅三個月。繼續行惡，行耶和華眼中看為惡的事。這下子，神就叫巴比倫王尼布甲尼撒親自來了，這一來就熱鬧了！這個十八歲的傻兒子約雅斤，連同母親、臣僕、首領、太監、一同出城、投降、被擄到巴比倫去了。真是慘不忍睹啊！

結語

其實故事還沒完，約雅斤的叔叔瑪探雅改名叫西底家，即位十一年，也是南國最後的十一年。

這位年僅二十一歲的叔叔，繼續行惡，聖經說“是照約雅敬一切所行的（王下 24:19。”這一次，神就完全不留地步了，聖城被毀、百姓被擄、尊嚴盡喪、眾子被殺、雙眼被剜！這就是神對南國猶大的審判，有耳可聽的就應當聽！

我們一同禱告……

（摩 2:4-5）

2:4 耶和華如此說、猶大人三番四次地犯罪、我必不免去他們的刑罰。因為他們厭棄耶和華的訓誨、不遵守他的律例。他們列祖所隨從虛假的偶像使他們走迷了。

2:5 我卻要降火在猶大、燒滅耶路撒冷的宮殿。

Judgment of Judah 【Amos 2:4-5】

INTRODUCTION

When we talk about the southern kingdom of Judah, an overwhelming sense of shame arises. Because God's people are divided, God's name is humiliated and damaged. Just as the church is divided today, God is also not honored! Let's look at the first point

THE REASON FOR THE DIVISION OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH

Among the people of God, it is not necessary to have a king in itself. , Even Moses and Aaron, who led the Israelites out of Egypt, crossed the Red Sea, and traversed the wilderness, had no desire to be king. Joshua led the twelve tribes into Canaan, and they came and left gently, never having a plan claiming to be a king. First, the kingdom is not of God. As the saying goes, since ancient times, loyal ministers have rebelled, and it is rare for three generations to write the Spring and Autumn. Samuel inherited the spiritual heritage of his predecessor Eli, But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and

perverted justice. (1 Samuel 8:3)” Faced with such a situation, what should they do? The Bible records that: “So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. (1 Samuel 8:4)” The testimony of the Samuel family was not good, and they lost their right to speak. So the elders of Israel said: “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.” (1 Samuel 8:5)” The point is: “such as all the other nations have.” looking to the world and away from God! This is a portrayal of God giving over to the Israelites.

Second, attitude determines altitude. The so-called good times do not last long, wealth is difficult for three generations, and the throne is difficult to pass on for three generations. Since King Saul, King David, and King Solomon began to worship idols, the United Kingdom has begun to decline. When Solomon’s son Rehoboam came to the throne, about 931 BC, the entire kingdom faced a severe economic crisis. Rehoboam tried to make the ten tribes in the north recognize and accept his rule, but Rehoboam was actually an orthodox royal family, arrogant and domineering, and refused to reduce the taxes and corvée of the ten tribes in the north. If you are unwilling to be humble, it would be hard to compromise, and of course the ending is unhappy. Face is given by others, and humiliation is of course self-inflicted. As a result, Rehoboam returned to Jerusalem and became king of the southern kingdom, and the ten northern tribes invited Jeroboam from Ephraim to be the king of the ten northern tribes.

Finally, the reason for the disparity between the two places. Objectively speaking, the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Israel have a huge disparity in strength, and the southern kingdom belongs to the weaker side. The land is relatively barren, and the territory is only one-fifth of the northern nation. The difference in numbers is also evident, with the South’s population being only one-third of the North’s. However, spiritual resources are the exact opposite. The southern kingdom has always worshiped God in the temple, and since Jeroboam came to the throne, he established the capital of Shechem to let the Israelites worship the golden calf. He even changed the entire sacrificial system and made ordinary

non-Levitic people priests, intending to change the priesthood system established by God. This is somewhat similar to some dissimilar workplace pastors and workplace elders that are popular today. Even though he didn't have a full-time call, he insisted on making a mess to have a title of pastor and elder. Its ending will be similar to that of Jeroboam. Let's look at the second point:

THE REASON FOR THE SIN IN THE SOUTH

The sin of mankind begins with the pride of obeying Satan, to be able to discern good and evil like God, and to have the eyes open of a different kind. Eight of the twenty kings in the southern kingdom are good kings, and the rest are bad kings. First, the illusion of the foundation of the nation. Rehoboam could have followed the advice of his predecessors and persuaded the ten tribes of the north to continue the glory of the United Kingdom. But when the Israelites asked to lighten their yoke, Rehoboam listened to his playmate who grew up with him, saying: "My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. (1 King 12:10)" Rehoboam put himself in a position that God displeased and lost God's blessing. Returning to Jerusalem, he also gathered 180,000 people to attack the Israelites. (1 King 12:21) His folly caused the division of the United Kingdom and caused his brothers to fall into idolatry.

Second, the continuation of the root of evil. Solomon married Naamah, the daughter of Ammon, as his wife, and by doing so, the Jews did what was evil in the eyes of the LORD. The bible says, "By the sins they committed they stirred up his jealous anger more than those who were before them had done. (1 King 14:22)" The Bible describes in great detail the evil deeds originating from Ammon, saying: "They also set up for themselves high places, sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree. (1 King 14:23)" They do all the abominable things, it can be said that they are very sinful! God sent the Shishak king of Egypt to attack Jerusalem, and when the battle was defeated, he took away all the gold objects in the temple. The temple built by Solomon was splendid and glorious, and now it has been completely defeated by this prodigal son!

In the end, Manasseh provokes the wrath of God. Manasseh, the son of Hezekiah, was the fourteenth king of the southern kingdom of Judah. He reigned for 55 years, the longest reigning one in the northern and southern kingdoms. It stands to reason that having a godly father should have a positive effect on him. However, it backfired, and the evil he did in Judah was enough to affect the destruction of the kingdom of Judah. The bible says he “He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he also erected altars to Baal and made an Asherah pole, as Ahab king of Israel had done. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them. (2 King 21:3)” It’s not over yet, “He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced divination, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the Lord, arousing his anger. (2 King 21:6)” Today we like to watch constellations, fortune-telling, and yoga, so be alert! Let’s look at the third point:

THE REASON FOR THE JUDGMENT OF THE SOUTH

The prophet Amos made it very clear that it was because they refused to listen to the word of God! First, sin against God over and over again. We can try to stand on God’s feelings and see, facing a southern kingdom of Judah, who has received God’s generous grace, it can be said that it is a shame! God repeatedly instructed King Rehoboam not to fight with his brother Israel, and even specially sent prophets to stop their fighting. However, judging from the history of Rehoboam’s life, it can be said that he fought with King Jeroboam of the northern kingdom for years and never stopped. If we open the Book of Kings and look at it, it is a historical record of the kings of the northern and southern kingdoms. From 930 B.C. to 586 B.C., the biblical writers showed us the history of the rotation of the kings of the northern and southern kingdoms alternating. All nineteen kings of the northern kingdom are evil kings, and eight of the twenty kings of the southern kingdom are evil kings. That is to say, in 344 years, there were 27 evil kings in the northern and southern kingdoms, and an average of one evil king appeared every twelve years. Of course, if you just look at the southern nation, it should be slightly better. There were eight evil kings in 344 years, that is, one evil king appeared every 43 years.

Second, God cannot be mocked. When the king of the southern kingdom came to Jehoiakim to

be enthroned, he was almost at the end of the road. At the age of twenty-five, he reigned for ten years, and then his son succeeded him for only three months. The last king was Zedekiah, thus ending the history of the southern kingdom. The Bible says: “he did evil in the eyes of the Lord, just as his predecessors had done. (2 King 23:37)” At this time, the king of Judah had already lost all his dignity. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, went up to Jerusalem, and King Jehoiakim served three years as Gojian served Fuchai. Of course he was unwilling, so he rebelled and betrayed Babylon. What was the result? Maybe we can't think of it, it is “The Lord sent Babylonian, Aramean, Moabite and Ammonite raiders against him to destroy Judah, in accordance with the word of the Lord proclaimed by his servants the prophets. (2 King 24:2)”

Finally, like a sheep going astray. King Jehoiakim, who was in it, certainly had no ability or vision to realize: “Surely these things happened to Judah according to the Lord's command, in order to remove them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh and all he had done, (2 King 24:3)” Jehoiakim lost his way all his life and didn't understand the consequences he received until the day he died because “including the shedding of innocent blood. For he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, (2 King 24:4)”, and “the Lord was not willing to forgive.” It turns out that God will really punish our sins until the third or fourth generation. Jehoiakim died, and his son Jehoiachin was eighteen and Enthroned for only three months. Continue to do evil, to do what is evil in the sight of the LORD. All of a sudden, God called Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, to come in person, and this time it was lively! The eighteen-year-old foolish son Jehoiachin, along with his mother, servants, chiefs, and eunuchs, went out of the city, surrendered, and went into captivity to Babylon. It's appalling!

CONCLUSION

In fact, the story is not over yet. Jehoiachin's uncle Mattaniah changed his name to Zedekiah, and ascended the throne for eleven years, which was also the last eleven years of the southern kingdom. This Uncle At Twenty-One Years Old Continues Evil, The Bible Says “just as Jehoiakim had done. (2 King 24:19)” This time, God did not spare any further, the holy city was destroyed, the people were taken captive, their dignity was lost, their sons were killed, and their

eyes were gouged out! This is God's judgment on Judah in the southern kingdom. He who has ears to hear should listen!

Let us pray.....

(Amos 2:4-5)

2:4 This is what the Lord says: "For three sins of Judah, even for four, I will not relent. Because they have rejected the law of the Lord and have not kept his decrees, because they have been led astray by false gods, the gods their ancestors followed,

2:5 I will send fire on Judah that will consume the fortresses of Jerusalem."

對以色列的審判 【摩 2:6-16】

引言

阿摩司從現在開始，才真正進入生命的主題，就是對以色列說話！前面七堂道，可以說是阿摩司書的概論或序言。對列國的審判，可以說是將以色列周圍的環境做了一個簡單的介紹。今天的信息，是一個主題概論式的信息，為接下來的內核做一個鋪墊。我們來看第一點：

經濟與宗教

以色列北國的立國之本，從一開始就是始於分裂。雖然所羅門的兒子羅波安驕橫無禮、飛揚跋扈，對聯合王國的分裂負有主要責任。但是，北國的長老們同樣因在屬靈上的不成熟，也有不可推卸的責任。首先，與列國同樣態度，同樣是三番四次、不肯悔改、與外邦人無異。今天的教會、今天的信徒、今天的傳道人，是否也是三番四次不肯聽神的話語呢？名譽、地位、金錢、血氣、情緒、貪婪等，真的就那麼重要嗎？明知敵基督政權給你的一切都是假象，為何還要去幫助他們舉辦“聖經展”來欺騙海外信徒呢？明知敵基督政權的神學院根本就不適合神心意的，為何還要帶著一群幼稚的傻白甜去參觀，順便也傷害一下為主受苦的家庭教會呢？這與當年以色列北國在亞述帝國與埃及之間踩鋼絲、兩邊不得罪的態度如出一轍。

其次，見錢眼開的貪婪。為了錢，人們是無利不起早，對嗎？神對以色列北國的刑罰，是基於“他們因他們為銀子賣了義人、為一雙鞋賣了窮人。”這裡是指當時行賄法官成風、出賣公義習以為常。從第一代北國以色列王開始，耶羅波安就將貪婪、為達目的不惜一切、毫無底線的官場文化帶給了以色列人。這與今天在中國長期盛行的貪腐之風也雷同相似，特別是這幾十年以來。不但是在官場，就連普羅大眾也已經墮落到“為一雙鞋賣了窮人”的地步。人們為了錢，可以不顧廉恥，如同歐也尼·葛郎台的父親老葛郎台臨死前盯著那盞沒有關的燈的眼光一樣，樂此不疲！

最後，褻瀆主名的敗壞。事實上，從所羅門所重用的耶羅波安開始，商業上貪婪與欺詐的行徑使經濟繁盛的以色列北國蒙上陰影，貧富日益懸殊。這就產生出大量的農民工，湧入城市。阿摩斯說以色列人：“以大碗喝酒、用上等的油抹身，卻不為約瑟的苦難擔憂（摩 6:6）。”

不但如此，甚至出現“父子與同一個女子行淫”，實在是羞辱主的名啊！這應該是當時非常流行的巴力廟中的廟妓的戲碼，司空見慣。嫖妓，又沒有錢，怎麼辦呢？富人可以花銀子，窮人就只能去當舖，將自己的外衣當掉。按照猶太律法，債主在日落前要歸還負債者所抵押的外衣。因為這可是窮人，特別是露宿街頭者的被子啊！當然，這其中的狀況乃是彼此相愛的惡性循環，且無藥可治！我們看第二點：

忘恩且負義

如果想用一個成語形容以色列人在神面前的敗壞，那就是忘恩負義。這大概也是我們新約信徒的通病，會不會？首先，你我皆是蒙恩人。想想看，你以色列人何德何能，約書亞帶領他們過約旦河時，為他們壘起河水，直到國民盡都過了約旦河（書 3:17）。不僅如此，還應許他們會趕走嘉南七族，就是“迦南人、赫人、希未人、比利洗人、革迦撒人、亞摩利人、耶布斯人（書 3:11）。”阿摩司在這裡就特別提到了亞摩利人，他們是摩西帶領以色列人出入迦南時就已經滅掉的一族（民 21:31）。阿摩司提醒以色列人，別忘了你們當年在埃及所受的苦。神藉著摩西將他們從埃及地領上來、在曠野引導你們四十年、使你們得亞摩利人之地為業（摩 2:10）。也可以想一想，你我今天成了何等模樣的人，竟然因十字架的恩典，蒙神賜我們權柄、作了神的兒女（約 1:12）。

其次，背負主恩是老我。然而，我們竟然中間會有人以忘恩負義為生命中的常態。在阿摩司的心裏，可能對他影響至深的就是關於拿細耳人與神之間的盟約。拿細耳人歸耶和華分別為聖，不許喝酒、不可剪髮、不可接觸死屍等，甚至連葡萄類食物都不可吃。北國以色列人卻給拿細耳人酒喝、囑咐先知說、不要說預言（摩 2:12）。第一任國王耶羅伯安甚至廢掉利未人任祭司的制度，隨己意、憑自己的邪情私慾來改變耶和華定下的旨意。這與今天某些教會裡的“大佬們”憑藉著錢財與勢力隨意炒牧師的魷魚，必將惹動神的憤怒。

最後，遵行主道是正道。從阿摩司信息的特點來看，主要針對當時的社會不公義，貧富懸殊，信仰墮落，道德淪喪，欺壓窮人的黑暗所發出的忿怒。所以呀，阿摩司先知就大聲呼喊啦：你們快悔改呀！喊了一次、兩次、三次，到第四次時，神就不再收回刑罰了。這也是我常常在講道時強調的，教會的軟肋，就是信徒的悔改。犯罪不可怕，怕的就是毫無廉恥之心、更

無悔改之意。可能我們悔改時，需要經過認罪的過程，感覺是失了面子、又丟了裏子。彷彿被拆毀、被否定。但是，我們的神，祂是安慰，重建，恢復，賜下盼望的神。我們看第三點：

審判的來臨

阿摩司先知 1 生的呼召就是從南邊北上，將耶和華吼叫的聲音傳達給北國以色列人。他說：從耶路撒冷發聲，牧人的草場要悲哀、迦密的山頂要枯乾。這正是審判的聲音！首先，來自上帝的碾壓。阿摩司說：“看哪、在你們所住之地、我必壓你們、如同裝滿禾捆的車壓物一樣。”如果我們還記得前面對列國的審判，會發現神對北國以色列的審判還是留有恩典的。對其他七國的審判大都是將火燒毀宮殿，而對以色列卻僅僅是碾壓。先知說完這些話兩年之後，以色列發生了大地震，無人能夠逃脫。從本章 14-16 節來看，應該是無人能夠抵擋，應驗了阿摩司先知的預言。

其次，有膽量卻要逃跑。當然，按照人的本性，仍是會逃離神的管教、躲避神的審判。我們問問自己就可以了，對嗎？除了阿摩司先知的預言，我們結合以後應驗了的歷史了看，以色列人大致經歷了饑荒、斷水、蝗蟲、瘟疫、戰爭、及地震。這與我們今天的世界是何其相似啊！昨天我們德州就有一場 5.3 級的地震，離達拉斯比較遠。這三年來的新冠病毒，瘟疫肆掠、俄烏戰爭、烏克蘭糧食運不出來而產生的饑荒、因疫情封控而帶來的次生災難等。在牆國內生出一股“運潮”，許多有錢、有勢、有膽量的人都要往外逃。

最後，靠自己不能自救。這是以色列人歷史通病，就是太聰明能幹，太靠自己！先知兩千多年前就說了：“到那日、勇士中最有膽量的、必赤身逃跑。這是耶和華說的。”前不久，一架從上海飛洛杉磯的飛機因故障不能飛了。機長廣播說，現在有一架空機飛美國，只剩下二十分鐘。如果要搭乘這架飛機，行李就不能帶了。結果是所有人都選擇放棄行李，個個都“赤身逃跑”了。其實，人生的命定就是一個逃字。凡相信耶穌基督的人，都是靠著主的恩典，逃離這個必將毀滅的世界，進入永生！

結語

好，感謝主！今天這堂對以色列人的審判之道，就講到這裡。被稱為是以色列的北國人啊，別忘了雅各當年在雅博渡口與神摔跤時對神的執著。無論雅各是怎樣的貪愛世界、到後來的灰心失落，卻仍然選擇認定耶和華！

我們一同禱告……

（摩 2:6-16）

2:6 耶和華如此說、以色列人三番四次的犯罪、我必不免去他們的刑罰。因他們為銀子賣了義人、為一雙鞋賣了窮人。

2:7 他們見窮人頭上所蒙的灰也都垂涎、阻礙謙卑人的道路。父子同一個女子行淫、褻瀆我的聖名。

2:8 他們在各壇旁鋪人所當的衣服、臥在其上。又在他們神的廟中、喝受罰之人的酒。

2:9 我從以色列人面前除滅亞摩利人。他雖高大如香柏樹、堅固如橡樹、我卻上滅他的果子、下絕他的根本。

2:10 我也將你們從埃及地領上來、在曠野引導你們四十年、使你們得亞摩利人之地為業。

2:11 我從你們子弟中興起先知、又從你們少年人中興起拿細耳人。以色列人哪、不是這樣麼。這是耶和華說的。

2:12 你們卻給拿細耳人酒喝、囑咐先知說、不要說預言。

2:13 看哪、在你們所住之地、我必壓你們、如同裝滿禾捆的車壓物一樣。

2:14 快跑的不能逃脫。有力的不能用力、剛勇的也不能自救。

2:15 拿弓的不能站立、腿快的不能逃脫。騎馬的也不能自救。

2:16 到那日、勇士中最有膽量的、必赤身逃跑。這是耶和華說的。

Judgment of Israel 【Amos 2:6-16】

INTRODUCTION

From now on, Amos really entered into the theme of life, which is to speak to Israel! The previous seven sermons can be said to be the introduction or preface to the book of Amos. The judgment of the nations can be said to be a brief introduction to the surrounding environment of Israel. Today's message is an overview of the topic, paving the way for the core. Let's look at the first point:

ECONOMY AND RELIGION

The foundation of the northern kingdom of Israel began with division from the very beginning. Although Solomon's son Rehoboam was arrogant and domineering, he was mainly responsible for the division of the United Kingdom. However, the elders in the northern kingdom also have unshirkable responsibilities due to their spiritual immaturity. First, they have the same attitude as other nations. Repeating the sins over and over again, refusing to repent, and being no different from the Gentiles. Are the churches, believers, and ministers today also repeatedly refusing to listen to God's words? Are reputation, status, money, flesh, emotions, greed, etc. really that important? Knowing that everything the antichrist regime gives you is false, why do you help them hold a "Bible Exhibition" to deceive overseas believers? Knowing that the seminary of the antichrist regime is not in line with God's will, why do you still take a group of naive fools to visit, and by the way, hurt the home church that is suffering for the Lord? This is exactly the same as the attitude of the northern kingdom of Israel when they stepped on the tightrope between the Assyrian Empire and Egypt, and neither side should offend.

Secondly, greed for money. For the sake of money, people would be the early bird in order to gain, right? God's punishment for the northern kingdom of Israel was based on "They sell the innocent for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals." This refers to the practice of bribing judges and betraying justice at that time. From the first generation of the king of the northern

kingdom of Israel, Jeroboam brought the official culture of greed, willingness to do anything to achieve his goals, and no bottom line to the Israelites. This is also similar to the corruption that has been prevalent in China for a long time today, especially in the past few decades. Not only in the officialdom, but even the general public has fallen to the point of “selling the needy for a pair of sandals”. People can disregard shame for money, Just like the eyes of Eugenie Grandet’s father Old Grandet staring at the lamp that was not turned off before he died, he never tired of it!

Finally, the corruption of blasphemy. In fact, starting from Jeroboam, who was highly respected by Solomon, commercial greed and fraud have cast a shadow over the economically prosperous Northern Kingdom of Israel, and the disparity between rich and poor has grown. This has produced a large number of migrant workers, pouring into the city. Amos said of the Israelites: “You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. (Amos 6:6)” Not only that, but even “Father and son use the same girl”, What a dishonor to the name of the Lord! This should be the drama of temple prostitutes in the very popular Baal Temple at that time, and it was commonplace. Whoring, but no money, how to do it? The rich can spend money, but the poor can only go to the pawn shop and pawn their coats. According to Jewish law, the creditor had to return the mortgaged coat to the debtor before sunset. Because this is a quilt for the poor, especially those who sleep on the streets! Of course, the situation in this is a vicious circle of loving each other, and there is no cure! Let’s look at the second point:

UNGRATEFULNESS

If one wanted to use an idiom to describe the corruption of the Israelites before God, it would be ungratefulness. This is probably a common problem among us New Testament believers, isn’t it? First, you and I are all blessed. Think about it, how good and capable you Israelites are, when Joshua led them across the Jordan River, he built up the river for them until all the people had

crossed the Jordan River (Joshua 3:17). Not only that, but it was promised that they would drive out the seven tribes of Canaan, namely, “the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites” (Joshua 3:11).” Here Amos specifically mentioned the Amorites, a tribe that had been destroyed when Moses led the Israelites into and out of Canaan (Numbers 21:31). Amos reminded the Israelites not to forget what you suffered in Egypt. I brought you up out of Egypt and led you forty years in the wilderness to give you the land of the Amorites. (Amos 2:10) Let’ s think about what kind of people you and I have become today, because of the grace of the cross, God has given us the right to become God’ s children (John 1:12).

Second, disobey the grace of God is the old self. And yet, there are some of us who live in ungratefulness as the norm. In Amos’ mind, what may have had the deepest influence on him was the covenant between the Nazarites and God. The Nazarites were sanctified to the Lord. They were not allowed to drink alcohol, cut their hair, touch dead bodies, etc. They were not even allowed to eat grapes. The Israelites in the northern kingdom gave the Nazarites wine to drink and commanded the prophets not to prophesy (Amos 2:12). The first king, Jeroboam, even abolished the priestly system of the Levites, and changed the will of God according to his own will and his own evil desires. This is similar to the “big bosses” in some churches today who use their money and power to fire pastors at will and it will definitely provoke God’ s wrath.

Finally, following the Lord’ s way is the right way. Judging from the characteristics of Amos’ message, it mainly aimed at the social injustice at that time, the disparity between the rich and the poor, the degeneration of faith, the depravity of morality, and the darkness that oppressed the poor. Therefore, the prophet Amos shouted loudly: Repent quickly! After shouting once, twice, three times, and the fourth time, God will no longer take back the punishment. This is also what I often emphasize in my preachings. The weakness of the church is the repentance of believers. Committing crime is not terrible, what is terrible is that there is no sense of shame, let alone repentance. Maybe when we repent, we need to go through the process of confessing

our sins, and we feel that we have lost face and shame. As if torn down, denied. But our God, He is a God of comfort, rebuild, restoration, and hope. Let's look at the third point:

COMING OF JUDGMENT

The calling of the prophet Amos in his life was to go up from the south to the north, and to convey the voice of God's roar to the northern kingdom of Israel. He said: Speak from Jerusalem. The pastures of the shepherds will mourn, and the top of Carmel will dry up. This is the sound of judgment! First, the crushing from God. Amos said: "Now then, I will crush you as a cart crushes when loaded with grain. (Amos 2:13)" If we remember the previous judgments on the nations, we will find that God's judgment on the northern kingdom of Israel still has grace. Most of the judgments on the other seven countries were to burn down the palaces, but on Israel it was just crushing. Two years after the prophet spoke these words, there was a great earthquake in Israel from which no one escaped. Judging from verses 14-16 of this chapter, it should be that no one can resist it, fulfilling the prophecy of the prophet Amos.

Second, have the courage yet to run away. Of course, according to human nature, we will still escape God's discipline and avoid God's judgment. Just ask ourselves, right? In addition to the prophecies of Prophet Amos, we combined the history that was fulfilled later. The Israelites generally experienced famine, water cutoff, locusts, plagues, wars, and earthquakes. How similar is this to today's world! Yesterday we had a magnitude 5.3 earthquake in Texas, which is far away from Dallas. In the past three years, the COVID virus, the plague, the war between Russia and Ukraine, the famine caused by the inability to deliver food from Ukraine, and the secondary disasters caused by the epidemic blockade, etc. There was a "trend of running" within the wall, and many rich, powerful, and courageous people fled abroad.

Finally, it is impossible to be self-saved. This is a common problem in the history of the Israelites, that is, they are too smart and capable, and they rely too much on themselves! The Prophet said more than 2,000 years ago: "Even the bravest warriors will flee naked on that day,"

declares the Lord.” Not long ago, a plane flying from Shanghai to Los Angeles was unable to fly due to a malfunction. The captain broadcast that there is now an empty plane flying to the United States, and there are only 20 minutes left.

If you want to take this plane, you can't bring your luggage. As a result, everyone chose to give up their luggage, and all of them “ran away naked”. In fact, the destiny of life is just one word “escape”. Anyone who believes in Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, escapes from this doomed world and enters eternal life!

CONCLUSION

Well, thank the Lord! This is the end of today's sermon on the judgment of the Israelites. People from the northern kingdom known as Israel, don't forget Jacob's persistence with God when he wrestled with God at the ford of the Jabbok. No matter how much Jacob loved the world, and later became discouraged and lost, he still chose to believe in God!

Let us pray……

(Amos 2:6-16)

2:6 This is what the Lord says: “For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not relent. They sell the innocent for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals.

2:7 They trample on the heads of the poor as on the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed. Father and son use the same girl and so profane my holy name.

2:8 They lie down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge. In the house of their god they drink wine taken as fines.

2:9 “Yet I destroyed the Amorites before them, though they were tall as the cedars and strong as the oaks. I destroyed their fruit above and their roots below.

2:10 I brought you up out of Egypt and led you forty years in the wilderness to give you the land of the Amorites.

2:11 “I also raised up prophets from among your children and Nazirites from among your youths. Is this not true, people of Israel?” declares the Lord.

2:12 “But you made the Nazirites drink wine and commanded the prophets not to prophesy.

2:13 “Now then, I will crush you as a cart crushes when loaded with grain.

2:14 The swift will not escape, the strong will not muster their strength, and the warrior will not save his life.

2:15 The archer will not stand his ground, the fleet-footed soldier will not get away, and the horseman will not save his life.

2:16 Even the bravest warriors will flee naked on that day,” declares the Lord.

濫用盟約特權摩 【3:1-15】

引言

如果不是神對以色列的揀選，我們對神與人訂立盟約的性情並不了解。事實上，從亞當開始，神就已經與人立約了。這是神人之間的第一個盟約，我們稱之為始祖之約，包括管家之約、食物之約、試煉之約、生死之約、生產之約、辛勞之約、夫妻之約。可惜的是，亞當違約了。這是阿摩司信息的起始點，重提盟約的概念。我們看第一點：

恩威並重

約本是雙方的事情，但是，神人之約卻是以恩典為基石的。首先，重提摩西之約。神藉著摩西對以色列人說：“如今你們若實在聽從我的話、遵守我的約、就要在萬民中作屬我的子民、因為全地都是我的（出 19:5）。”不但如此，神還要以色列人“作祭司的國度、為聖潔的國民（出 19:6）”。摩西之約屬於有條件的約，就是以色列人必須要聽神的話。憑什麼？阿摩斯說，就憑：“你們全家是我從埃及地領上來的（摩 3:1）。”這與我們任何人當尊主為大的道理是一樣的，尼希米說：“你、惟獨你、是耶和華。你造了天、和天上的天、並天上的萬象、地和地上的萬物、海和海中所有的、這一切都是你所保存的。天軍也都敬拜你（尼 9:6）。”因此，我們並沒有悖逆神的理由！

其次，違約當有後果。神說要來攻擊我們，而且還要必追討我們的一切罪孽，那可是一個愛的理由啊！屬神的人才能體會得到，對嗎？神說，在地上萬族中、我只認識你們！舊約中所說的認識，就是相愛的意思！神是在說，我愛你們，你們卻背叛我，這情何以堪啊！這個後果就是神在表達祂的怒氣、祂的傷痛、祂的公義、祂的聖潔！神並不是在阿摩司的時代才說要追討罪孽，乃是早就說了：“你若不聽從耶和華你神的話、不謹守遵行他的一切誡命律例、就是我今日所吩咐你的、這以下的咒詛都必追隨你、臨到你身上（申 28:15）。”就是我們的城市、鄉間、食物、生養、牲畜、出入及一切所行的，都必受咒詛！

最後，可否與神同心？神所作的，當然也包括與我們今天息息相關的：“耶和華必使瘟疫貼

在你身上、直到他將你從所進去得為業的地上滅絕（申 28:21）。”有沒有想過神為何如此呢？三章三節阿摩司給出了答案，就是：“二人若不同心、豈能同行呢。”神是將祂定位成與我們的同行者，你願意嗎？這句經文的原文是：“二人若不約定，豈能同行呢？”怎麼說都沒感覺？神就敲一敲、打一打、甚至是當頭棒喝！醒了嗎？神是在向我們發出邀請：你是否願意與神同心同行呢？當我聽見神說：“在地上萬族中、我只認識你們”的時候，直接淚奔！親愛的弟兄姊妹，你呢？可否與神同心呢？我們看第二點：

先知警告

阿摩司先知的警告非常有意思，他用的是因果律。意思是說，人種的是什麼，收的也就是什麼。首先，因果使然莫驚訝。聖經中充滿了因果律，神說話是清晰明確的。祂藉著摩西對我們說：“我今日呼天喚地向你作見證、我將生死、禍福、陳明在你面前、所以你要揀選生命、使你和你的後裔都得存活（申 30:19）。”獅子的本性就是出去覓食，捕獲其他動物，否則他也不會在林中咆哮吼叫呀！若沒有機檻、雀鳥豈能陷在網羅裡呢。同樣，網羅若無所得、豈能從地上翻起呢？人也是一樣呀，無利不起早，恐怕是世人的生存邏輯，同意嗎？人若是對試探誘惑不去反應，罪怎麼會成為你的網綁呢？神對該隱說：你若行得好，豈不蒙悅納？無論是神的選民，還是新約信徒，即使在外邦人面前，也沒有什麼可誇口的。

其次，神掌主權當儆醒。人總是容易自以為義的，對嗎？但是，神說：“要在亞實突的宮殿中、和埃及地的宮殿裡傳揚說、你們要聚集在撒瑪利亞的山上、就看見城中有何等大的擾亂與欺壓的事（摩 3:9）。”亞實突是非利士五城之一，與埃及一道，站在比撒瑪利亞更高的山上觀看，發現撒瑪利亞的惡行與自己相仿，並沒有什麼區別。甚至是有過之而不不及，你能想像嗎？我們千萬要記住，人在做，神在天上看著我們！阿摩司提醒，那些以強暴搶奪財物、積蓄在自己家中的人，他們不知道行正直的事。以為神不知道嗎？對不起，神都知道，因為這是耶和華說的。祂掌權、祂掌管、祂掌握一切！所以，當儆醒！

最後，不以有罪為無罪。如果神三番四次地警告、勸勉，你仍是不明白、不願意、不悔改、不認罪、不真的信主，會怎麼樣呢？你以為可以不悔改，神怎麼說你都無動於衷嗎？這時阿摩司就發預言了，他說：“所以主耶和華如此說、敵人必來圍攻這地、使你的勢力衰微、搶

掠你的家宅（摩 3:11）。”阿摩斯說完這話，三十多年後，這個預言就應驗了。神藉著亞述帝國圍攻撒馬利亞三年，後果是將以色列人擄到亞述去了，把他們安置在哈臘、與歌散的哈博河邊、並瑪代人的城邑。（王下 17:6）。我們看第三點：

審判臨到

可能我們會想，為什麼神的選民會遭受如此嚴厲的審判呢？首先，靠人豈能得救呢？列王記下十七章七至八節說：“這是因以色列人得罪那領他們出埃及地、脫離埃及王法老手的耶和華他們的神、去敬畏別神、隨從耶和華在他們面前所趕出外邦人的風俗、和以色列諸王所立的條規（王下 17:7-8）。”這是人遭神咒詛的主要原因，從起初到如今都是如此。但人總是想用人本主義的方法自救，對不對？以色列人也是如此呀，總是在埃及人和亞述人之間找平衡，尋求誰也不得罪的和平主義。看看剛剛結束的 20 國大會及 Apec 大會，人人都在找機會，個個都在玩平衡。試問有誰在單單靠神呢？

其次，罪的工價乃是死。“耶和華如此說、牧人怎樣從獅子口中搶回兩條羊腿或半個耳朵、住撒瑪利亞的以色列人躺臥在床角上或鋪繡花毯的榻上、他們得救也不過如此（摩 3:12）。”已經犯罪了，還想用搶回兩條羊腿或半個耳朵等方法來自我拯救，可能嗎？生命已經殘破，卻仍躺臥在床角上或鋪繡花毯的榻上自嗨。以躺平為逃避、以虛榮為誇耀，等待他的當然就只剩下死亡！阿摩司說這話的時候，審判還沒有來，以色列人還有機會悔改。但是，即使阿摩司說了，你會聽嗎？“主耶和華萬軍之神說、當聽這話、警戒雅各家（摩 3:13）。”

最後，神的公義莫輕慢。人的可憐之處就是聽也聽不見，即使聽見了，也沒有能力悔改了。神說，有耳可聽的，就應當聽！試問誰沒有耳朵呀？都有，卻不肯聽神的話！神說：“我討以色列罪的日子、也要討伯特利祭壇的罪。壇角必被砍下、墜落於地（摩 3: 14）。”連祭壇的角都被砍下，躲無可躲，就連救恩的機會也都沒了。當年亞多尼雅想奪所羅門的王位，被所羅門王發現後就抓住祭壇的角，以致得救。如今，這祭壇的角也被砍下，以色列人靠自己的得救之路被堵上了。神說：“我要拆毀過冬和過夏的房屋、象牙的房屋也必毀滅、高大的房屋都歸無有、這是耶和華說的（摩 3:15）。”

結語

好，今天這堂“濫用盟約特權”之道就講到這裡。約是神與人關係的寫照，表達神人關係的本質。以色列人當年活得很失敗，以致被擄。你我今天當如何活出受造的心意？我相信，活出一個與神有約的人生，是所有神兒女的期待。你願意嗎？

我們一同禱告……

（摩 3:1-15）

- 3:1 以色列人哪、你們全家是我從埃及地領上來的、當聽耶和華攻擊你們的話。
- 3:2 在地上萬族中、我只認識你們、因此、我必追討你們的一切罪孽。
- 3:3 二人若不同心、豈能同行呢。
- 3:4 獅子若非抓食、豈能在林中咆哮呢。少壯獅子若無所得、豈能從洞中發聲呢。
- 3:5 若沒有機檻、雀鳥豈能陷在網羅裡呢。網羅若無所得、豈能從地上翻起呢。
- 3:6 城中若吹角、百姓豈不驚恐呢。災禍若臨到一城、豈非耶和華所降的麼。
- 3:7 主耶和華若不將奧秘指示他的僕人眾先知、就一無所行。
- 3:8 獅子吼叫、誰不懼怕呢。主耶和華發命、誰能不說預言呢。
- 3:9 要在亞實突的宮殿中、和埃及地的宮殿裡傳揚說、你們要聚集在撒瑪利亞的山上、就看見城中有何等大的擾亂與欺壓的事。
- 3:10 那些以強暴搶奪財物、積蓄在自己家中的人不知道行正直的事。這是耶和華說的。
- 3:11 所以主耶和華如此說、敵人必來圍攻這地、使你的勢力衰微、搶掠你的家宅。
- 3:12 耶和華如此說、牧人怎樣從獅子口中搶回兩條羊腿或半個耳朵、住撒瑪利亞的以色列人躺臥在床角上或鋪繡花毯的榻上、他們得救也不過如此。
- 3:13 主耶和華萬軍之神說、當聽這話、警戒雅各家。
- 3:14 我討以色列罪的日子、也要討伯特利祭壇的罪。壇角必被砍下、墜落於地。
- 3:15 我要拆毀過冬和過夏的房屋、象牙的房屋也必毀滅、高大的房屋都歸無有、這是耶和華說的。

Abuse of Covenant Privileges

【Amos 3:1-15】

INTRODUCTION

If it wasn't for God's selection of Israel, we would not understand the nature of God's covenant with man. In fact, God has made a covenant with man since Adam. This is the first covenant between God and man, which we call the Covenant of the Patriarchs, including Covenant of housekeeping, covenant of food, covenant of trial, covenant of life and death, covenant of childbirth, covenant of hard work, covenant of husband and wife. Unfortunately, Adam defaulted. This is the starting point of Amos' message, revisiting the concept of the covenant. Let's look at the first point:

BOTH KINDNESS AND MAJESTY

The covenant was originally a matter between the two parties, but the covenant between God and man is based on grace. First, recall the Mosaic covenant. God said to the Israelites through Moses: "Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine. (Exodus 19:5)" you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. (Exodus 19:6) The Mosaic covenant is a conditional covenant, that is, the Israelites must obey God's words. Why? Amos said, just by: "the whole family I brought up out of Egypt. (Amos 3:1)" This is the same reason any of us should magnify the Lord, Nehemiah said: "You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you. (Nehemiah 9:6)" Therefore, we have no reason to disobey God!

Second, breaches of covenant should have consequences. God said that he would attack us and punish us for all our sins. That is a reason for love! Only those who belong to God can

understand it, right? God said, you only have I chosen of all the families of the earth! Knowing in the Old Testament means loving each other! God is saying, I love you, but you betray Me, how embarrassing is this! The consequence is that God is expressing His anger, His pain, His righteousness, and His holiness! God did not say that he would punish sins at the time of Amos, but he said it long ago: “However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you. (Deuteronomy 28:15)” Cursed shall be our cities, our country, our food, our breeding, our livestock, our going in and out, and everything we do!

Finally, is it possible to have one heart with God? What God has done, of course, also includes things that are closely related to us today: “The Lord will plague you with diseases until he has destroyed you from the land you are entering to possess. (deuteronomy 28:21)” Ever wonder why God is like this? Amos gives the answer in chapter 3, verse 3, which is: “Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?” God has positioned Him as our companion, will you? The original text of this scripture is: “If two people do not agree, how can they walk together?” Do you not feel it? Then God would strike, hit, and even give you a sharp warning! Are you awake? God is sending us an invitation: Are you willing to walk with God? When I heard God say, “You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth” , I burst into tears! Dear brothers and sisters, what about you? Is it possible to have one heart with God? Let’ s look at the second point:

PROPHETIC WARNING

The warning of the prophet Amos is very interesting, he uses the law of cause and effect. It means that what a man sows, he reaps. First of all, don’ t be surprised by cause and effect. The Bible is full of laws of cause and effect, and God speaks clearly. He said to us through Moses: “This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live. (Deuteronomy 30:19)” It is the nature of a lion to hunt for food and capture other

animals, otherwise it wouldn't be roaring in the forest! How can a bird be caught in a snare if there is no threshold? In the same way, how can a snare be turned up from the ground if it finds nothing? The same is true for human beings. People would want to be the early bird in order to gain the profit, and it is probably the survival logic of the world. Do you agree? If people do not respond to temptation, how can sin become your bondage? God said to Cain: If you do well, will you not be accepted by God? Neither God's chosen people nor New Testament believers have anything to boast about, even in front of Gentiles.

Second, God is sovereign and we should be vigilant. It's always easy to be self-righteous, right? However, God said: "Proclaim to the fortresses of Ashdod and to the fortresses of Egypt: "Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria; see the great unrest within her and the oppression among her people." (Amos 3:9)" Ashdod is one of the five cities of the Philistines. Together with Egypt, they watched from a higher mountain than Samaria, and found that the evil deeds of Samaria were similar to their own, and there was no difference. Even more than that, can you imagine? We must remember that when people are doing it, God is watching us in heaven! Amos reminds those who plunder by violence and store up in their own homes that they do not know how to do what is right. Thinking God doesn't know? I'm sorry, God knows it all, because this is what the Lord said. He reigns, He rules, and He is in control! Therefore, be alert!

Finally, guilt is not innocent. What will happen if God warns and exhorts you over and over again, but you still don't understand, don't want to, don't repent, don't confess your sins, and don't really believe in the Lord? Do you think that you can not repent, and you will be indifferent to what God says? Then Amos prophesied, saying: "Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "An enemy will overrun your land, pull down your strongholds and plunder your fortresses." (Amos 3:11)" After Amos said this, more than thirty years later, this prophecy was fulfilled. God used the Assyrian Empire to besiege Samaria for three years. As a result, the Israelites were taken captive to Assyria, and they were placed in Harab, by the Harab River in Gosan, (2 Kings 17:6) and in the cities of the Medes. Let's look at the third point:

JUDGMENT COMES

We may think, why do God's chosen people suffer such severe judgment? First, how can we be saved by relying on others? Second Kings 17:7-8 says: "All this took place because the Israelites had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of Egypt from under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. They worshiped other gods and followed the practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before them, as well as the practices that the kings of Israel had introduced. (2 Kings 17:7-8)" This is the main reason why man is cursed by God, from the beginning to the present. But people always want to use humanistic methods to save themselves, right? The same is true for the Israelites, always looking for a balance between the Egyptians and the Assyrians, seeking a pacifism that no one can offend. Looking at the just-concluded 20-nation conference and the Apec conference, everyone is looking for opportunities, and everyone is playing balance. May I ask, who is relying on God alone?

Second, the wages of sin is death. "This is what the Lord says: "As a shepherd rescues from the lion's mouth only two leg bones or a piece of an ear, so will the Israelites living in Samaria be rescued, with only the head of a bed and a piece of fabric from a couch." " When one has already committed a sin, and still wants to save himself by snatching back two legs of lamb or half an ear, is it possible? Life has been broken, but still lying on the corner of the bed or on the couch covered with embroidered blankets. Taking lying down as an escape, taking vanity as a boast, of course all that awaits him is death! When Amos said this, the judgment had not yet come, and the Israelites still had a chance to repent. But even if Amos said it, would you listen? "Hear this and testify against the descendants of Jacob," declares the Lord, the Lord God Almighty. (Amos 3:13)

Finally, the righteousness of God is not to be taken lightly. The pitiful thing about people is that they can't hear what they hear, and even if they hear it, they have no ability to repent. God said, whoever has ears to hear, let him hear! May I ask who has no ears? They have all, but they refuse to listen to God's word! God said: "On the day I punish Israel for her sins, I will

destroy the altars of Bethel; the horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground. (Amos 3:14)” Even the horns of the altar have been cut off, there is no place to hide, no chance of salvation. Back then, Adonijah wanted to seize Solomon’ s throne, but after being discovered by King Solomon, he grabbed the horn of the altar and was saved. Now, the horns of this altar have also been cut off, and the way for the Israelites to be saved by themselves has been blocked. God said: “ I will tear down the winter house along with the summer house; the houses adorned with ivory will be destroyed and the mansions will be demolished,” declares the Lord. (Amos 3:15)”

CONCLUSION

Well, that’ s all for today’ s sermon on “abuse of covenant privileges” . The covenant is a portrayal of the relationship between God and man, expressing the essence of the relationship between God and man. The Israelites failed so badly that they were taken into captivity. How should we live out our created intentions today? I believe that living a life of covenant with God is the expectation of all God’ s children. Do you want to?

Let us pray……

(Amos 3:1-15)

3:1 Hear this word, people of Israel, the word the Lord has spoken against you—against the whole family I brought up out of Egypt:

3:2 “You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins.”

3:3 Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?

3:4 Does a lion roar in the thicket when it has no prey? Does it growl in its den when it has caught nothing?

3:5 Does a bird swoop down to a trap on the ground when no bait is there? Does a trap spring up from the ground if it has not caught anything?

3:6 When a trumpet sounds in a city, do not the people tremble? When disaster comes to a city, has not the Lord caused it?

3:7 Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.

3:8 The lion has roared—who will not fear? The Sovereign Lord has spoken—who can but prophesy?

3:9 Proclaim to the fortresses of Ashdod and to the fortresses of Egypt: “Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria; see the great unrest within her and the oppression among her people.”

3:10 “They do not know how to do right,” declares the Lord, “who store up in their fortresses what they have plundered and looted.”

3:11 Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: “An enemy will overrun your land, pull down your strongholds and plunder your fortresses.”

3:12 This is what the Lord says: “As a shepherd rescues from the lion’s mouth only two leg bones or a piece of an ear, so will the Israelites living in Samaria be rescued, with only the head of a bed and a piece of fabric[a] from a couch.”

3:13 “Hear this and testify against the descendants of Jacob,” declares the Lord, the Lord God Almighty.

3:14 “On the day I punish Israel for her sins, I will destroy the altars of Bethel; the horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground.

3:15 I will tear down the winter house along with the summer house; the houses adorned with ivory will be destroyed and the mansions will be demolished,” declares the Lord.

輕慢神的代價 【摩 4:1-13】

引言

今天的信息，是神藉著阿摩司先知對北國以色列三篇審判信息中的第二篇審判詞。先知從對撒馬利亞有錢婦女的審判，展開了對聖所、歷史及與神會面時的審判，深刻而親切，使人不得不將讚美歸給神。我們看第一點：

傲慢與偏見

“傲慢與偏見(Pride and Prejudice)”是英國十九世紀初 Jane Austen 的名著，反應英格蘭攝政時代鄉紳階層的婚姻、金錢、教育、道德、禮節等方方面面的光景。我用這兩個極端的詞來表達阿摩司先知所面對北國以色列的情態。首先，有錢人的盲點。先知說，如巴珊母牛的，是有一點調侃啦！意思是說，這些撒馬利亞的婦人，吃得多、長得胖，卻欺壓貧寒窮乏之人。阿摩司所給出的圖畫是飽婦不知餓人飢，就是你吃飽了，但身邊還有一群正餓著肚子的人呢。但是，吃飽的人對餓著肚子的人卻無感、茫然無知。當我們在大街上看見乞丐時，心裏作何感想呢？也是無感嗎？當我們看見烏魯木齊的鐵鍊樓燒死人時，你也同樣心無憐憫、眼無淚水嗎？當人窮到只剩下錢時，心中的偏見就會成為網綁與控制。

其次，假冒為善的人。耶穌說，有錢人進天國比駱駝進針眼還難。同樣，自以為有地位、有權力、有名望的人也是如此。這也是耶穌責備法利賽人的原因，他們對有軟弱的人毫無愛心。這可以從經文中這個家庭夫妻對話中看見，可能家門口就有幾個乞丐即將凍死，這位如巴珊母牛的胖女人卻在家中舉杯痛飲，對丈夫說：“拿酒來、我們喝罷！”有一天我們每一個人也都將面對靈魂的拷問！當警察當街打人，對著一位穿著單薄的年輕女人，四五個熊腰虎背的男人將她壓在地上。反綁著手、跪在廣州海珠區的大街上示眾。一個警察對路人說，一定是她犯了什麼罪！我在廣州的朋友們也是這樣說，我的心卻碎了。

最後，留下破口的事。撒馬利亞人的狂傲使他們更加不可一世，特別是亞述帝國於主前 801 年滅掉大馬色之後，北國以色列行事為人就更加沒有底線了。以為大權在握，可以終身掌權

了，身邊的幕僚也都是自己的人馬。更重要的是，當時的北國以色列已經是中東地區的第二（或第三）大經濟強國。除了亞述、埃及帝國就到她了，國力強大、和平且富庶，卻貧富懸殊。對外戰狼，欺負南國猶大、亞捫、摩押，對內繼續欺壓窮苦人，惹動神的憤怒。破口是自己留下的，鉤子也是自己行的惡引來的。這鉤子正是以色列人被擄時，亞述人用的工具。因為被擄的人多，鉤子用完了，再用魚鉤。我們看第二點：

咒詛的警告

咒詛是可怕的，警告咒詛卻是一份恩典，你能體會嗎？阿摩司先知發出警告的時候，以色列人仍然有悔改的機會。首先，破口投入哈門！破口是什麼我們都知道，哈門呢？有些不確定，應該是指一個地名，如黑門山。或是被擄者流亡之地，如亞述的米尼山（耶 57:27）、或是奧朗底河畔(Orontes)、加低斯附近的何珥摩（hermal）。其實，其意義就是一個被廢棄之地。有點兒像是關押癲瘋病人的村落，或是今天關押新冠染疫者的方艙。甚至就好像是起了火卻逃不出來的烏魯木齊的鐵鍊樓，也像是將要臨到的秋後算賬的大屠殺。哈門是自己選擇進去的，正如破口是自己留出來的一樣。我們明明是按照神的形象受造，有尊嚴、有自由、有真理，卻仍甘願在埃及為奴四百年。神藉著摩西將我們救拔出來，我們卻有人埋怨神為何將我們帶出哈門，不繼續為奴呢？這種“哈門留戀症”是罪人的通病，你有嗎？

其次，聖所已然污穢。吉甲是以色列人初進迦南時就建立的聖所，伯特利則是南北國分裂時由耶羅波安設立的聖所。只是這個時候聖所已經成了多種偶像崇拜的場所，有一點兒像“一貫道”，儒、釋、道、基督、回教，樣樣都拜。耶羅波安將埃及的金牛犢重新鑄造，還接納迦南不同的神社偶像進聖所。破壞利未人才能作祭司的規矩，甚至自己在壇上燒香並向他所鑄的金牛犢獻祭。這與我們今天的明明不是全時間服事神的利未人，卻硬要打腫臉充當假牧師、假長老，如出一轍。

最後，神不喜悅的祭。耶羅波安要求百姓“每日早晨獻上你們的祭物、每三日奉上你們的十分之一。”彷彿要與比南國猶大還要敬虔似的！方向錯了、對象錯了，越努力就錯得越厲害。當我們自以為義時，卻不知我們的所言所行並不是出於神！正如聖經說，有一條路，人以為正，卻是通向死亡之路。獻素祭卻還去獻發酵的祭，也如禱告非要在馬路上，生怕人不知

道。或者是像掃羅王，硬要自己去獻祭，神不喜悅。我們的價值不是我們可以做什麼，乃是我們什麼都不做就已經是價值連城了。我們看第三點：

讚美的出路

如此輕慢神的代價是沉重的，對吧？怎麼辦？可否回到讚美中來，將一切的榮耀頌讚歸給神？首先，城中牙齒乾淨。神為什麼會喜悅大衛王？其中一個很重要的原因是因為大衛王是一個讚美神的人，讀大衛寫的詩篇，無不被他的牙齒乾淨而感動。一個讚美神的人，必須是牙齒乾淨的人、一個口出恩言的人、一個時常讚美的人、一個安慰鼓勵的人、一個充滿智慧的人！神藉著阿摩司要求以色列人，不是一個人牙齒乾淨，而是城中牙齒乾淨，就是都要乾淨。髒話、粗口自然是不能說的，即使是一些低級趣味嬉笑的話也是不合宜的。求神賜我們教會的牙齒乾淨，免得我們得罪祂！

其次，當歸向耶和華。到了末日，神會讓我們經歷糧食缺乏、飲水不足、菜蔬瓜果遭災、旱災、霉爛、瘟疫等。同時，神也用五次“你們仍不歸向我。這是耶和華說的”來呼召、邀請我們來親近祂！一位姊妹這時發來一個視頻，是講關於哈薩克的牧民因為疫情封控而無法及時羊群轉場，以致大批羊群困死在嚴寒中。我轉發在 Facebook 上了，但我心裡也在為這些牧民禱告。求神幫助他們全然歸向耶和華，以致他們必不致缺乏！

最後，預備迎見真神。阿摩司說：“以色列阿、我必向你如此行。以色列阿、我既這樣行、你當預備迎見你的神。”為什麼？見神還要預備？這可能是我們很容易忽略的一個重要因素，對不對？阿摩司繼續說出原因，我們為何一定要預備迎見神呢？那是因為“那創山、造風、將心意指示人、使晨光變為幽暗、腳踏在地之高處的。他的名是耶和華萬軍之神。”祂是造我們的主，我們是祂草場的羊！

結語

好，親愛的弟兄姊妹，這世界及其上的一切都將成為過去，唯有主的道是永遠長存的。祂不但是憐憫慈愛的神，也是聖潔公義的主！這就是為什麼神是不可輕慢的！

我們一同禱告……

(摩 4:1-13)

4:1 你們住撒瑪利亞山如巴珊母牛的阿、當聽我的話你們欺負貧寒的、壓碎窮乏的、對家主說、拿酒來、我們喝罷。

4:2 主耶和華指著自己的聖潔起誓說、日子快到、人必用鉤子將你們鉤去、用魚鉤將你們餘剩的鉤去。

4:3 你們各人必從破口直往前行、投入哈門。這是耶和華說的。

4:4 以色列人哪、任你們往伯特利去犯罪、到吉甲加增罪過。每日早晨獻上你們的祭物、每三日奉上你們的十分之一。

4:5 任你們獻有酵的感謝祭、把甘心祭宣傳報告給眾人。因為是你們所喜愛的。這是主耶和華說的。

4:6 我使你們在一切城中牙齒乾淨、在你們各處糧食缺乏。你們仍不歸向我。這是耶和華說的。

4:7 在收割的前三月我使雨停止、不降在你們那裡。我降雨在這城、不降雨在那城。這塊地有雨、那塊地無雨。無雨的就枯乾了。

4:8 這樣、兩三城的人湊到一城去找水、卻喝不足。你們仍不歸向我。這是耶和華說的。

4:9 我以旱風、霉爛攻擊你們。你們園中許多菜蔬、葡萄樹、無花果樹、橄欖樹都被剪蟲所喫。你們仍不歸向我。這是耶和華說的。

4:10 我降瘟疫在你們中間、像在埃及一樣。用刀殺戮你們的少年人、使你們的馬匹被擄掠、營中屍首的臭氣撲鼻。你們仍不歸向我。這是耶和華說的。

4:11 我傾覆你們中間的城邑、如同我從前傾覆所多瑪蛾摩拉一樣、使你們好像從火中抽出來的一根柴。你們仍不歸向我。這是耶和華說的。

4:12 以色列阿、我必向你如此行。以色列阿、我既這樣行、你當預備迎見你的神。

4:13 那創山、造風、將心意指示人、使晨光變為幽暗、腳踏在地之高處的。他的名是耶和華萬軍之神。

The price of despising God

Amos 【4:1-13】

INTRODUCTION

Today's message is the second of God's three judgment messages on the northern kingdom of Israel through the prophet Amos. From the judgment of the rich woman in Samaria, the prophet started the judgment of the sanctuary, history and the meeting with God, which is so profound and intimate that people have to give praise to God. Let's look at the first point:

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

“Pride and Prejudice” is a masterpiece written by Jane Austen in the early nineteenth century in England, reflecting the marriage, money, education, morality, etiquette and other aspects of the gentry class in England in the Regency era. I use these two extreme terms to express the state of the northern kingdom of Israel faced by the prophet Amos. First, the blind spot of the rich. The Prophet said that the cows in Bashan are a bit of a joke! It means that these Samaritan women, who overfed and gained weight, oppressed the poor and needy. The picture given by Amos is that a full woman does not know the hungry, that is, you are full, but there are a group of hungry people around you. However, people who are full are indifferent and ignorant of people who are hungry. How do we feel when we see beggars on the street? Also indifferent? When we saw people burnt to death in Urumqi's chain building, did you also have no mercy and no tears in your eyes? When people are so poor that only money is left, the prejudice in their hearts will become binding and controlling.

Second, the hypocrites. Jesus said that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. The same goes for people who think they have status, power, and fame. This is why Jesus rebuked the Pharisees, who had no love for the weak. This can be seen from the conversation between the husband and wife in this family in

the scriptures. There may be a few beggars at the door of the house who are about to freeze to death, but this fat woman like a Bashan cow raises a glass at home and says to her husband: “Bring us some drinks!” One day each of us will face the judgment of our souls! When the police beat people in the street, facing a young woman in thin clothes, four or five burly men pressed her to the ground. Kneeling with hands tied behind her back on the street in Haizhu District, Guangzhou, for public display. A policeman told passers-by that she must have committed some crime! My friends in Guangzhou said the same thing, but my heart was broken.

Finally, leave a breach. The arrogance of the Samaritans made them even more arrogant, especially after the Assyrian Empire destroyed Damascus in 801 BC, the northern kingdom of Israel had no bottom line in behavior. They think that they are in power and can be in power for life, and the staff around them are all their own people. More importantly, the northern country of Israel at that time was already the second (or third) largest economic power in the Middle East. In addition to Assyria, the Egyptian Empire, it has come to her. The country is powerful, peaceful and rich, but there is a huge gap between the rich and the poor. “wolf warrior” diplomacy bullying the southern kingdoms of Judah, Ammon, and Moab, and continuing to oppress the poor internally, provoking God’s wrath. The breach was made by oneself, and the hook was drawn by the evil done by oneself. This hook was exactly what the Assyrians used when the Israelites were taken into captivity. Because there were many captives, the hooks were used up, and the fishhooks were used again. Let’s look at the second point:

CURSED WARNING

The curse is terrible, but the warning curse is a grace, can you understand it? When the prophet Amos warned, the Israelites still had a chance to repent. First of all, break into Harmon! We all know what the breach is, but what about Harmon? Some are not sure, it should refer to a place, such as Mount Hermon. Or the place where the captives were exiled, such as Mount Meni in Assyria (Jer. 57:27), or Hermal near Kadesh on the banks of the Orontes. In fact, its

meaning is an abandoned place. It's a bit like a village where lepers were held, or a square cabin where people infected with the COVID are held today. Even the Iron Chain Building in Urumqi, which seemed to be on fire but could not escape, also seemed to be the coming massacre which settled scores at an opportune moment. Harmon was chosen to enter in by oneself, just as one left the breach by himself. We were obviously created in the image of God, with dignity, freedom, and truth, but we were still willing to be slaves in Egypt for four hundred years. God rescued us through Moses, but some of us complained why God took us out of Hamon and did not continue to be slaves? This "Harmen nostalgia" is a common problem among sinners, do you have it?

Second, the sanctuary was defiled. Gilgal was the sanctuary established by the Israelites when they first entered Canaan, and Bethel was the sanctuary established by Jeroboam when the northern and southern kingdoms were divided. It's just that at this time the sanctuary has become a place for various idol worship, a bit like "Yiguan Taoism", where Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity, and Islam are all worshipped. Jeroboam recast the golden calf of Egypt and accepted idols of different Canaanite gods into the sanctuary. Breaking the rule of a Levite being a priest, he even burns incense on the altar himself and sacrifices to the golden calf he made. This is exactly the same as our Levites today who clearly do not serve God full-time, but insist on acting as false pastors and false elders.

Finally, a sacrifice that displeases God. Jeroboam asked the people to "Bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes every three years." It seems to be more godly than the southern country Judah! The direction is wrong, the target is wrong, the harder you work, the more you make mistakes. When we are self-righteous, we don't know that what we say and do is not from God! As the Bible says, there is a way that seems right to a man, but it leads to death. Offering a grain offering but also offering a fermented offering is like praying on the main road, lest people will not know. Or, like King Saul, he insisted on offering sacrifices himself, which God was not pleased with. Our value is not what we can do, but that we are already invaluable if we do nothing. Let's look at the third point:

THE WAY OUT OF PRAISE

The price for taking God lightly like this is heavy, isn't it? How to do? Can you return to praise and give all the glory and praise to God? First of all, the city has clean teeth. Why did God please King David? One of the most important reasons is that King David was a man who praised God. When reading the psalms written by David, everyone was moved by his clean teeth. A person who praises God must have clean teeth, a person who speaks kind words, a person who always praises, a person who comforts and encourages people, and a person full of wisdom! Through Amos, God required the Israelites not to keep just one person's teeth clean, but to keep the teeth of the city clean. Swearing and foul language are naturally forbidden, and even some vulgar jokes are inappropriate. May God grant the teeth of our church to be clean, lest we offend Him!

Second, return to the Lord. In the last days, God will let us experience food shortages, insufficient drinking water, damage to vegetables and fruits, drought, mildew, plague, etc. At the same time, God also calls and invites us to draw close to Him with the words "You have not returned to me. This is what the Lord has said" five times! At this time, a sister sent a video about Kazakh herdsmen who were unable to transfer their flocks in time due to the epidemic control, so that a large number of flocks were trapped and died in the severe cold. I forwarded it on Facebook, but I am also praying for these shepherds in my heart. May God help them to turn fully to the Lord, so that they will lack nothing!

Finally, prepare to meet the true God. Amos said, "Therefore this is what I will do to you, Israel, and because I will do this to you, Israel, prepare to meet your God." Why? Why do we still need to prepare to see God? This can be an important factor that we can easily overlook, right? Amos continued to give the reason why we must prepare to meet God? That's because "He who forms the mountains, who creates the wind, and who reveals his thoughts to mankind, who turns dawn to darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth—the Lord God Almighty is his name." He is our Creator, and we the sheep of his pasture!

CONCLUSION

Well, dear brothers and sisters, this world and everything in it will pass away, but the Word of the Lord will endure forever. He is not only a merciful and loving God, but also a holy and righteous Lord! This is why God is not to be mocked!

Let's pray.....

(Amos 4:1-13)

4:1 Hear this word, you cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria, you women who oppress the poor and crush the needy and say to your husbands, "Bring us some drinks!"

4:2 The Sovereign Lord has sworn by his holiness: "The time will surely come when you will be taken away with hooks, the last of you with fishhooks.

4:3 You will each go straight out through breaches in the wall, and you will be cast out toward Harmon," declares the Lord.

4:4 "Go to Bethel and sin; go to Gilgal and sin yet more. Bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes every three years.

4:5 Burn leavened bread as a thank offering and brag about your freewill offerings—boast about them, you Israelites, for this is what you love to do," declares the Sovereign Lord.

4:6 "I gave you empty stomachs in every city and lack of bread in every town, yet you have not returned to me," declares the Lord.

4:7 "I also withheld rain from you when the harvest was still three months away. I sent rain on one town, but withheld it from another. One field had rain; another had none and dried up.

4:8 People staggered from town to town for water but did not get enough to drink, yet you have not returned to me," declares the Lord.

4:9 "Many times I struck your gardens and vineyards, destroying them with blight and mildew. Locusts devoured your fig and olive trees, yet you have not returned to me," declares the Lord.

4:10 "I sent plagues among you as I did to Egypt. I killed your young men with the sword, along with your captured horses. I filled your nostrils with the stench of your camps, yet you have not returned to me," declares the Lord.

4:11 “I overthrew some of you as I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. You were like a burning stick snatched from the fire, yet you have not returned to me,” declares the Lord.

4:12 “Therefore this is what I will do to you, Israel, and because I will do this to you, Israel, prepare to meet your God.”

4:13 He who forms the mountains, who creates the wind, and who reveals his thoughts to mankind, who turns dawn to darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth—the Lord God Almighty is his name.

可見的毀滅 【摩 5:1-17】

引言

阿摩司所發出的警告已經很緊迫了，再過四十年，以色列就要毀滅了。由此推算，此時正是約阿施的兒子耶羅波安二世統治以色列的時候。記得 1992 年我探訪廣州大馬站林獻羔牧師時，他說他十年前(1982 年)就曾經說過，中國的改革開放不會超過四十年。今年正好是四十年，如今想來，細思極恐，原來，神一直都走在我們前面。看第一點：

無力的力量

什麼是無力的力量呢？就是眼見明明當有的力量，卻是活不出來。處處充滿了無力感，時時顯出空虛的光景。首先，跌倒、不得再起。這是阿摩司先知的悲哀，因為在異象中，他看見以色列人的跌倒。跌倒本不是大事，有誰不跌倒呢？但是，此時的跌倒，以色列不得再起！為此，阿摩斯本不是詩人，卻也學起耶利米先知作起哀歌了。我們今天難道不也同樣是為那些跌倒、不再爬起來的人作哀歌嗎？犯罪得罪神，悔改呀！勸說，不聽；警告，無效；管教，沒用！怎麼辦？可能神就任憑你了，你知道嗎？猶大賣主是很嚴重的罪，卻仍是一個可以悔改得寬恕的罪呀！但是，他悔改了嗎？沒有，他最終選擇了死亡。你呢？你是否願意悔改呢？一個人的跌倒是否可以再起，全賴乎我們是否願意悔改！

其次，躺平，無人攙扶。躺平是跌倒的連續延長，表達出躺平者內心深處的絕望與選擇。聖經說：“主耶和華如此說、以色列家的城發出一千兵的、只剩一百、發出一百的、只剩十個。”這節經文讓我想到今天的普丁與俄羅斯，他派出去的軍隊對烏克蘭平民進行殺人放火、姦淫擄掠、偷坑拐騙，卻也自取滅亡。看似強大、實則也是一種躺平耍賴的光景。還在電視上自比彼得大帝，為俄羅斯開疆拓土。中國的三年防疫、動態清零，導致白紙革命。於是，這位在世界上“無人攙扶”的“清零君”來了個一百八十度大轉彎，也選擇躺平了。貌似有力，扛起兩百斤麥子、走二十里山路不換肩。實是是軟弱無力！

最後，被擄，歸為無有。此時的吉甲、伯特利、別是巴，都已經是拜偶像的中心了。想想我們今天的凡帝岡、歐美各大教堂、中國的三自教會等，是否也已經成了另類偶像中心了呢？

或者乾脆就看看我們自己所在的教會，是否也有拜偶像的成分？看看我們自己的心是否也會有拜偶像的傾向或隱憂？這時，阿摩司發預言了：“因為吉甲必被擄掠、伯特利也必歸於無有（摩 5:5）。”四十年後，預言準確地實現了。亞述帝國首先進攻了吉甲，進而將整個北國以色列擄掠。耶羅波安在伯特利建立的偶像中心歸為無有了！因為到尼希米帶領歸回選民的時候，多是南國猶太人。北國以色列人被發散到世界各地，直到 1948 年才有零零星星各支派的以色列選民歸回。我們看第二點：

尋求的概率

為什麼說是尋求的概率呢？因為尋求並不是必然的，乃是對神恩典的回應。首先，尋求，就必存活。尋求神是一份恩典，而且是神對人的邀請。阿摩司對此事直接宣告：“耶和華向以色列家如此說、你們要尋求我、就必存活（摩 5:4）。”自從亞當犯罪以來，人類已經變得忘記尋求神的了。遇事少有想起還要去尋求神，反倒是靠人、靠錢、靠感覺、靠科技、靠理性、靠哲學、靠邏輯！以色列人也是同樣，摩西、約書亞將他們帶到迦南，就是神所賜的應許之地。但是，神的選民面對神的邀請卻熟視無睹、不予理會。先是在士師記的過程中迷失，貪圖迦南女色，落入參孫跌倒的陷阱。然後又貪戀羨慕外邦人的君王制度，於是就像撒母耳要求設立君王制。

其次，尋求，當求真神。君王制度建立之後，以色列人貌似學會了凡事尋求。但是，所求的卻不是耶和華。掃羅王所求的是人民的擁戴與支持，為此，不等撒母耳來就自己來獻祭。以色列民眾也同樣，將君王當作偶像。當大衛打勝仗回來時，高呼：掃羅殺敵千千、大衛殺敵萬萬！如此拜偶像的光景，引來以色列人相互之間的相殺相恨的生命。其中，大衛與掃羅之間的爭鬥尤為激烈，發人深省。鬥到阿摩司先知的時代，原來的聯合王國早已分裂，分裂的南北國也征戰連年、民不聊生。然而，神在這如羊走迷的世代中，尋找尋求祂的人。其中，大衛就被神稱為是合神心意的人。

最後，尋求，生命改變。一個合神心意的人，未必是一個道德完美的人。大衛犯的姦淫、殺人罪很嚴重。但是，當拿單先知來指出他的罪時，大衛悔改了。當神取走他兒子的生命時，大衛順服、接受並尊重神的主權。到了阿摩司的時代，審判已成定局。但是，神仍然藉著先

知向以色列人發出生命改變的邀請：“要尋求耶和華、就必存活”！今天，撒但也在向人發出死亡邀請：來呀，向我下拜，就得吃的！給我二十年，還你們一個不一樣的俄羅斯！讓我終身連任，我就一定保住我們的紅色江山！我拜登保證供應給你澤倫斯基海馬斯，你來替我們打前鋒，拖垮、殺死這些俄羅斯人！我們來看第三點：

憐憫的殘缺

每當我想起梵高，其畫其人都充滿了種殘缺美的味道。從阿摩司的眼中去看當時的以色列人，似乎也有一種類似的感覺。首先，罪孽，是何其多！阿摩司看見以色列人踐踏貧民、敲詐勒索，苦待義人、收受賄賂、在城門口屈枉窮乏人。先知內心憂傷，不禁唱起哀歌來：“哀哉、哀哉。又必叫農夫來哭號、叫善唱哀歌的來舉哀（摩 5:16）。”這哀歌唱著唱著，就使人想起這三年來因封控而立起來一堵堵牆。有水馬、有鐵鍊、還有從文革走回來的白衛兵。核酸企業的股票漲了，百姓口袋裡的錢被掏空了。當權者“與民為善”的契約被撕毀了，神藉著先知說：“我知道你們的罪過何等多、你們的罪惡何等大（摩 5:12）！”

其次，善惡，仍可選擇。即使是這樣，神仍是藉著先知阿摩司說：“你們要求善、不要求惡、就必存活。這樣、耶和華萬軍之神必照你們所說的、與你們同在（摩 5:14）。”正如普丁今天仍可選擇立即停戰、賠償戰爭損失、接受戰犯受審。否則，其結局是慘烈的。或是爆發核戰，全人類一同陪葬。或者，俄羅斯反被肢解成若干個小國，以至再沒有能力去侵略他國。聽起來好像是天方夜譚，毫無可能。但是，今天有神的話語說：“祂使力強的忽遭滅亡、以致保障遭遇毀壞（摩 5:9）。”歷史上，小國打敗大國的例子並不少！

最後，毀約，從中經過。人必須有一個基本常識，就是人因受造而與神有約。彌迦先知說：“世人哪、耶和華已指示你何為善。他向你所要的是甚麼呢。只要你行公義、好憐憫、存謙卑的心、與你的神同行（彌 6:8）。”當人自以為強大、且有長城般的網絡高牆攔阻，便對內欺騙無知的國民，對外實行心虛的戰狼外交。那麼，對神對人，你都是一個毀約的人！這時，阿摩司先知的話必要臨到你：“在各葡萄園必有哀號的聲音。因為我必從你中間經過。這是耶和華說的（摩 5:17）。”古代中東人立約時，將牲畜劈成兩半，立約者從中間經過，表示違約者如同被劈開的牲畜一樣受到懲罰。

結語

好，親愛的弟兄姊妹，請問，阿摩司作的末日哀歌你聽到了嗎？先知所揭示出來“可見的毀滅”，你看到了嗎？驕傲的力量神必擊打，謙卑地尋求避從概率轉化成確據，憐憫雖有殘缺，卻是能向審判誇勝。

我們一同禱告……

（摩 5:1-17）

5:1 以色列家阿、要聽我為你們所作的哀歌。

5:2 以色列民（原文作處女）跌倒、不得再起。躺在地上、無人攙扶。

5:3 主耶和華如此說、以色列家的城發出一千兵的、只剩一百、發出一百的、只剩十個。

5:4 耶和華向以色列家如此說、你們要尋求我、就必存活。

5:5 不要往伯特利尋求、不要進入吉甲、不要過到別是巴。因為吉甲必被擄掠、伯特利也必歸於無有。

5:6 要尋求耶和華、就必存活。免得他在約瑟家像火發出、在伯特利焚燒、無人撲滅。

5:7 你們這使公平變為茵陳、將公義丟棄於地的、

5:8 要尋求那造昴星和參星、使死蔭變為晨光、使白日變為黑夜、命海水來澆在地上的、（耶和華是他的名）

5:9 他使力強的忽遭滅亡、以致保障遭遇毀壞。

5:10 你們怨恨那在城門口責備人的、憎惡那說正直話的。

5:11 你們踐踏貧民、向他們勒索麥子。你們用鑿過的石頭建造房屋、卻不得住在其內、栽種美好的葡萄園、卻不得喝所出的酒。

5:12 我知道你們的罪過何等多、你們的罪惡何等大。你們苦待義人、收受賄賂、在城門口屈枉窮乏人。

5:13 所以通達人見這樣的時勢、必靜默不言。因為時勢真惡。

5:14 你們要求善、不要求惡、就必存活。這樣、耶和華萬軍之神必照你們所說的、與你們同在。

5:15 要惡惡好善、在城門口秉公行義。或者耶和華萬軍之神向約瑟的餘民施恩。

5:16 主耶和華萬軍之神如此說、在一切寬闊處必有哀號的聲音。在各街市上必有人說、哀哉、哀哉。又必叫農夫來哭號、叫善唱哀歌的來舉哀。

5:17 在各葡萄園必有哀號的聲音。因為我必從你中間經過。這是耶和華說的。

Visible destruction 【Amos 5:1-17】

INTRODUCTION

Amos' warning was urgent. In forty years time, Israel would be destroyed. From this, it can be inferred that this time was the time when Jeroboam II, the son of Joash, ruled Israel. I remember when I visited Pastor Lin Xiangao of Guangzhou Dama Station in 1992, he said that he said ten years ago (1982) that China's reform and opening up would not last more than forty years. This year is exactly 40 years old. Now that I think about it, I am terrified to think about it. It turns out that God has always been ahead of us. Look at the first point:

IMPOTENT POWER

What is impotent power? It is seeing the power that should be there, but can't live it out. There is a sense of powerlessness everywhere, and there is always a scene of emptiness. First, fall and never get up again. This is the sorrow of the prophet Amos, for in the vision he saw the fall of the Israelites. Falling is not a big deal. Who doesn't fall? However, at this time of the fall, Israel must not rise again! For this reason, Amos was not a poet, but he also imitated the prophet Jeremiah to compose lamentations. Aren't we also lamenting today for those who have fallen and never got up again? If you have sinned against God, repent! Persuasion, do not listen; warning, invalid; discipline, useless! How to do it? Maybe God will let you go, you know? Judas' betrayal was a serious sin, but it was still a sin that could be repented and forgiven! But did he repent? No, he chose death in the end. How about you? Are you willing to repent? Whether a person can recover from his fall depends on whether we are willing to repent!

Second, lie flat with no one to support you. Lying flat is the continuous extension of falling, expressing the despair and choice deep in the heart of the person lying flat. The Bible says: "This is what the Sovereign Lord says to Israel: "Your city that marches out a thousand strong

will have only a hundred left; your town that marches out a hundred strong will have only ten left.” (Amos 5:3) This verse reminds me of Putin and Russia today. The army he sent out murdered and set fire to Ukrainian civilians, raped and looted, stole and kidnapped, but also killed themselves. It seems powerful, but it is actually a scene of lying down and playing tricks. He also compares himself to Peter the Great on TV and opened up territories for Russia. China’s three-year epidemic prevention and dynamic clearing have led to a blank paper revolution. So, this “Zero-COVID man” who was “unsupported” in the world made a 180-degree turn and chose to lie flat. Seemingly powerful, he can carry two hundred catties of wheat and walk twenty miles on a mountain road without changing his shoulders. In reality it is weak!

Lastly, being taken captive and turned into nothing. At this time, Gilgal, Bethel, and Beersheba were centers of idolatry. Think about our Vatican, cathedrals in Europe and America, and the Three-Self Church in China today. Have they become centers of alternative idols? Or simply look at the church we belong to, is there any element of idolatry? See if we also have the tendency or hidden worries in our own hearts to worship idols? Then Amos prophesied: “For Gilgal will surely go into exile, and Bethel will be reduced to nothing.” (Amos 5:5)” Forty years later, the prophecy has come true. The Assyrian Empire first attacked Gilgal, and then took the entire northern kingdom of Israel captive. The idol center Jeroboam established at Bethel is gone! Because by the time Nehemiah led the returned elect, most of them were Southern Jews. The Israelites of the Northern Kingdom were scattered all over the world, and it was not until 1948 that scattered Israelites from various tribes returned. Let’s look at the second point:

PROBABILITY OF SEEKING

Why is it the probability of seeking? Because seeking is not a necessity, but a response to God’s grace. First, seek and you will live. Seeking God is a grace and an invitation from God to man. Amos declared directly on the matter: “This is what the Lord says to Israel: “Seek me and live; (Amos 5:4)” Since Adam sinned, man has become forgetful of seeking God. When things happen, people seldom think of seeking God. Instead, relying on people, money, feelings,

technology, rationality, philosophy, and logic! The same is true for the Israelites. Moses and Joshua brought them to Canaan, the promised land given by God. However, God's chosen people turn a blind eye to God's invitation and ignore it. First, they got lost in the process of the Book of Judges, coveted Canaanite women, and fell into the trap of Samson's fall. Then they were greedy and envious of the kingship of the Gentiles, and demanded Samuel to establish a kingship.

Second, seek, to seek the true God. After the establishment of the monarchy, the Israelites seem to have learned to seek in everything. But it was not God that they were seeking. What King Saul asked for was the support of the people. For this reason, he sacrificed himself without waiting for Samuel to come. The people of Israel also treated the king as an idol. When David came back from the victorious battle, they shouted: Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands. Such idolatry led to a life of mutual killing and hatred among the Israelites. Among them, the struggle between David and Saul is particularly fierce and thought-provoking. By the time of the prophet Amos, the original United Kingdom had long been divided, and the divided northern and southern kingdoms had been fighting for years, and the people were in dire straits. However, God is looking for those who seek Him in this generation that has gone astray like sheep. Among them, David was called by God as a man after God's heart.

Lastly, seeking, life changing. A person who is after God's heart is not necessarily a person with perfect morality. David's crimes of adultery and murder were very serious. But when the prophet Nathan came to point out his sin, David repented. David submitted, accepted and respected God's sovereignty when God took the life of his Son. By the time of Amos, the judgment was a foregone conclusion. However, God still issued a life-changing invitation to the Israelites through the prophet: "Seek the Lord and you will live" ! Today, Satan is also sending out death invitations to people: Come, bow down to Me, and you will have food to eat! Give me twenty years, and I will give you a different Russia! Let me be re-elected for life, and I

will definitely keep our red country! I, Biden, promise to supply you Zelensky with HIMARS, and you come to fight for us, wear down and kill these Russians! Let's look at the third point:

INCOMPLETENESS OF MERCY

Whenever I think of Van Gogh, his paintings and himself are full of a taste of incomplete beauty. Looking at the Israelites at that time through the eyes of Amos, there seems to be a similar feeling. First, how many sins there are! Amos saw the Israelites trampling the poor, extorting money, afflicting the righteous, taking bribes, and wronging the needy at the gates of the city. The Prophet was so sad that he sang a lament: “The farmers will be summoned to weep and the mourners to wail. (Amos 5:16)” As this dirge is sung, it reminds people of the walls that have been erected over the past three years due to the lockdown. There are water horses, iron chains, and white guards who came back from the Cultural Revolution. The stocks of nucleic acid companies have risen, and the money in the pockets of the people has been emptied. The covenant of those in power to “be good to the people” was torn, and God said through the prophet: “For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. (Amos 5:12)”

Second, good and evil are still optional. Even so, God still said through the prophet Amos: “Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. (Amos 5:14)” Just as Putin can still choose to cease the war immediately, pay compensation for war losses, and accept war criminals to stand trial today. Otherwise, its ending is tragic. Either a nuclear war breaks out, and all mankind will be buried together. Or, instead, Russia was dismembered into several small countries, so that it no longer has the ability to invade other countries. It sounds like a fantasy, and impossible. However, there is God's word today that says: “With a blinding flash he destroys the stronghold and brings the fortified city to ruin. (Amos 5:9)” In history, there are many examples of small countries defeating big countries!

Finally, break the contract and pass through it. People must have a basic common sense, that is, because of creation, man has a covenant with God. The prophet Micah said: “He has

shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)” When people think they are powerful and are blocked by a high wall like the Great Wall of the Internet, they deceive the ignorant citizens internally and practice wolf-warrior diplomacy with a guilty conscience externally. Then, you are a covenant breaker both to God and to man! Then the words of the prophet Amos will come to you: “There will be wailing in all the vineyards, for I will pass through your midst,” says the Lord. (Amos 5:17)” When people in the ancient Middle East made a covenant, they split the animal in half, and the covenant passed through the middle, indicating that the violator would be punished like the split animal.

CONCLUSION

Alright, dear brothers and sisters, may I ask, have you heard the lament for the last days composed by Amos? Do you see the “Visible Destruction” revealed by the Prophet? The power of pride will be struck by God, humility in seeking will transform probability into assurance, and mercy, although flawed, can triumph over judgment.

Let us pray……

(Amos 5:1-17)

5:1 Hear this word, Israel, this lament I take up concerning you:

5:2 “Fallen is Virgin Israel, never to rise again, deserted in her own land, with no one to lift her up.”

5:3 This is what the Sovereign Lord says to Israel: “Your city that marches out a thousand strong will have only a hundred left; your town that marches out a hundred strong will have only ten left.”

5:4 This is what the Lord says to Israel: “Seek me and live;

5:5 do not seek Bethel, do not go to Gilgal, do not journey to Beersheba. For Gilgal will surely go into exile, and Bethel will be reduced to nothing.”

5:6 Seek the Lord and live, or he will sweep through the tribes of Joseph like a fire; it will devour them, and Bethel will have no one to quench it.

5:7 There are those who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground.

5:8 He who made the Pleiades and Orion, who turns midnight into dawn and darkens day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the land— the Lord is his name.

5:9 With a blinding flash he destroys the stronghold and brings the fortified city to ruin.

5:10 There are those who hate the one who upholds justice in court and detest the one who tells the truth.

5:11 You levy a straw tax on the poor and impose a tax on their grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine.

5:12 For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts.

5:13 Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times, for the times are evil.

5:14 Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is.

5:15 Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.

5:16 Therefore this is what the Lord, the Lord God Almighty, says: “There will be wailing in all the streets and cries of anguish in every public square. The farmers will be summoned to weep and the mourners to wail.

5:17 There will be wailing in all the vineyards, for I will pass through your midst,” says the Lord.

信仰的光景 【摩 5:18-27】

引言

在壓力中的阿摩司先知此時彷彿在稍做修整，反省生命，思考信仰的光景。這或許也是我們當有的屬靈品格，隨時作出反省，跟隨主的腳步。看第一點：

虛假的敬拜

所謂虛假的敬拜，就是所敬拜的對象錯了，或是我們心中的期待也錯了，以至敬拜的意義隨之蕩然無存了。首先，時空的執著。活在時空裡的人，難以不受其影響。其實，耶穌已經講得很清楚了：“但那日子、那時辰、沒有人知道、連天上的使者也不知道、子也不知道、惟獨父知道（太 24:36）。”所謂耶和華的日子，對於以色列人來說，就是神進入歷史、審判歷史、結束歷史的時刻。但是，對與當時北國的以色列人來說，卻被狹隘地牢籠在自己的民族主義、愛國主義裡面，不可自拔！這可以從同時代的約拿先知的經歷得到解答！約拿也是當時一個典型的粉紅級的人物，“唯猶主義”根深蒂固、不可自拔！

其次，黑暗與光明。先知在這裡所啟示的真理令人驚訝！既然是神的選民，當然就會期待神來的日子嘛，對不對？但是，當我們的期待並不是在神的心意中，你就有禍了！道理很簡單，神來的日子是要來審判的，你不知道嗎？祂不但要審判外邦人，也必要審判祂的選民呀！耶穌說：“那些日子的災難一過去、日頭就變黑了、月亮也不放光、眾星要從天上墜落、天勢都要震動（太 24:29）。”我們要做的不是去猜什麼日子，乃是好好準備自己，預備見主面。否則，人若以世界為圓心，以忙亂為半徑，所畫出來的，不過是勞苦愁煩的軌跡。以主為標竿的人生就是光明，否則，人就活在黑暗中。

最後，形式與內容。阿摩司先知說：“我厭惡你們的節期、也不喜悅你們的嚴肅會。”以色列人可能會感到迷茫，心想怎麼會這樣呢？節期不是祢定的嗎？嚴肅會不也有祢的同在嗎？怎麼就變成不討祢的喜悅了呢？此時聖靈可能會提醒北國以色列人：“撒母耳說、耶和華喜悅燔祭和平安祭、豈如喜悅人聽從他的話呢。聽命勝於獻祭、順從勝於公羊的脂油（撒上 15:22）。”

這與阿摩司先知所說的是殊途同歸、異曲同工。他說：“你們雖然向我獻燔祭、和素祭、我卻不悅納，也不顧你們用肥畜獻的平安祭。”神要的既不是我們獻上的形式，也未必是所謂的內容。神要我們的就是我們對祂的心啊！好，我們看第二點：

虛假的生命

信仰的本質，所產生出來的生命，要的就是一個真字。如果缺乏對主的真心，人在本質上就是行屍走肉。首先，無心的敬拜。無心的敬拜就是敬拜時口動心不動，惹動神的忿怒。阿摩司說：“要使你們歌唱的聲音遠離我，因為我不聽你們彈琴的響聲。”當時的宗教儀式包括奏樂器和唱歌。當時，“大衛和以色列的全家、在耶和華面前用松木製造的各樣樂器、和琴、瑟、鼓、鈸、鑼、作樂跳舞（撒下 6:5）。”南北國分裂後，以色列人往往注重的不是前面的敬拜，乃是後半部分的筵席、消遣、彈琴唱歌、歡樂、玩耍、甚至也包括雜吵喧嚷聲。這也和我們平日的敬拜，是否也同樣是有口無心呢？

其次，不義的誇耀。顯然，我們不難感覺到神藉著阿摩司在表達公義的信息。阿摩司說：“惟願公平如大水滾滾、使公義如江河滔滔。”這句話放在這裡顯得有些奇怪，好像有些前後不一緻。但如果我們曉得神對以色列北國的失望心情，及祂對神子民的期盼，便可以曉得神在此時此刻的感覺。從耶羅波安開始，以色列就沒有所謂公平、公義可言了！外邦人沒有公平、公義，似乎也就罷了。如今，連神的子民也如此這般，神乾脆就不說什麼了。神彷彿在對以色列說，你就別吹了，不要再誇耀你的不義了！明明沒有公義，也沒有見你有什麼公平，卻在向南國猶大誇耀：你看我多有錢！你看我多強大！

最後，茫然地跟隨。凡是在神的公義上誇耀的人，內心是茫然的。當人總是認為自己什麼都對的時候，可能就正走在茫然的曠野路上了。阿摩司想起了以色列出埃及之後的四十年曠野路，神並沒有提及祭物和供物。仍如耶利米所說：“我將你們列祖從埃及地領出來的那日，燔祭平安祭的事，我並沒有提說，也沒有吩咐他們（耶 7:22）。”難道我們還真有人說神就那麼在乎我們所奉獻的那點兒金錢嗎？神所要的難道不是我們將祂當作生命中唯一的標竿嗎？混混噩噩的躺平，或是在曠野中的茫然，難道可以向神交帳嗎？我們看第三點：

虛假的道路

虛假的道路，是指我們可能正走在一條沼澤路上，因為，這並不是道路。首先，偶像毀道路。耶羅波安廢除了利未人做祭司的規矩，引進迦南本地的偶像。將偶像搬進吉甲與撒馬利亞的殿中，在神的子民中安放摩洛的帳幕和偶像的龕。摩洛是亞捫的神祉，在希伯崙原文中摩洛與君王發音相似。阿摩司在這裡是指以色列人在以他們的君王為偶像，甚至將他們君王的像放進聖殿中，鑄成神審判的後果。今天的世界上，有誰將自己的畫像放進教堂中？這是在自毀前程、自毀道路啊！我也好奇，怎麼這些愚昧的君王身邊就沒有一個說真話的人？怕死？還是怕沒了五斗米？殊不知你在神的眼中已經與耶羅波安為伍了！

其次，被擄成定局。被擄你有份，歸回未必有你！阿摩司說：“所以我要把你們擄到大馬色以外！”可能今天因為堅持真理，君王會給你小鞋穿，你也鐵定會遭受迫害。但至少耶穌基督還是你的道路，無論生死，都不能割斷我們與主的關係。可能我們活得沒有世人的榮華富貴、平安無事、風平浪靜。殊不知我們的心早已被擄亞述、在巴比倫的殿堂中蒙羞了。神子民被亞述帝國擄了一次、被巴比倫擄了一次、被君士坦丁擄了一次、被三自教會擄了一次。這三四十年來，被我們的驕傲又擄了一次。請問，還要繼續被擄嗎？

最後，定睛在主言。這就是我們信仰光景嗎？主快回來了，你是否還要繼續活在虛假的光景中嗎？為何不快快回轉仰望神？回到祂的話語中來，因為“這是耶和華名為萬軍之神說的。”神說要有光，就有了光。神說有就有，命立就立！我們信仰的光景，將取決於我們與祂話語的關係。神說了，就去行！神沒說，就不動！正如詩人所說：“我將你的話藏在心裡、免得我得罪你（詩 119:11）。”

結語

好，親愛的弟兄姊妹，今天這堂“信仰的光景”之道就講到這裡。求神幫助我們遠離虛假的敬拜、虛假的生命、虛假的道路！回到主祂的話與中來，重尋生命的意義！

我們一同禱告……

（摩 5:18-27）

5:18 想望耶和華日子來到的、有禍了。你們為何想望耶和華的日子呢。那日黑暗沒有光明。

5:19 景況好像人躲避獅子又遇見熊、或是進房屋以手靠牆、就被蛇咬。

- 5:20 耶和華的日子、不是黑暗沒有光明麼．不是幽暗毫無光輝麼。
- 5:21 我厭惡你們的節期、也不喜悅你們的嚴肅會。
- 5:22 你們雖然向我獻燔祭、和素祭、我卻不悅納．也不顧你們用肥畜獻的平安祭。
- 5:23 要使你們歌唱的聲音遠離我．因為我不聽你們彈琴的響聲。
- 5:24 惟願公平如大水滾滾、使公義如江河滔滔。
- 5:25 以色列家阿、你們在曠野四十年、豈是將祭物和供物獻給我呢。
- 5:26 你們抬著為自己所造之摩洛的帳幕和偶像的龕、並你們的神星。
- 5:27 所以我要把你們擄到大馬色以外．這是耶和華名為萬軍之神說的。

The state of faith 【Amos 5:18-27】

INTRODUCTION

Prophet Amos, who is under pressure, seems to be recuperating a little at this time, reflecting on his life and thinking about the state of faith. Perhaps this is also the spiritual character we should have, reflect at any time and follow the steps of the Lord. Let's look at the first point:

FALSE WORSHIP

The so-called false worship means that the object of worship is wrong, or the expectations in our hearts are also wrong, so that the meaning of worship disappears. First, the persistence of time and space. People who live in time and space are hard not to be affected by it. Actually, Jesus made it very clear: “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. (Matthew 24:36)” For the Israelites, the so-called Day of the Lord is the moment when God enters history, judges history, and ends history. However, for the Israelis in the Northern Kingdom at that time, they were narrowly caged in their own nationalism and patriotism, and they couldn't extricate themselves! This can be answered from the experience of the contemporary prophet Jonah! Jonah was also a typical pink character at that time, “Sola Judaism” was deeply rooted and inextricable!

Second, darkness and light. The truth revealed here by the prophet is astonishing! Since they are the chosen people of God, they naturally look forward to the day when God comes, right? But woe to you when our expectations are not in God's will! The reason is very simple, the day when God comes will come to judge, don't you know? He will not only judge the Gentiles, but also His elect! Jesus said: "Immediately after the distress of those days " 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' (Matthew 24:29)" What we have to do is not to guess what day it is, but to prepare ourselves well to meet the Lord. Otherwise, if people take the world as the center of the circle, and take the hustle and bustle as the radius, what people draw is just the trajectory of toil and sorrow. A life with the Lord as its goal is light, otherwise, people will live in darkness.

Finally, form and content. The prophet Amos said: "I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. (Amos 5:21)" The Israelites might feel lost, wondering how this could be? Did you not ordain religious festivals? Don't assemblies also have Your presence? How did it become not pleasing to You? At this time, the Holy Spirit may remind the Israelites in the northern kingdom: "But Samuel replied: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. (1 Samuel 15:22)" This is exactly the same as what the prophet Amos said. He says: "Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. (Amos 5:22)" What God wants is neither the form nor the so-called content of our offering. What God wants us to do is our heart for Him! OK, let's look at the second point:

FALSE LIFE

The essence of faith, the life produced, needs a word "honesty". If there is no sincerity towards the Lord, man is essentially a walking dead. First, heartless worship. Heartless worship means worshiping with your mouth and without your heart, provoking God's wrath. Amos said: "Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.

(Amos 5:23)” Religious ceremonies at the time included playing musical instruments and singing. then, “David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with castanets, harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals. (2 Samuel 6:5)” After the division of the northern and southern kingdoms, the Israelites often paid more attention not to the first part of worship, but to the second part of the feast, entertainment, playing and singing, joy, play, and even noise. This is also the same as our usual worship. Is it also heartless?

Second, unrighteous boasting. Obviously, it is not difficult for us to feel that God is expressing a message of justice through Amos. Amos said: “But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! (Amos 5:24)” This sentence seems a bit strange here, as if it is inconsistent. But if we know God’s disappointment with the northern kingdom of Israel and His expectations for God’s people, we can know how God feels at this moment. Since Jeroboam, Israel has no so-called fairness or justice! The Gentiles do not have fairness and righteousness, so it seems to be nothing. Now, even God’s people are like this, so God simply doesn’t say anything. God seemed to be saying to Israel, stop bragging, stop boasting about your unrighteousness! Obviously there is no justice, and I don’t see any fairness in you, but you are boasting to the southern kingdom of Judah: Look how rich I am! See how strong I am!

Finally, follow blankly. Those who boast in God’s righteousness are at a loss in their hearts. When people always think that they are right in everything, they may be walking on a road of confusion. Amos thought of the forty years of the wilderness journey after Israel came out of Egypt. God did not mention sacrifices and offerings. Still as Jeremiah said: “For when I brought your ancestors out of Egypt and spoke to them, I did not just give them commands about burnt offerings and sacrifices, (Jeremiah 7:22)” Do some of us really say that God cares so much about the little money we offer? Isn’t that what God wants us to have Him as the only goal in our lives? Can we give an account to God for lying down in a daze, or for being ignorant in the wilderness? Let’s look at the third point:

FALSE PATH

A false path means that we may be walking on a swampy path because it is not the path. First, idols destroy the path. Jeroboam abolished the rules of the Levites as priests and introduced local Canaanite idols. The idols were brought into the temples of Gilgal and Samaria, and the shrine of your king, the pedestal of your idols, were placed among the people of God. Moloch is the deity of Ammon. In the original Hebron, Moloch is pronounced similar to the king. Amos here refers to the fact that the Israelites were having their king as an idol, and even put the image of their king into the temple to be cast as the result of God's judgment. In today's world, who puts his portrait in the church? This is a self-destructive future, self-destructive road! I am also curious, how come there is no one who tells the truth around these ignorant kings? Fear of death? Or are you afraid of losing jobs? Little do you know that you have joined Jeroboam in the eyes of God!

Second, captivity is a foregone conclusion. You have a share in captivity, but you may not be there when you return! Amos said: "Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Damascus," Maybe today because you insist on the truth, the king will give you a hard time, and you will definitely be persecuted. But at least Jesus Christ is still your way, life and death cannot cut off our relationship with the Lord. Maybe we live without the prosperity, wealth, peace and tranquility of the world. Little do we know that our hearts have long been captive in Assyria and shamed in the palaces of Babylon. The people of God were captured once by the Assyrian Empire, once by Babylon, once by Constantine, and once by the Three-Self Church. In the past thirty or forty years, we have been captured by our pride once again. Excuse me, do you want to continue being captive?

Finally, focus on God's words. Is this the state of our faith? The Lord is coming back soon, do you still want to continue living in a false situation? Why don't you turn around and look up to God? Come back to his word, for "says the Lord, whose name is God Almighty." God said let there be light, and there was light. For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it

stood firm! The state of our faith will depend on our relationship to God's Word. If God has spoken, then do it! If God didn't say it, don't act! As the poet said: "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (Psalms 119:11)"

CONCLUSION

Dear brothers and sisters, this is the end of today's sermon on "The State of Faith". May God help us to stay away from false worship, false life, and false path! Come back to God's words, and find the meaning of life again!

Let us pray.....

(Amos 5:18-27)

5:18 Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord! Why do you long for the day of the Lord?

That day will be darkness, not light.

5:19 It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him.

5:20 Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light— pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?

5:21 "I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me.

5:22 Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them.

Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them.

5:23 Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps.

5:24 But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

5:25 "Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings forty years in the wilderness, people of Israel?

5:26 You have lifted up the shrine of your king, the pedestal of your idols, the star of your god— which you made for yourselves.

5:27 Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Damascus," says the Lord, whose name is God Almighty.

亡國的命定 【摩 6:1-14】

引言

今天是聖誕節主日，神卻帶領我要講一篇關於亡國的信息。就是地上的國、地上所有的國，其最終的命定就是滅亡。當基督兩千年前道成肉身、降世為人的時候，就已經宣告了世界必定滅亡的命定。聖經說凡有形質的都要銷毀，唯有主的道可以長存。這也是為什麼主降生在伯利恆，耶路撒冷合城的人都感到不安。你呢？你感到平安、還是不安呢？我們看第一點：

當觀察列國

如果一個人的眼目只看自己、不看別人時，他就是個愚昧人。同樣，如果一個人只看本國，不看列國時，離亡國之日也就不遠了。首先，心中的比較。亞當夏娃之後的人類將凡事都要去比較的基因，活得淋漓盡致。該隱殺亞伯，就是一個典型的例子，對吧？憑什麼耶和華神就不能喜悅亞伯的祭物多過喜悅你該隱的祭物呢？反過來說，你該隱為什麼不能見到亞伯蒙神的恩典更多而感恩、而更加喜悅呢？達拉斯華人福音事工是誰先開始的，重要嗎？巴黎華人查經班，誰才是鼻祖？倫敦華人教會，誰是開創者？需要去爭嗎？美國就那麼必須是超級大國嗎？中國必須恢復漢唐風貌？或是讓秦始皇重新來統一世界？

其次，強弱的觀察。世界杯落幕了，阿根廷卻一直熱鬧不斷。整個國家通脹率已經達到 90% 以上了，國民去寧願活在一個“我們贏了、我們是強國”的虛幻之中！三年來的親自指揮、親自部署，迎來了財政被掏空及“白紙革命”。準備不足就撒手不管、躺平放開的應陽快陽、能陽早陽。結果是出現了楊過、楊康、王重陽的社會亂象。還強嗎？還要去自吹自擂逞強嗎？問題是自秦始皇以來，那種根植於我們血液中爭強好勝的夢魘，就真的那麼重要嗎？自古以來，強弱是暫時的、虛幻的、但是，向神負責任卻是永恆的。

最後，降禍的日子。人一生、物一世，無論行何事，總還是要還的！無論是南國還是北國，都在追逐列國之首的位置。為了有個虛假的好名聲、威風勁，不惜各樣數據造假。為了在國民中討要擁戴，不惜向鄰國開戰、奪取甲尼、哈瑪、迦特！先知問：還要強嗎？你們誰還要逞強嗎？你們誰還要比強嗎？請問彼得大帝強嗎？這位自詡是彼得大帝的普丁強嗎？侵佔

了克里米亞就強了嗎？入侵烏克蘭超過三百天就強了嗎？當你強到誰都怕你的時候，你的強也就開始向弱轉化了。昨天被普丁入侵的弱國烏克蘭總統澤倫斯基在美國國會上的演講，贏得了人心。試問孰強孰弱呢？我們看第二點：

當儆醒自卑

我們都知道，自古以來人外有人、天外有天。都知道主必快來，卻少有人儆醒禱告、謙卑自處。首先，安逸中的墮落。信不信由你，人遇到安逸，隨之而來的就有可能是墮落。阿摩司先知說以色列人：“你們以為降禍的日子還遠、坐在位上盡行強暴”。口口聲聲說是一切為了人民，實則是為了自己的安逸而貪污腐化。將錢財藏於海外，幾代領導人在海外的錢財超過兩萬億美元。正如阿摩司先知責備以色列人那樣：“你們躺臥在象牙床上、舒身在榻上、喫群中的羊羔、棚裡的牛犢（摩 6:4）。”象牙已屬罕見，還製成了床榻。從非洲運過來，勞民傷財，這得要搜刮了多少民脂民膏才可以得到的享受啊！

其次，舒適中的躺平。人若不是躺臥在耶和華為人預備的青草地上，就是躺平了。沒有異象，民就放肆！他們用大衛的樂器消遣、麻痺神經、躺進冬天的被窩不肯出來。這三年的封控，使得人們寧願躺在象牙床上“以大碗喝酒、用上等的油抹身”。整天不是打遊戲機，就是叫外賣。吃了碗不洗，睡了床不疊，養成衣來伸手、飯來張口的習慣。生為人卻不知人生存的意義，蒙召為神的兒女，卻不為神而活，更別說去“為約瑟的苦難擔憂”。我們都是因信了耶穌基督，成了神永生的兒女。信了主之後怎麼活？仍按著老我來活？還是按著大使命來活？無論得時不得時，務要傳道，總要救些人吧！

最後，苦難中的憂愁。人種的是什麼，收的就是什麼！當我們不為約瑟的苦難擔憂時，就必會在憂慮中經歷苦難。阿摩司的勸勉，竟成了苦難的預言：“所以這些人必在被擄的人中首先被擄。舒身的人荒宴之樂必消滅了（摩 6:7）。”這四十年來，當人們的口袋裡有點錢的時候，只知道去消費奢侈品，其後果當然就是再次經歷貧窮。封控三年，卻不去準備放開時所需用的退燒藥等必備品，後果當然也是顯而易見的。將超英趕美掛在嘴邊，顯露內心的驕傲，惹動神的憤怒，當然也就將神的震怒帶在身邊了。我們看第三點：

亡國的警告

歷史告訴我們，其實亡國的事情是屢見不鮮的。亞述、巴比倫、埃及、波斯、馬其頓、羅馬帝國亡國了。我們中國的宋朝、明朝不就亡國了嗎？神的選民南北國也亡國，有什麼奇怪呢？

首先，因為神的怒氣而亡國。南北國的分裂不討神的喜悅，北國的耶羅伯安將撒馬利亞的宮殿建得富麗堂皇，彷彿要與耶路撒冷試比高大上。於是，神就借著阿摩司先知說：“主耶和華萬軍之神指著自己起誓說、我憎惡雅各的榮華、厭棄他的宮殿！”你們將宮殿、教堂建得漂亮，心卻遠離我，有什麼益處呢？你們在所謂的教會裡並不肯講神的道，卻在討好權貴、害怕失去五斗米！於是，神就說：“因此、我必將城、和其中所有的、都交付敵人。”主前 721 年，北國被亞述所滅。主後 2013 年，溫州、河南、安徽、杭州的教堂被毀。偶然嗎？

其次，因對神的態度而亡國。新冠病毒肆掠三年了，染疫超過一億人，死了幾百萬人了。有人因此而心生敬畏嗎？對神的不敬畏，鐵定會惹動神的憤怒！不信嗎？那就還要死人，而且是“若在一房之內剩下十個人、也都必死。”俄烏戰爭已經使得雙方各自死了超過十萬人，還不夠嗎？普丁說還沒打夠，澤倫斯基也來美國要武器了。中國放開了，看著美國前面死了一百萬人的榜樣，打算死多少人呢？你知道之所以會繼續死人甚至亡國的原因，是因為你不肯提說耶和華的名啊！教會在敬拜神，你派警察去攪擾破壞，你幾個意思呢？就憑你對神的這個態度，就後果不堪設想！

最後，因為人的驕傲而亡國。世上所有的在上掌權者，都與神有約，就是必當善待所在國的公民。神藉著阿摩司說：“你們卻使公平變為苦膽、使公義的果子變為茵蔯。”你逼迫教會、藉著大白欺壓百姓，編造虛假信息繼續欺騙媒體，造成多重次生災害。難道你還沒有看見將要臨到的後果嗎？可惜呀！至今仍是“喜愛虛浮的事、自誇說、我們不是憑自己的力量取了角麼。”有效疫苗來了，不要！為什麼？面子嗎？怎麼勸說、怎麼苦口婆心都沒用，這時阿摩司又說了：“耶和華萬軍之神說、以色列家阿、我必興起一國攻擊你們。他們必欺壓你們、從哈馬口直到亞拉巴的河。”這等跡象還不夠清楚嗎？

結語

好，感謝主！聖誕節主日的信息是何等地沉重、也是何等地感恩！

我們一同禱告……

(摩 6:1-14)

6:1 國為列國之首、人最著名、且為以色列家所歸向、在錫安和撒瑪利亞山安逸無慮的、有禍了。

6:2 你們要過到甲尼察看、從那裡往大城哈馬去、又下到非利士人的迦特、看那些國比你們的國還強麼。境界比你們的境界還寬麼。

6:3 你們以為降禍的日子還遠、坐在位上盡行強暴（或作行強暴使審判臨近）。

6:4 你們躺臥在象牙床上、舒身在榻上、喫群中的羊羔、棚裡的牛犢。

6:5 彈琴鼓瑟唱消閑的歌曲、為自己製造樂器、如同大衛所造的。

6:6 以大碗喝酒、用上等的油抹身。卻不為約瑟的苦難擔憂。

6:7 所以這些人必在被擄的人中首先被擄。舒身的人荒宴之樂必消滅了。

6:8 主耶和華萬軍之神指著自己起誓說、我憎惡雅各的榮華、厭棄他的宮殿。因此、我必將城、和其中所有的、都交付敵人。

6:9 那時、若在一房之內剩下十個人、也都必死。

6:10 死人的伯叔、就是燒他屍首的、要將這屍首搬到房外、問房屋內間的人說、你那裡還有人沒有。他必說、沒有。又說、不要作聲、因為我們不可提耶和華的名。

6:11 看哪、耶和華出令、大房就被攻破、小屋就被打裂。

6:12 馬豈能在崖石上奔跑。人豈能在那裡用牛耕種呢。你們卻使公平變為苦膽、使公義的果子變為茵蔯。

6:13 你們喜愛虛浮的事、自誇說、我們不是憑自己的力量取了角麼。

6:14 耶和華萬軍之神說、以色列家阿、我必興起一國攻擊你們。他們必欺壓你們、從哈馬口直到亞拉巴的河。

The destiny of subjugation 【Amos 6:1-14】

INTRODUCTION

Today is Christmas Sunday, but God led me to give a message about subjugation. It is the kingdoms on the earth, all the kingdoms on the earth, whose ultimate destiny is to perish. When Christ became flesh and came to the world two thousand years ago, He already announced the doom of the world to perish. The Bible says that everything that is tangible will be destroyed, but only the word of the Lord will last forever. This is why the Lord was born in Bethlehem, and the whole city of Jerusalem was disturbed. How about you? Do you feel peaceful, or uneasy? Let's look at the first point:

MUST OBSERVING THE NATIONS

If a person's eyes are only on himself and not on others, he is a fool. Similarly, if a person only looks at his own country and does not look at other countries, he will not be far from the day of national destruction. First, the comparison in mind. After Adam and Eve, human beings will live the gene that compares everything to the fullest. Cain killing Abel, is a typical example, right? Why couldn't God be more pleased with Abel's sacrifice than with Cain's? On the other hand, why can't you, Cain, see that Abel has received more grace from God, and be more grateful and joyful? Does it matter who started the Dallas Chinese evangelism first? Who is the originator of the Chinese Bible study class in Paris? Who is the founder of the Chinese Church in London? Is it necessary to fight? Does the United States have to be a superpower then? Must China restore the style of the Han and Tang Dynasties? Or allow Emperor Qin Shihuang to unify the world again?

Secondly, the observation of strength and weakness. The World Cup is over, but Argentina has been bustling. The inflation rate of the entire country has reached more than 90%, and the people would rather live in the illusion of "we won, we are a strong country"! Three years of personal command and personal deployment have ushered in the financial hollowing out and

“blank paper revolution” . When they are not prepared enough, just let it go, lie flat and let go, just let people turn positive quickly. The result was the social chaos of being positive, recovered from being positive, then turned positive again. Are you still strong? Do you still want to brag about yourself? The question is, is the competitive nightmare that has been rooted in our blood since Emperor Qin Shihuang really so important? Since ancient times, strength and weakness have been temporary and illusory, but being responsible to God is eternal.

Finally, the day of woe. No matter what you do in your life, you have to pay it back! Whether it is the southern kingdom or the northern kingdom, they are all chasing the position of the head of the nations. In order to have a false good reputation and prestige, he did not hesitate to falsify all kinds of data. In order to gain support among the people, they did not hesitate to wage war on neighboring countries and seize Kalneh, Hamath, and Gath! The Prophet asked: Do you still want to be stronger? Who of you wants to be brave? Which of you is stronger? Is Peter the Great strong? Is this Putin who claims to be Peter the Great strong? Is it stronger if it invades Crimea? Is it stronger after invading Ukraine for more than 300 days? When you are so strong that everyone is afraid of you, your strength will begin to transform into weakness. Yesterday, President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, a weak country that was invaded by Putin, won the hearts of the people with his speech at the US Congress. May I ask which one is stronger and which one is weaker? Let’ s look at the second point:

BE VIGILANT AND HUMBLE YOURSELF

We all know that since ancient times, there are people beyond people, and heaven beyond heaven. Everyone knows that the Lord will come soon, but few people are watchful, praying, and humble themselves. First, the fall in ease. Believe it or not, when one meets ease, there may be depravation. The prophet Amos said of the Israelites: ” You put off the day of disaster and bring near a reign of terror.” They keep saying that everything is for the people, but they are actually corrupt for their own comfort. Hide money overseas, generations of leaders have more than two trillion dollars overseas. As the prophet Amos rebuked the

Israelites: “You lie on beds adorned with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. (Amos 6:4)” Ivory is rare and has been made into beds. It was transported from Africa, and it was a waste of money. How many people have to be scourged to get the enjoyment!

Second, lie flat in comfort. If a man is not lying down on the green pasture that the LORD has prepared for him, he is lying down. Without a vision, the people will be presumptuous! They entertained with David’s instruments, paralyzed their nerves, and refused to come out of their winter quilts. These three years of lockdown have made people prefer to lie on ivory beds, “You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions.” Playing video game all day long, or ordering to-go food. Don’t do the dishes after eating, don’t fold the bed after you wake up, and develop the habit of getting something for nothing, sitting back and enjoying it. Being born as human beings, but not knowing the meaning of human existence, being called to be children of God but not living for God, let alone “to grieve over the ruin of Joseph.” We all have become eternal sons and daughters of God through faith in Jesus Christ. How to live after believing in the Lord? Still live according to the old self? Or live according to the Great Commission? Whether in season or out of season, preach the word and save some people!

Finally, sorrow amidst suffering. What people sow, what they reap! When we don’t worry about Joseph’s suffering, we will experience suffering in anxiety. Amos’ exhortation turned out to be a prophecy of distress: “Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end. (Amos 6:7)” In the past forty years, when people have some money in their pockets, they only know how to consume luxury goods, and of course the consequence is to experience poverty again. After three years of lockdown, but not preparing necessary supplies such as antipyretics for release, the consequences are of course obvious. Talking about surpassing the British and chasing the United States, revealing the pride in the heart, provoking the wrath of God, and of course bringing the wrath of God with him. Let’s look at the third point:

WARNING OF SUBJUGATION

History tells us that it is not uncommon for a country to be subjugated. Assyria, Babylon, Egypt, Persia, Macedonia, and the Roman Empire fell. Didn't the Song and Ming dynasties of our China perish? Why is it so strange that God's chosen people, the northern and southern kingdoms, also perished? First, the country was destroyed because of the wrath of God. The division of the northern and southern kingdoms did not please God. Jeroboam of the northern kingdom built a magnificent palace in Samaria, as if trying to compete with Jerusalem. Therefore, God said through the prophet Amos: "The Sovereign Lord has sworn by himself—the Lord God Almighty declares: "I abhor the pride of Jacob and detest his fortresses;" You build beautiful palaces and churches, but your hearts are far away from me. What good is it? You are not willing to preach the word of God in the so-called churches, but you are pleasing the powerful, and you are afraid of losing a job! So, God said: "I will deliver up the city and everything in it." In 721 BC, the northern kingdom was destroyed by Assyria. In 2013, churches in Wenzhou, Henan, Anhui, and Hangzhou were destroyed. Is it just by chance?

Second, the country is subjugated because of its attitude towards God. The COVID virus has been raging for three years, infected more than 100 million people, and killed millions of people. Is anyone in awe of it? Being disrespectful to God will surely arouse God's wrath! Do not believe it? Then there are still people who die, and it is "If ten people are left in one house, they too will die." The Russo-Ukrainian war has caused more than 100,000 deaths on both sides, isn't that enough? Putin said that he had not fought enough, and Zelensky also came to the United States to ask for weapons. China now lifts the lockdown, looking at the example of a million people who died in the United States, how many people are going to die? Do you know that the reason why people continue to die and even the country perish is because you refuse to speak the name of God! The church is worshiping God, you send the police to disturb and destroy. What do you mean by that? Just based on your attitude towards God, the consequences will be disastrous!

Lastly, the country was subjugated because of pride. All the rulers in the world have a covenant with God, that is, they must treat the citizens of the countries kindly. God said through Amos: “But you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into bitterness.” You persecuted the church, oppressed the people through the white guard with ignorance, fabricated false information and continued to deceive the media, causing multiple secondary disasters. Don’ t you see the consequences that are coming? What a pity! Now it is still “you who rejoice in the conquest of Lo Debar and say, “Did we not take Karnaim by our own strength?” An effective vaccine is here, They don’ t want it! Why? Because of the face? No matter how much persuasion, it doesn’ t work. Amos said again: “For the Lord God Almighty declares, “I will stir up a nation against you, Israel, that will oppress you all the way from Lebo Hamath to the valley of the Arabah.” Are these signs not clear enough?

CONCLUSION

Well, thank the Lord! How heavy and thankful is the message of Christmas Sunday!

Let us pray……

(Amos 6:1-14)

6:1 Woe to you who are complacent in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, you notable men of the foremost nation, to whom the people of Israel come!

6:2 Go to Kalneh and look at it; go from there to great Hamath, and then go down to Gath in Philistia. Are they better off than your two kingdoms? Is their land larger than yours?

6:3 You put off the day of disaster and bring near a reign of terror.

6:4 You lie on beds adorned with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves.

6:5 You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments.

6:6 You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph.

6:7 Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end.

6:8 The Sovereign Lord has sworn by himself—the Lord God Almighty declares: “I abhor the pride of Jacob and detest his fortresses; I will deliver up the city and everything in it.”

6:9 If ten people are left in one house, they too will die.

6:10 And if the relative who comes to carry the bodies out of the house to burn them[a] asks anyone who might be hiding there, “Is anyone else with you?” and he says, “No,” then he will go on to say, “Hush! We must not mention the name of the Lord.”

6:11 For the Lord has given the command, and he will smash the great house into pieces and the small house into bits.

6:12 Do horses run on the rocky crags? Does one plow the sea with oxen? But you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into bitterness—

6:13 you who rejoice in the conquest of Lo Debar and say, “Did we not take Karnaim[d] by our own strength?”

6:14 For the Lord God Almighty declares, “I will stir up a nation against you, Israel, that will oppress you all the way from Lebo Hamath to the valley of the Arabah.”

可免的災難 【摩 7:1-6】

引言

綜觀歷史，其實神向人要的就是一個態度、一個認罪悔改的態度！只是人的愚昧與驕傲，攔阻了神人關係的發展，以致成為最的工價乃是死的結局。我們看第一點：

主造蝗蟲

蝗蟲竟然是主造的，情何以堪啊！我們可能都不容易理解，會不會？首先，蝗蟲在割菜之後。顯然，政府向百姓收稅如同割韭菜，是自古以來的慣性。正常收稅、維持政權運作，亦屬常態。只是當以色列君王不行公義、欺壓百姓、橫徵暴斂時，就惹動神的忿怒了。三年的清零，蒿清了韭菜、刮淨了菜園，接下來的蝗災也快要來了。在出埃及記中，蝗災排在第八災，接下來的黑暗之災過後，馬上就是殺長子之災。那可是一個民族的滅頂之災啊！大白逼迫上海一民宅，威脅人家的祖孫三代。這家中一青年說：我是最後一代，再也沒有三代人給你繼續薅羊毛、割韭菜了。

其次，蝗蟲喫盡地青物。孟子說：“苛政猛於虎”，意思是說當權者的暴政比老虎還兇殘。既然以色列的當權者如此這般不珍惜百姓的民生，反覆不斷地割韭菜。好吧，神就乾脆任憑你的惡行。當權者的心態是窮凶極惡、貪得無厭的，無論怎麼割也不會滿足。因為韭菜的特點是割了仍會再長出來，並且循環往復、不斷生長。這是什麼？難道是統治者的英明領導？當然不是！這是神所賜的恩典！只要當權者不去干預百姓的生活，人民自有從神而來的恩典。所謂改革開放，其本質就是放手不管、還政於民。因為人心比萬物都詭詐，人心貪婪到極點，不可自拔，遠勝於蝗蟲肯吃地上的青物。

最後，主造蝗蟲是啟示。神藉著阿摩司先知告訴以色列人，如果你們仍是不清楚、不明白，那麼，我就造出蝗蟲來，讓你們看清楚。對於當權者來說是照鏡子，也就是苛政猛於虎的道理。就是說，你們對百姓的盤剝刮利，無以復加、不可接受。如果你們繼續毀約，不恩待百姓，神就將造出蝗蟲來，喫盡那地的青物。對於百姓來說，是在宣告神的大愛！怎麼講呢？

阿摩司先知說，是“主造蝗蟲”。既然是主造的，主就必掌管！大衛面對咒詛與審判，他說：我寧可落在永生神耶和華的手中！因為祂的怒氣是短暫的，祂的慈愛卻是永遠長存的。我們看第二點：

求主赦免

我們可能很容易忽略一件很重要的事情，就是求主赦免。若是沒有、或是忽略求主赦免，我們連一天也過不去、片刻也站立不住啊！首先，向神祈求。不要說見到，就是聽說神造蝗蟲的消息，就當向神禱告祈求了，同意嗎？問題是怎麼禱告？禱告時說些什麼？事實上，禱告前的糾結才是重要的，對嗎？我們可能會想，主啊！祢怎麼能去造蝗蟲呢？難道祢不知道蝗蟲是會吃莊稼的嗎？被蝗蟲吃了莊稼，人是會餓死的，祢不知道嗎？糾結完了，該怎樣禱告呢？說：主啊，我要感謝祢！感謝什麼？感謝祂造蝗蟲？為什麼？為什麼不呢？有沒有發現，其實是有兩種不同的價值觀在此對話或交換。彷彿人的聲音更大，說：神只能造好東西，不能造不好的東西。如，神怎能造出撒但呢？但是，聖經卻說，神是獨行奇事的神，並不需要人來給祂作參謀，告訴祂當如何創天造地。人與神關係的本質就是向神祈求！在基督裡，叩門就開門，祈求就應允！

其次，雅各微弱。人能活出在神面前的微弱，是一份普世的智慧。阿摩司說出“雅各微弱”，表明阿摩司眼光有歷史的透視及現實祈求。第一代雅各，後被神改名為以色列與神摔跤，終於發現自己是微弱的。他抓了一輩子，終於曉得人生的終極目標就是要抓住神。這一次，他抓住了。阿摩司延續雅各的禱告，也要為以色列抓住神的憐憫！在神的面前示弱並不羞恥、且做回小孩子的樣式，是討主的喜悅的。這也是人與人之間、國與國之間的相處之道。以謙卑為相交之道，遠勝於戰狼外表的虛脫。

最後，站立不住。阿摩司先知用站立不住來表達以色列人的極度謙卑，是擁有大智慧的。他的意思是說，主啊，祢看，祢的兒子、祢的選民以色列是離不開祢的！這不，祢也看到了，一旦離開就連站也站不住了！祢若是不赦免雅各的罪孽，以色列，祢的選民又怎能存活呢？祢就憐憫他們吧！他們的旁邊有亞述、埃及、亞蘭、非利士、以東、亞捫、摩押等都在看祢兒女的笑話呢！祢又豈能在死人中間尋找可敬拜祢的人呢？主啊，我雅各可是屬祢的呀！是祢草場的羊，祢是我的牧者啊！我們看第三點：

此災可免

其實神的心是很軟的，只要人真心向祂悔改，祂就給機會了。首先，耶和華就後悔。耶利米先知與阿摩司先知有一點是相同的，就是心情。阿摩司看見北國以色列四十年後將要毀滅亡國的情景，耶利米看見四十年後南國猶大將要毀滅亡國的情景，可為同痛相憐。耶利米對神的選民說：“耶和華說、以色列家阿、我待你們、豈不能照這窯匠弄泥麼。以色列家阿、泥在窯匠的手中怎樣、你們在我的手中也怎樣（耶 18:6）。”接下來的一句話石破天驚：“若是轉意離開他們的惡、我就必後悔、不將我想要施行的災禍降與他們（耶 18:8）。”耶利米可能讀了阿摩司書，藉此了解神的“後悔情結”。

其次，耶和華仍公義。當然，阿摩司仍要回到現實中為以色列代求。因為神因著祂的公義，指示阿摩司先知一件事，就是祂要命火來懲罰以色列。與蝗蟲一樣，這火也是耶和華所造的。祂應許挪亞不再用水來毀滅人類，卻沒有說不用火來懲罰以色列。祂說：火就吞滅深淵、險些將地燒滅。深淵，可以指地獄之火，直指最後的審判。也可以是“現世報”的火焰，要燒毀一切的偶像，彰顯神的公義。蝗蟲有眼、瘟疫有嘴，專門來吃法老的莊稼，也吃伯利恆的小麥。藉著核酸檢測薙羊毛，最終薙出楊過、楊康、王重陽的“仙女散花”亂世場景！難道你以為神公義的眼目看不見你嗎？神聖潔的手臂伸不到你那裡嗎？

最後，耶和華再次免。先知為百姓祈求，禱告神的憐憫，說：主啊，祢的子民雅各軟弱無力、非靠祢不得站立、祢若不赦免以色列，雅各哪裡有活路啊？短短的六節經文中耶和華兩次赦免了以色列，說：這災可以免了！又說：這災也可免了！講章寫到這兒，我的眼簾濕了，流出了感恩的淚！主啊！難道我們不是如此這般地、蒙祢一次又一次地赦免、一次又一次醫治、一次又一次地保守看顧嗎？這是我們生命中的不配，不配神祢所賜的恩典！

結語

好，感謝主！如今的世界已經進入災難不斷的時代了，歲月靜好的假象已經消失了。求神幫助我們抓住主再次赦免我們罪孽的恩典，靠主經過可免的災難，進入神所賜的應許之地。我們一同禱告……

（摩 7:1-6）

7:1 主耶和華指示我一件事。為王割菜之後（菜或作草）菜又發生、剛發生的時候、主造蝗蟲。

7:2 蝗蟲喫盡那地的青物、我就說主耶和華阿、求你赦免。因為雅各微弱、他怎能站立得住呢。

7:3 耶和華就後悔、說、這災可以免了。^[1]

7:4 主耶和華又指示我一件事。他命火來懲罰以色列、火就吞滅深淵、險些將地燒滅。

7:5 我就說、主耶和華阿、求你止息。因為雅各微弱、他怎能站立得住呢。

7:6 耶和華就後悔說、這災也可免了。

Avoidable disaster 【Amos 7:1-6】

INTRODUCTION

Looking at history, what God actually wants from man is an attitude, an attitude of confessing and repenting! It's just that people's ignorance and pride hinder the development of the relationship between God and man, so that the ultimate wage is death. Let's look at the first point:

GOD MADE LOCUSTS

How embarrassing that the locusts were created by the Lord! It may not be easy for us to understand, is it? First, the locusts are after cutting vegetables. Obviously, the government collecting taxes from the people is like cutting leeks, which has been a habit since ancient times. It is also normal to collect taxes and maintain the operation of the regime. It's just that when the king of Israel did not act righteously, oppressed the people, and extorted money, he provoked God's wrath. After three years of Zero-COVID, Artemisia cleared the leeks and scraped the vegetable garden, and the next plague of locusts is coming soon. In the Book of Exodus, the plague of locusts is the eighth plague, and immediately after the plague of darkness is the plague of killing the firstborn. That was the catastrophe of a nation! The white guard persecuted a

family in Shanghai, threatening their three generations. The youth of this family said: I am the last generation, and there will be no more three generations to keep picking wool and cutting leeks for you.

Second, the locusts had stripped the land clean. Mencius said: “tyranny is fiercer than a tiger”, which means that the tyranny of those in power is more ferocious than a tiger. Since those in power in Israel do not cherish the people’s livelihood so much, they keep cutting leeks over and over again. Well, God will simply let your wickedness go. The mentality of those in power is vicious and greedy, and they will not be satisfied no matter how much they cut off. Because the characteristic of leeks is that they will grow again after being cut, and they will continue to grow in cycles. What is this? Is it the wise leadership of the ruler? Of course not! This is the grace bestowed by God! As long as those in power do not interfere with the lives of the people, the people have the grace from God. The essence of the so-called reform and opening up is to let go and return power to the people. Because the human heart is more deceitful than all things, and the human heart is greedy to the extreme and cannot extricate itself, far better than locusts are willing to eat the green things on the ground.

Finally, it is a revelation that the Lord created the locusts. God told the Israelites through the prophet Amos, if you still don’t understand, then I will create locusts to let you see clearly. For those in power, it is a mirror, which is the truth that tyranny is fiercer than a tiger. That is to say, your exploitation and profiteering of the common people is unacceptable. If you continue to break the covenant and show no mercy to the people, God will create locusts to eat up all the green things in the land. For the people, it is a declaration of God’s great love! How to say it? The prophet Amos said that “the Lord made the locusts”. Since it was created by the Lord, the Lord will rule it! Facing the curse and judgment, David said: I would rather fall into the hands of the living God! For his wrath is short-lived, but his love endures forever. Let’s look at the second point:

ASK FOR GOD' S FORGIVENESS

We may easily overlook a very important thing, which is to ask the Lord for forgiveness. If we do not, or neglect to ask the Lord for forgiveness, we will not be able to get through a day or stand for a moment! First, pray to God. Don't say you saw it, but you heard the news that God created locusts, so you should pray to God, do you agree? The question is how to pray? What do you say when you pray? In fact, it's the wrestling before prayer that counts, right? We might think, Lord! How could you make locusts? Don't you know that locusts eat crops? If the crops are eaten by locusts, people will starve to death, don't you know? When the entanglements are over, how should we pray? Say: Lord, I want to thank You! Thanks for what? Thank Him for making locusts? Why? Why not? Have you found that there are actually two different values talking or exchanging here. It seems that the voice of man is louder, saying: God can only create good things, not bad things. For example, how could God create Satan? However, the Bible says that God is a God who works miracles alone, and does not need people to advise Him and tell Him how to create the heavens and the earth. The essence of the relationship between man and God is to pray to God! In Christ, knock and the door will be opened, pray and it will be answered!

Second, Jacob is small. It is universal wisdom that people can live out their smallness before God. Amos said "Jacob is small", which shows that Amos has historical perspective and realistic prayer. The first generation of Jacob, who was later renamed Israel by God, wrestled with God and finally found himself small. He has been grasping for a lifetime, and finally understands that the ultimate goal of life is to grasp God. This time, he caught it. Amos continued Jacob's prayer, and also grasped God's mercy for Israel! There is no shame in showing weakness before God, and it is pleasing to the Lord to be like a child. This is also the way of getting along between people and between countries. Taking humility as the way of fellowship is far better than the prostration of the wolf warrior.

Lastly, not able to survive. The prophet Amos expressed the extreme humility of the Israelites by saying that he could not survive, which is very wise. What he meant was, Lord, look, your son,

your chosen people Israel, cannot do without you! No, you have seen it too, once you leave, you can't even survive! If you do not forgive the sin of Jacob, how will Israel, your chosen people, live? Have mercy on them! Next to them are Assyria, Egypt, Syria, Philistia, Edom, Ammon, Moab, etc., all waiting to laugh at them! How can you seek among the dead to worship you? Lord, I, Jacob, am Yours! the sheep of your pasture, You are my Shepherd! Let's look at the third point:

THE DISASTER WILL NOT HAPPEN

In fact, God's heart is very soft. As long as people sincerely repent to Him, He will give them a chance. First, the Lord relented. Jeremiah and the prophet Amos have one thing in common, which is their mood. The prophet Amos saw that the northern kingdom of Israel would be destroyed forty years later, and Jeremiah saw the situation of the southern kingdom of Judah forty years later. Can be sympathetic to each other. Jeremiah said to God's elect: "He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. (Jeremiah 18:6)" The next sentence is earth-shattering: "and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. (Jeremiah 18:8)" Jeremiah may have read the book of Amos to understand God's "relent complex."

Second, God is still righteous. Of course, Amos still had to return to reality to intercede for Israel. Because of His righteousness, God instructed the prophet Amos one thing, that He would send fire to punish Israel. Like the locusts, the fire was also made by the LORD. He promised Noah that he would no longer destroy mankind with water, but he did not say that he would not punish Israel with fire. He said: The fire dried up the great deep and devoured the land. The great deep can refer to the fire of hell, pointing directly to the final judgment. It can also be the flame of "retribution for the present world", which will burn all idols and demonstrate God's righteousness. Locusts have eyes, and plagues have mouths, and they come to eat Pharaoh's crops and Bethlehem's wheat. With the aid of nucleic acid testing, the

scene of the troubled times of turning positive on and off was finally revealed! Do you think God's righteous eyes cannot see you? Can the holy arm of God not reach you?

Finally, God spared again. The prophet prayed for the people, prayed for God's mercy, and said: Lord, your people Jacob is small and helpless, and cannot survive without you. If you don't forgive Israel, how can Jacob survive? In just six verses, the Lord forgave Israel twice, saying: This disaster will not happen! He also said: This disaster will not happen either! As the sermon is written here, my eyelids are wet, and I shed tears of gratitude! Oh God! Aren't we like this, forgiven again and again, healed again and again, protected and cared for by You again and again? This is unworthiness in our lives, unworthy of the grace God has given you!

CONCLUSION

Well, thank the Lord! Today's world has entered an era of constant disasters, and the illusion of tranquility has disappeared. May God help us to grasp the Lord's grace to forgive our sins again, rely on the Lord to pass through the avoidable disasters, and enter the promised land given by God.

Let us pray.....

(Amos 7:1-6)

7:1 This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: He was preparing swarms of locusts after the king's share had been harvested and just as the late crops were coming up.

7:2 When they had stripped the land clean, I cried out, "Sovereign Lord, forgive! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!"

7:3 So the Lord relented. "This will not happen," the Lord said.

7:4 This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: The Sovereign Lord was calling for judgment by fire; it dried up the great deep and devoured the land.

7:5 Then I cried out, "Sovereign Lord, I beg you, stop! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!"

7:6 So the Lord relented. "This will not happen either," the Sovereign Lord said.

準繩在何方？ 【摩 7:7-9】

引言

神帶領阿摩司先知走過的道路，足以令阿摩司怵目驚心、難以言表！到底前路茫茫、出路何在？於是，“準繩在何方”的生命議題就來到先知的面前。我們看第一點：

主手拿準繩

阿摩司先知是一個編導級別的作者，說出話來有話劇的場面感。他說主拿著準繩站在其上，誰能有此想像呢？首先，有一道牆。關於牆的話題，自古以來就很豐富。秦始皇以為建個長城就可以高枕無憂了，卻想不到一個孟姜女就把它給哭倒了。代表冷戰鐵幕的柏林牆，於 1989 年 11 月 9 日，被自稱是“圍牆啄木鳥”（Mauerspechte）的民眾利用各種工具剝下牆磚留作紀念，或是砸出大口子，打造出多個非正式的過境點。現今依然仍在的牆，如以色列隔離巴勒斯坦人發射導彈，建起了高牆。川普為了防止非法移民入境，建起了德州與墨西哥邊境牆，如今也形同虛設。中國建立的網絡高牆，其實也雖強猶弱、自欺欺人。其實更加可怕的是我們自己對神拒絕的那堵無形的牆，拒絕的卻是永生啊！

其次，按準繩建。每一堵牆在建的時候，都應該有一個準繩。準繩在原文希伯來語 שמשל)anak(與閃族阿卡德語的 Annaku 同源，意思是：“錫”。當然，我們一般理解的是一條繩吊一塊錫金屬做垂線準繩。但也有學者認為這幅牆就是一面錫牆，象徵以色列防衛是多麼地脆弱、易碎、不勘一擊！無論按哪一種來解釋，牆與準繩都是相呼依存的關係。一面好牆，建好了，人們就忘記曾經所依據的準繩。出了埃及，以色列人就忘記神是怎樣藉著摩西領他們經十災、過紅海、走曠野、入迦南。我們也是一樣啊，得了救恩，就忘記賜救恩的主。會不會？

最後，主拿準繩。問題的關鍵是任何時候主都“手拿準繩站在其上。”就是說，當我們建造生命之牆時，主是我們的準繩。同樣，當牆建好時、向祂交賬時，祂仍是標準。這也是為什麼基督耶穌降世、道成肉身時，不斷地強調祂是道路、真理、生命。祂對腓力說：“人看見了我，就是看見了父（約 14:9）。”整本聖經就是向我們啟示一個真理：耶穌基督就是我們

生命中的標準、及一切行事為人的準繩。所羅門也為主作見證，說：“在耶和華造化的起頭、在太初創造萬物之先、就有了我（箴 8:22）。”好，我們來看第二點：

先知見準繩

有沒有準繩與是否看見準繩，是兩個完全不同的概念。我們的神是一位主動向我們啟示的神，也是主動向阿摩司先知啟示的主。首先，神主動啟示。在神人關係中，神總是主動的。祂主動來伊甸園尋找亞當，問：你在哪裡？祂主動來到吾珥，呼召亞伯拉罕一家要離開本地、本族、父家、往我所要指示你的迦南地去。祂主動在何烈山從荊棘裡火焰中向摩西顯現，對摩西說：“故此我要打發你去見法老、使你可以將我的百姓以色列人從埃及領出來。”同樣，神也是主動呼召先知阿摩司，從南到北，得默示曉諭北國以色列人。準繩與牆，是神向阿摩司啟示的第三個異象。神主動啟示，是一個非常重要的真理。既不需要約伯好友以利法的靈異分享，也不必讓人將你往後推倒、再生出聖靈充滿的自我感覺良好。

其次，你看見什麼？亞當夏娃犯罪之後，神問：你在哪裡？亞當並沒有回答問題，乃是恐懼戰兢地解釋原因：“他說、我在園中聽見你的聲音、我就害怕、因為我赤身露體。我便藏了（創 3:10）。”相比之下，我們可以看見阿摩司先知的坦然，他回答神說：“看見準繩。”神問什麼就回答什麼，這是一個屬靈的奧秘！不要拖泥帶水、乃是直接面對！帶著憂慮、夾雜著小信，不可能看見準繩。耶穌說：“清心的人有福了。因為他們必得見 神（太 5:8）。”同樣的道理，看不見神的人，也必然看不見準繩。

最後，審判將臨到！當神確定阿摩司看見準繩了，就對他說：“我要吊起準繩在我民以色列中。我必不再寬恕他們（摩 7:8b）。”神起初在揀選、拯救以色列人時，是按著準繩進行的。也如基督道成肉身時，也是如此：“道成了肉身、住在我們中間、充充滿滿的有恩典有真理。我們也見過他的榮光、正是父獨生子的榮光（約 1:14）。”當人要向神交帳時，也同樣是依照相同的準繩來進行。北國的二十位國王竟然沒有一位是好王，都是敗壞、拜偶像、欺壓百姓的族類。於是神就向先知宣告：“我必不再寬恕他們”！我們來看第三點：

百姓離準繩

既然已經離開了神所賜的準繩，也就同時離開了神的寬恕。首先，以撒的丘壇必然淒涼。以撒的丘壇，是指北國建國時內心的驕傲，以及他們在信仰上的淪喪。耶羅波安的宗教改革，革掉了利未人的位份。與掃羅王的獻祭有相似之處，其本質都是輕慢神。掃羅心想，你撒母耳有什麼了不起？難道獻祭就非你莫屬？我是君王，還不能獻個祭啦？我還就真不信了！他對神的輕慢，也毀掉他的王位與生命。耶羅波安二世與南國的烏西雅王堪稱是偉大的君王，他們的文治武功堪稱可以流芳百世。但是，僅在別是巴獻祭拜偶像這一點，就足以抵銷了耶羅波安勝過巴蘭的功績（見王下 14:23-28）。

其次，以色列的聖所必然荒廢。以色列的聖所是指在伯特利的拜偶像中心（見王上 12:26-30），雖然以色列王耶羅波安二世在位四十一年，其威望也因其功績而如日中天（王下十四 23-28）。但是，他兒子繼位後近六個月就被謀殺（王下 15:8-10）。康熙王在位六十一年，算得上是一位了不起的君王。但是，他也是一位與耶穌基督擦肩而過的君王，可惜了神賜給他恩典的機會。他去世後，他的兒子雍正帝在位僅十三年因貪食道士騙人的丹藥而亡。我們看偉人，至少要看三、五代人才能說明問題。當我們綜觀歷史，事實上，偉人們或是很想做偉人的一些人，大都後果不堪設想、禍及子孫。

最後，用刀攻擊耶羅波安的家。耶羅波安二世看似功勞很大，也得了眾民的喜愛，可謂是得人心者得天下。但是“只是丘壇還沒有廢去，百姓仍在那裡獻祭燒香（王下 15:4）。”其子撒迦利雅在撒瑪利亞作以色列王僅僅是六個月，聖經記載：“雅比的兒子沙龍背叛他、在百姓面前擊殺他、篡了他的位（王下 15:10）。”毛澤東一生行惡無數，政治運動不斷，趕走傳教士、關閉教堂、抓捕基督徒、罄竹難書。結果，兒子在朝鮮戰爭中喪生，親密戰友接班人林彪也成了他口中的叛徒賣國賊、不得善終。

結語

親愛的弟兄姊妹，請問準繩在何方？神所賜那出人意外的平安是否在你心中？你是神所建的牆嗎？是尼希米所吩咐在自己家門前所建的牆嗎？可以堵住撒但的破口嗎？可以與神子民的牆相連嗎？且連於元首基督嗎？藉著祂的身體教會嗎？

我們一同禱告……

(摩 7:7-9)

7:7 他又指示我一件事。有一道牆是按準繩建築的、主手拿準繩站在其上。

7:8 耶和華對我說、阿摩司阿、你看見甚麼。我說、看見準繩。主說、我要吊起準繩在我民以色列中。我必不再寬恕他們。

7:9 以撒的丘壇必然淒涼、以色列的聖所必然荒廢。我必興起、用刀攻擊耶羅波安的家。

Where is the plumb line? 【Amos 7:7-9】

INTRODUCTION

The path that God led the prophet Amos to walk was enough to shock Amos beyond words! Since the road ahead is boundless, and where is the way out? Thus, the life issue of “where is the plumb line” came before the Prophet. Let’s look at the first point:

GOD HOLDS THE PLUMB LINE

Prophet Amos is a director-level author, and his words have a sense of the scene of a drama. He said that the Lord stood on it with a plumb line. Who could have imagined that? First, there is a wall. The topic of walls has been plentiful since ancient times. Qin Shihuang thought that he could sit back and relax by building the Great Wall, but he didn’t expect Meng Jiangnu to cry it down. The Berlin Wall, which represents the Iron Curtain of the Cold War, was on November 9, 1989. People who called themselves “Wall Woodpeckers” (Mauerspechte) used various tools to peel off the wall bricks as a souvenir, or smashed a big hole to create multiple Informal border crossings. The wall that is still in place today, such as Israel’s separation of Palestinians from firing missiles, built a high wall. In order to prevent illegal immigrants from entering, Trump built a border wall between Texas and Mexico, which is now in vain. The high network wall built by China is actually strong but weak, deceiving itself and others. In fact, what is even more frightening is the invisible wall we reject God, but what we reject is eternal life!

Second, build according to the plumb line. When every wall is being built, there should be a plumb line. The plumb line is in the original Hebrew (שמשל) “anak” (same as the Semitic Akkadian “Annaku”, meaning: “tin”). Of course, we generally understand that a rope hangs a piece of tin metal as a vertical guideline. But some scholars believe that because this wall is a tin wall, which symbolizes how fragile and invulnerable Israel’s defense is! No matter what kind of explanation is used, the wall and the plumb line are interdependent. A good wall is built, people forget the criterion they used to rely on. When they left Egypt, the Israelites forgot how God led them through the ten plagues, crossed the Red Sea, walked through the wilderness, and entered Canaan through Moses. The same is true for us. Once we are saved, we forget the Lord who gave us our salvation. Will it?

Lastly, the Lord takes the plumb line. The point is that at all times the Lord, “with a plumb line in his hand.” That is, the Lord is our plumb line as we build the wall of life. Likewise, when the wall is built and an account is given to Him, He is still the standard. This is why when Christ Jesus came into the world and became flesh, he constantly emphasized that He is the way, the truth, and the life. He said to Philip, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. (John 14:9)” The whole Bible is to reveal a truth to us: Jesus Christ is the standard in our life and the yardstick of everything we do. Solomon also testified of the Lord, saying: “The Lord brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old. (Proverbs 8:22)” Let’s look at the second point:

THE PROPHET SEES THE PLUMB LINE

Whether there is a plumb line and whether you can see the plumb line are two completely different concepts. Our God is a God who proactively revealed to us, and also the Lord who proactively revealed to the prophet Amos. First, God initiates revelation. In God-man relationships, God is always active. He took the initiative to look for Adam in the Garden of Eden and asked: Where are you? He took the initiative to come to Ur, and called Abraham and his family to leave their native land, their family, and their father’s house, and go to the land

of Canaan that I will show you. He took the initiative to appear to Moses at Horeb out of the flames in the bush, and said to Moses: “So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt. (Exodus 3:10)” Similarly, God also took the initiative to call the prophet Amos, from south to north, to give a revelation to the northern kingdom of Israel. The plumb line and the wall are the third vision God revealed to Amos. God’s active revelation is a very important truth. You don’t need a psychic sharing from Job’s friend Eliphaz, nor do you need someone to push you back and regenerate your Spirit-filled self-feeling goodness.

Second, what do you see? After Adam and Eve sinned, God asked: Where are you? Instead of answering the question, Adam explained the reason with fear and trembling: “He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid. (Genesis 3:10)” In contrast, we can see the boldness of the prophet Amos, who answered God: “A plumb line,” It is a spiritual mystery which is to answer God whatever He asks! Don’t drag your feet, but face it directly! With anxiety, mixed with little faith, it is impossible to see the plumb line. Jesus said: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. (Matthew 5:8)” In the same way, those who cannot see God must also not see the plumb line.

Finally, judgment will come! When God was sure that Amos had seen the plumb line, He said to him: “Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer. (Amos 7:8b)” When God chose and saved the Israelites at the beginning, he followed the standard. It was also like this when Christ became flesh: “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)” When a man gives an account to God, he also proceeds according to the same plumb line. None of the twenty kings of the northern kingdom was a good king. They were all corrupt, idolatrous, and oppressive people. Then God declared to the prophet: “I will spare them no longer.” Let’s look at the third point:

THE PEOPLE ARE OFF THE PLUMB LINE

Now that people have departed from the plumb line given by God, they have also departed from God's forgiveness. First, the high places of Isaac will be destroyed. Isaac's high places refer to the inner pride of the northern kingdom when it was founded, as well as their loss of faith. Jeroboam's religious reformation abolished the position of the Levites. Similar to King Saul's sacrifice, its essence is to despise God. Saul thought to himself, what is so great about you, Samuel? Could it be that you are the only one who sacrifices? I am a king, so I can't offer a sacrifice? I really don't believe it! His contempt for God also ruined his throne and his life. Jeroboam II and King Uzziah of the southern kingdom can be called great kings, and their political and military achievements can be said to be immortal. However, Jeroboam's victory over Balaam was negated by the sacrifice and idolatry at Beer-sheba alone. (see 2 Kings 14:23-28).

Next, the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined. The sanctuary of Israel refers to the center of idolatry at Bethel (see 1 Kings 12:26-30), and although King Jeroboam II of Israel reigned for forty-one years, his prestige was at the height because of his achievements (2 Kings 14:23-28). However, his son was murdered nearly six months after taking the throne (2 Kings 15:8-10). Emperor Kangxi reigned for sixty-one years, and he can be regarded as a great king. However, he was also a king who passed by Jesus Christ, and it was a pity that God gave him the opportunity of grace. After his death, his son, Emperor Yongzheng, died of greedy Taoist deceitful pills after he reigned for only thirteen years. When we look at great men, we have to look at at least three or five generations before we can explain the problem. When we look at history, in fact, most of the great people or those who wanted to be great people had unimaginable consequences and disasters for their children and grandchildren.

Lastly, attach the house of Jeroboam with a sword. Jeroboam II seems to have made a lot of contributions, and he has also won the love of all the people. It can be said that the one who wins the hearts of the people wins the world. but "The high places, however, were not removed; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there. (2 King 15:4)"

His son Zechariah was king of Israel in Samaria for only six months. The Bible records: “Shallum son of Jabesh conspired against Zechariah. He attacked him in front of the people, assassinated him and succeeded him as king. (2 King 15:10)” Mao Zedong committed countless crimes in his life and continued political campaigns, driving out missionaries, closing churches, arresting Christians, and so on. As a result, his son was killed in the Korean War, and Lin Biao, the successor of his close comrade-in-arms, became what he called a traitor, and impossible to acquire a peaceful end.

CONCLUSION

Dear brothers and sisters, where is the plumb line? Is the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, in your heart? Are you a wall built by God? Is it the wall that Nehemiah commanded to build in front of his house? Can you stop Satan’s breach? Can it be connected to the walls of God’s people? And with Christ the Head? By His Body, Church?

Let us pray……

(Amos 7:7-9)

7:7 This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand.

7:8 And the Lord asked me, “What do you see, Amos?” “A plumb line,” I replied. Then the Lord said, “Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.

7:9 “The high places of Isaac will be destroyed and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined; with my sword I will rise against the house of Jeroboam.”

內部的紛爭 【摩 7:10-17】

引言

堡壘最容易從內部被攻陷的，這與你是什麼態度無關。阿摩司先知從南國的牧場北上，來做北國的先知。當先知說真話的時候，必然會引起內部的紛爭。我們看第一點：

亞瑪謝控告

當人的權柄受到威脅時，自我防衛或是攻擊他人就成了大概率選項了。首先，祭司也有假的。祭司也有假的，有點不可思議，對吧？北國以色列的祭司從一開始就是假的，記得嗎？一百多年前的耶羅波安一世，就是北國的創始人，第一任國王，因為南北國分裂，不能到耶路撒冷獻祭，怎麼辦？就在撒馬利亞另外建一個祭壇，沒有利未人做祭司怎麼辦？就廢掉利未人做祭司的規矩，變成誰都可以做祭司，多方便啊！這與今天的教會也有異曲同工之美呀！我可是職場人士啊、我可是學者啊！怎麼能到文化水平低下的教會圈子里混呢？職場沒牧師，就找一個大牧師來按立吧！亞瑪謝是不是利未人，沒有關係，反正耶和華所立的規矩已經成了歷史文件了！

其次，政教如此勾連。阿摩司初來乍到，已經不受北國人待見了。亞瑪謝聽說阿摩司是來作先知的，心中已經略感不快。為什麼？因為祭司比較多地與政權相勾結，牽扯到錢，對嗎？以色列是一個政教為一體的結構，經濟來源往往是祭壇收入可能流入國家運作。所以，祭司往往與君王關係彼此相連、甚至相互勾連搭對、狼狽為奸、壞事做盡。阿摩司只對上帝負責，說出神感動他的話來：“因為阿摩司如此說、耶羅波安必被刀殺、以色列民定被擄去離開本地（摩 7:11）。”亞瑪謝一聽，這還得了，竟敢說我們北國以色列大王的壞話？於是吩咐人，說：“去！快向大王報告！”轉身對阿摩斯說，你這南蠻，哪來哪涼快去！

最後，上帝豈可輕慢。亞瑪謝是地頭蛇，當然是居高臨下地看著阿摩司。心想，這是哪裡來的小赤佬，說出話來毫無邊際、不管不顧的，真是不知死活！一個假祭司，一個真先知，背後的依靠也不同。假祭司依靠的是地上的君王，真先知依靠的是天上的君王。這位假祭司說：“你這先見哪、要逃往猶大地去、在那裡餬口、在那裡說預言。”用今天的話說，就是你這

牧師、傳道人，你還是走吧！不走？那我就用教會投票的方式來作決定，請你離開。這是去年發生在達拉斯某教會的事情，發生之後，教會的領袖們滿有氣勢地說，太好了，終於又把我們教會的牧師合法地趕走了！他們哪裡曉得，因著他們幾個人對上帝的輕慢，使得他們全體都一同陷在罪中。我們看第二點：

內心的黑暗

亞瑪謝心裏黑暗，行事為人也就光明不了。首先，行事黑暗的習慣。心裡想什麼，口中就會說什麼，手腳當然也會做什麼、行去何方！不要相信什麼刀子嘴、豆腐心之類的謊言。我們的傳統是因為無奈與無能，才編出謊話來自欺欺人。亞瑪謝遇到什麼事兒，就是耶羅波安二世那裡打小報告，已經是長久以來的習慣。甚至可能是今天見到阿摩司，還在關心他的生活來源問題。也會說：你這麼說一尊國王，可是有危險的呀！你還是快點逃到美國去吧！美國生存還是不難啦，只要肯幹，生活糊口應該還是可以的。但是，背後馬上就去耶羅波安二世那兒告黑狀，說，大王，不好了，有人正在妄議中央啦！有個南蠻在銅鑼灣二樓書店說你的壞話，威脅我們北國的大國夢！

其次，禁止攔阻神事工。亞瑪謝心裏黑暗，就不可能行神的道，而只能去禁止或攔阻神的事工了。他貌似對阿摩司很關心，說，你還是回南國去吧！這裡的事工不容易，而且還有危險，遭惹了一尊就沒命啦！在我們偉大的北國，有誰不怕一尊大帝呢！如果你還是要傳福音、做見證、說預言，就不要在我們祖國的偉大聖地伯特利說呀！伯特利是什麼地方呀？那可是先祖亞伯拉罕曾經獻過祭的地方啊！雅各也曾在這裡夢過天梯呀！現在更加是我們偉大北國的京城啊！阿摩司心平氣和地對亞瑪謝說：“我原不是先知、也不是先知的門徒（原文作兒子）我是牧人、又是修理桑樹的”。

最後，道貌岸然是虛假。阿摩司的意思是說，我雖卑微，原為牧羊人，甚至連生活費也要靠修理桑樹來補足。我雖然是你眼中的南蠻，卻是來完成耶和華交託的使命。你又為何來攔阻耶和華的事工呢？亞瑪謝說：你可別誤會呀！我這麼說，是“因為這裡有王的聖所、有王的宮殿。”你也知道，我們都看不見神，卻可以看見威脅我們生命存亡的君王啊！我亞瑪謝容易嗎？那可是伴君如伴虎啊！約十年前三自的頭，好像姓高，也是個牧師。來到達拉斯推廣

中國聖經展，宣傳中國的宗教是多麼地自由。我受委託與他同桌晚餐，問他：中國宗教自由嗎？他說：你我都懂的，我才是被共產黨逼迫的典型代表啊！我再問：那為何要代表敵基督來招搖撞騙、迷惑人呢？他無語。我們看第三點：

先知的分辨

既然信了主，就當為主而活，對嗎？既然是真信祂，就當效法主的樣式，為主而活！首先，視死如歸。從信主那一刻開始，死就不再作我的主！保羅說，再沒有什麼可以割絕我們與耶穌基督之間的關係了！他甚至坦然地對著死亡說：死亡啊，你的毒鉤在哪裡？成都秋雨教會的王怡牧師說出聖經的啟示：不信耶穌基督的就必然要滅亡，說錯了嗎？曹三強牧師不辭勞苦，在滇緬邊界建學校、啟民智、傳福音，卻遭抓捕入獄、判刑坐牢！現在的信仰環境已經日趨險惡，已經很不容易有正常的聚會了。如果沒有視死如歸的信仰態度，斷難堅持下去。

其次，領受呼召。耶羅波安必被刀殺、以色列民定被擄去離開本地。這是阿摩司先知開誠布公說出來的啟示，有問題嗎？如果不說真話，阿摩司會安全許多。也有人勸我，別說了，小心因言獲罪啊！我回答：死就死吧！作為一個領受了呼召的人，若能死在使命的道路上，是何等地榮耀啊！阿摩司十分清楚：“耶和華選召我、使我不跟從羊群、對我說、你去向我民以色列說預言。”我們都清楚，跟從羊群是安全許多的，跟從耶和華的風險就大了許多！阿摩司當然也會有掙扎，到底要不要說出神的啟示呢？

最後，說出啟示。終於，阿摩司下定了決心，對以色列人說：“所以耶和華如此說、你的妻子必在城中作妓女、你的兒女必倒在刀下、你的地必有人用繩子量了分取。你自己必死在污穢之地、以色列民定被擄去離開本地。”亞瑪謝聽完一定不高興，耶羅波安二世聽了也一定勃然大怒！去，到銅鑼灣將這廝綁回來聽斬！哪管你是南國的牧民，還是瑞典公民！正所謂一尊一聲吼，列國也要抖一抖！對吧？阿摩斯是明知山有虎，偏向虎山行啊！說了也就說了，結局在神的手中，不必害怕！唯有祂才是掌管生死的主，阿們！

結語

好，親愛的弟兄姊妹，今天這堂“內部的紛爭”之道，我就講到這裡。你聽見了什麼？你是否聽見假祭司與真先知之間的紛爭？你是否聽見先知與一尊大王之間的紛爭？你是否聽見

南北國之間的紛爭？你是否聽見人內心深處的紛爭？

我們一同禱告……

（摩 7:10-17）

7:10 伯特利的祭司亞瑪謝打發人到以色列王耶羅波安那裡、說、阿摩司在以色列家中、圖謀背叛你。他所說的一切話、這國擔當不起。

7:11 因為阿摩司如此說、耶羅波安必被刀殺、以色列民定被擄去離開本地。

7:12 亞瑪謝又對阿摩司說、你這先見哪、要逃往猶大地去、在那裡餬口、在那裡說預言。

7:13 卻不要在伯特利再說預言。因為這裡有王的聖所、有王的宮殿。

7:14 阿摩司對亞瑪謝說、我原不是先知、也不是先知的門徒（原文作兒子）我是牧人、又是修理桑樹的。

7:15 耶和華選召我、使我不跟從羊群、對我說、你去向我民以色列說預言。

7:16 亞瑪謝阿、現在你要聽耶和華的話。你說、不要向以色列說預言、也不要向以撒家滴下預言。

7:17 所以耶和華如此說、你的妻子必在城中作妓女、你的兒女必倒在刀下、你的地必有人用繩子量了分取。你自己必死在污穢之地、以色列民定被擄去離開本地。

Internal strife 【Amos 7:10-17】

INTRODUCTION

Fortresses are easiest to take from the inside, regardless of your attitude. The prophet Amos came north from the pastures of the southern kingdom to be the prophet of the northern kingdom. When a prophet speaks the truth, there is bound to be internal strife. Let's look at the first point:

AMAZIAH ACCUSES

When a person's authority is threatened, self-defense or attacking others becomes a

high-probability option. First of all, priests also have false ones. Priests have fake ones too, kind of weird, right? The priests in the northern kingdom of Israel were fake from the beginning, remember? Jeroboam I, the founder and first king of the Northern Kingdom more than a hundred years ago, could not go to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices because of the division of the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom. What should he do? Just build another altar in Samaria, what if there are no Levites as priests? How convenient it is to abolish the rules of the Levites being priests and make anyone able to be a priest! This is similar to today's church! I'm a professional, I'm a scholar! How can I get involved in church circles with a low level of education? If there is no pastor in the workplace, just find a great pastor to ordain! It doesn't matter whether Amaziah is a Levite, anyway, the rules established by God have become historical documents!

Second, politics and religion are connected. Amos has just arrived, and he is no longer welcomed by the northerners. When Amaziah heard that Amos was coming to be a prophet, he felt a little unhappy. Why? Because the priests are more in collusion with the regime, involving money, right? Israel is a structure where the state and the church are integrated, and the source of income is often the income from the altar may flow into the country's operations. Therefore, the relationship between priests and kings is often connected with each other, and even colluded with each other, and did all kinds of bad things. Amos is only responsible to God, and he speaks the words that God inspired him: "For this is what Amos is saying: " 'Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.' " (Amos 7:11)" When Amaziah heard this, how could this be? How dare he speak ill of our great king of the northern kingdom of Israel? So he ordered people, saying: "Go! Report to the king quickly!" Turning around, he said to Amos, you Southern barbarian, just go away!

Finally, God is not to be taken lightly. Amasia is a boss, so of course he looks down on Amos. He thought to himself, where did this little nobody come from, he speaks without borders and doesn't care, he really doesn't know what good or bad is! A false priest and a true prophet have different reliance. False priests rely on earthly kings, true prophets rely on heavenly kings.

The false priest said: “Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there.” In today’s words, You, pastor and minister, you should leave! not leave? Then I will use church voting to make a decision, please leave. This happened in a church in Dallas last year. After the incident, the leaders of the church said with great momentum, “great, finally the pastor of our church was legally expelled!” Little do they know that, because of the contempt of a few of them towards God, they are all in sin together. Let’s look at the second point:

INNER DARKNESS

Amaziah’s heart was dark, and his behavior was not bright. First, the habit of walking in darkness. Whatever you think in your heart, you will say what’s in your mind, and of course you will do the same, and go the same direction! Don’t believe lies like a sharp mouth and kind heart. Our tradition is because of helplessness and incompetence, we make up lies to deceive ourselves and others. When Amaziah encountered something, it was a long-standing habit to report to Jeroboam II. Maybe even seeing Amos today, he is still concerned about his source of livelihood. He will also say: It is dangerous for you to speak of a king like that! You’d better escape to America as soon as possible! It is not difficult to survive in the United States.

As long as you work hard, you should still be able to make a living. However, he immediately complained to Jeroboam II behind his back, saying, Your Majesty, it’s not good, someone is discussing the central government indiscriminately! There is a Southern barbarian speaking ill of you in the bookstore on the second floor of Causeway Bay, threatening our dream of a great country in the North!

Second, forbidding and hindering the work of God. With darkness in his heart, Amaziah could not practice the way of God, but could only prohibit or obstruct God’s work. He seemed to be very concerned about Amos, and said, you should go back to the southern country! The ministry here is not easy, and there are dangers, if you offend the emperor, you will die! In our

great northern country, who is not afraid of a great emperor! If you still want to preach the gospel, testify, and prophesy, don't say it in Bethel, the great holy place of our motherland! What kind of place is Bethel? That is the place where the ancestor Abraham once offered sacrifices! Jacob also dreamed of a ladder here! Now it is even more the capital of our great northern kingdom! Amos calmly said to Amaziah: "I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. (Amos 7:14)"

Lastly, sanctimoniousness is false. Amos means that although I am humble, I was a shepherd, and even my living expenses have to be supplemented by pruning mulberry trees. Although I am a barbarian in your eyes, I have come to fulfill the mission entrusted by God. And why do you come to hinder the work of God? Amaziah said: Don't get me wrong! I say so, "because this is the king's sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom." You also know that we cannot see God, but we can see the king who threatens our life and death! Is it easy for me? That's a companion like a tiger! About ten years ago, the head of the Three-Self, whose surname seems to be Gao, was also a pastor. Came to Dallas to promote the Chinese Bible Exhibition, and promote how free religion is in China. I was entrusted to have dinner with him at the same table, and I asked him: Is there religious freedom in China? He said: You and I both understand that I am the typical representative of being persecuted by the Communist Party! Again, I ask: Then why do you act on behalf of the Antichrist to deceive and confuse people? He was speechless. Let's look at the third point:

PROPHET'S DISCERNMENT

Since you believe in God, you should live for the Lord, right? Since you truly believe in Him, you should imitate the Lord's image and live for Him! First, take death calmly. From the moment I believed in the Lord, death was no longer my master! Paul said that nothing can separate us from Jesus Christ! He even said frankly to death: Death, where is your poisonous sting? Pastor Wang Yi of Qiuyu Church in Chengdu said the revelation of the Bible: Those who do not believe in Jesus Christ will surely perish. Is it wrong? Pastor Cao Sanqiang worked tirelessly to build

schools, inspire people's wisdom, and preach the gospel on the Yunnan-Myanmar border, but he was arrested and sentenced to prison! The current religious environment has become increasingly dangerous, and it is very difficult to have normal worship. If you don't have the attitude of taking death calmly by faith, it will be difficult to persevere.

Second, accept the calling. Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land. This is the revelation spoken by the prophet Amos candidly. Is there a problem? Amos would be much safer if he didn't tell the truth. 也 Some people also advised me, stop talking, and be careful not to be punished for speaking! I replied: If I perish, I perish! As a person who has received the calling, it is such an honor to die on the path of mission! Amos is very clear: "But the Lord took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'" We all know that it is much safer to follow the flock, but the risk of following the Lord is much greater! Of course, Amos also struggled. Should he speak of God's revelation?

Finally, speak the revelation. Finally, Amos made up his mind and said to the Israelites: "Therefore this is what the Lord says: " "Your wife will become a prostitute in the city, and your sons and daughters will fall by the sword. Your land will be measured and divided up, and you yourself will die in a pagan country. And Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.'" " Amaziah must have been unhappy after hearing this, and Jeroboam II must have been furious! Go, go to Causeway Bay and tie this guy back to listen to beheaded! It doesn't matter if you are a herdsman from the Southland or a citizen of Sweden! As the saying goes, "when a statue roars, all nations will tremble!" Right? Amos knows that there are tigers in the mountain, so he prefers to go to the mountain! Say it and just be it, the outcome is in the hands of God, so don't be afraid! Only He is the Lord in charge of life and death, amen!

CONCLUSION

Alright, dear brothers and sisters, this is the end of today's sermon on "internal strife". What did you hear? Have you heard the strife between the false priests and the true prophets?

Did you hear the strife between the prophet and a great king? Have you heard the strife between the north and the south? Do you hear the strife in the heart of men?

Let us pray.....

(Amos 7:10-17)

7:10 Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: “Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words.

7:11 For this is what Amos is saying: “ ‘Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.’ ”

7:12 Then Amaziah said to Amos, “Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there.

7:13 Don’ t prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king’ s sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom.”

7:14 Amos answered Amaziah, “I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees.

7:15 But the Lord took me from tending the flock and said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’

7:16 Now then, hear the word of the Lord. You say, “ ‘Do not prophesy against Israel, and stop preaching against the descendants of Isaac.’

7:17 “Therefore this is what the Lord says: “ ‘Your wife will become a prostitute in the city, and your sons and daughters will fall by the sword. Your land will be measured and divided up, and you yourself will die in a pagan[a] country. And Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.’ ”

夏天的果子 【摩 8:1-14】

引言

這是阿摩司第四個異象就是夏天的果子，這是一個比喻，意思是說，結局近了。因為夏天的果子存不久，若不及時食用，很快就會爛掉了。我們看第一點：

必不再寬恕

正所謂夏果顯異象，秋冬等春陽。若問結局事，回首望長江！首先，季節的反差。為什麼是夏天的果子？一到夏天，以色列五月份的氣溫甚至有可能超過攝氏 40 度。何西阿先知說：“我看見你們的列祖如無花果樹上春季初熟的果子（何 9:10）”春季初熟，夏天就熟透了。這也是為什麼神要先知看的原因。聖經說：“主耶和華又指示我一件事，我看見一筐夏天的果子（摩 8:1）。”神主動發出指示，要先知看，就一定有原因！因為這與季節並不符合，對不對？既然果子在春天已經是初熟了，就應該收呀！誰還等到果子熟透了才去收成呢？該收果子的時候，人都跑到哪裡去啦？

其次，看見了什麼？短短幾節經文，出現了三次看見。提了三次，就顯明其重要性！看見了什麼？原來是一筐夏天的果子，應該就是無花果。看見無花果，你會想到什麼？會覺得奇怪嗎？為什麼會春果夏收呢？今天在中國大地，你看見了什麼？從衛星圖上不難看見一行行送葬的隊伍，及等候火葬排隊的人龍。你看見了嗎？你是否看見這其中有多少還沒有聽過福音的人呢？這些還沒有信主的人啊，他們排著隊，要去哪裡呀？就是去地獄啊！你無感嗎？不但是在中國，就是全世界，也是如此啊！教會在做什麼？你我在等什麼？非要等到春果夏收嗎？晚了，爛了！

最後，夏果的結局。“夏天的果子”與：結局“都在同一節經文中出現，原文中是諧音字，表達雙關語。意思是說，夏天的果子在豫表著結局即將到來。什麼結局？先知也不兜圈子了，直言相告：“我必不再寬恕他們（摩 8:2）。”這裡的言下之意就是，我們一直都處於神的寬恕之中。但有一天，這種寬恕會有結局。今天，這種警告再次臨到我們身上。主再來已是不爭的事實，主必快來也已經是迫在眉睫之事，無庸置疑！阿摩司先知預演了夏天的果子，

你看見了嗎？北國以色列也在四十年之後，向我們展示了將要來到的結局。你還沒有看懂嗎？我們看第二點：

災難的降臨

災難的臨到，可能是我沒並沒有準備好的，對吧？但是，災難並不會考慮我們感受怎樣，它就那麼來了！首先，詩歌變為哀號。可能我們都想幸福，最好擁有健康，對吧？一位朋友發來一首歌：“祝祢健康”，歌詞大意就是“健康就是幸福”。我聽了就問：健康了，就幸福嗎？什麼是幸福？我們在文革時，唱完東方紅也倍感幸福。有人把毛主席像章別在肉上，然後告訴所有的人，他很幸福！我們都想不到的是，正當讚美偉大、光榮、正確的黨、偉大的毛主席的時候，林彪就摔死在蒙古的溫都爾翰了！這已是人世間的常態了！阿摩司在這裡預言，有一天，當神的子民還在殿中唱詩歌時，亞述帝國會揮兵南下，毀滅北國。那時，連國王與國民也被擄了，詩歌變為哀號也就成為現實。

其次，作惡必有後果。先知的話並沒有說完，他說，到那時，“必有許多屍首在各處拋棄、無人作聲。”這種屍橫遍野的光景，在歷史上並不少見。國共內戰時，林彪包圍東北的錦州，餓死幾十萬人。攻破錦州後林彪說：此役我是要遭報應的啊！他最後也終於如他所言，機毀人亡，與妻子葉群、兒子林立果同歸於盡，也算是一次小型的屍橫遍野。今天正在進行時的中華大地，無論是按照怎樣的百分比估算，都是一場浩劫行的屍橫遍野啊！從結果推原因，該會是造了多大的孽呢？你可以瞞報、也可以造假，但是，卻過不了神的眼目啊！該隱殺了亞伯，神問他：“你兄弟亞伯在那裡？”該隱就說了：“我不知道、我豈是看守我兄弟的嗎？”神就說了一句足以令世人戰兢的話：“你兄弟的血、有聲音從地裡向我哀告！”

最後，地在白晝黑暗。神說：“主耶和華說、到那日、我必使日頭在午間落下、使地在白晝黑暗（摩 8:9）。”這是神對人作惡之後的回應！你們這些要吞喫窮乏人、使困苦人衰敗的嗎？你們要用詭詐的天平欺哄人嗎？什麼？你們還要將壞了的麥子賣給人嗎？你們有錢存在瑞士，卻沒有錢買輝瑞的疫苗？外交部長去了一趟非洲，免掉非洲一千三百億債務，卻沒有錢擔當地方財政的欠款？說：誰的娃誰養！沒有錢，百姓就沒有錢看病入院治療，卻欺騙洗腦我的一個好友，說強國已經是全民健保了，他還信以為真了！知道嗎？你顛倒黑白，神就讓地在白晝黑暗！你覺得神是可以輕慢的嗎？我們看第三點：

審判的必然

什麼是審判？審判就是神的公義得到彰顯，神的旨意行在地上，如同行在天上。首先，節期變為悲哀。以色列是一個非常重視節期的民族，其中，比較大型及主要的是住棚節、逾越節、七七節等。原本過節是歡慶的時候，現在不行了。為什麼？因為你們行惡且罪大惡極呀！已經不是叫兩個女生跪在廣州街頭那麼簡單了，聖經說：“你們這些要吞喫窮乏人”！還彼此花口說：“我們好擺開麥子、賣出用小升斗、收銀用大戥子”。什麼是戥子？就是稱貴重物品所用的秤，如金、銀、鹿茸等。全民做核酸檢測，也是屬於這種薅羊毛、苛政猛於虎的手段。導致民不聊生、生不如死、器官移植、種族滅絕！已經是哀鴻遍野了，還要讓人去為他歌功頌德！

其次，飢荒降在地上。啟示錄中的四騎士，白馬瘟疫已經來了，紅馬戰爭或逼迫也來了，青馬死亡也來了，黑馬饑荒還會遠嗎？神對阿摩司說：“主耶和華說、日子將到、我必命飢荒降在地上。人飢餓非因無餅、乾渴非因無水、乃因不聽耶和華的話（摩 8:11）。”路得記中的以利米勒，住在應許之地的糧倉伯利恆，卻因國中遭遇饑荒，就帶領全家前往咒詛之地摩押。結果連累兩個兒子與自己客死他鄉、青山埋骨。接下來的日子，想顯而易見的經濟危機就在眼前，當作什麼準備？是憂慮還是聽神的話、信靠神？

最後，仆倒不再起來。阿摩司先知的預言講了約四十年後，咒詛終於降臨。亞述帝國真的來了，真的將北國給滅掉了，真的將國王與百姓擄走了！聖經說：“他們必飄流、從這海到那海、從北邊到東邊、往來奔跑尋求耶和華的話、卻尋不著（摩 8:12）。”當趁著耶和華可尋找的時候來尋求祂的面啊！鐵達尼號將沉之際，有誰在做醒禱告呢？當北國即將亡國之時，有誰在為她禱告守望呢？當今天是中國新年的第一天時，我們有誰在為她禱告求憐憫呢？聖經說得明白：“這些人都必仆倒、永不再起來（摩 8:14）。”這些人是誰？包括你嘛？包括你的親人嗎？包括你的朋友嗎？

結語

親愛的弟兄姊妹，夏天的果子，你嚐到了嗎？那可是一筐夏天的果子呀！吃得下嗎？彼得說：“萬物的結局近了，所以你們要謹慎自守、儆醒禱告（彼前 4:7）。”你禱告了嗎？你每天

寫靈修了嗎？你崇拜時做筆記了嗎？主日學提問題、參與討論了嗎？參與門訓了嗎？寫功課了嗎？參與教會的服事了嗎？

我們一同禱告……

（摩 8:1-14）

8:1 主耶和華又指示我一件事。我看見一筐夏天的果子。

8:2 他說、阿摩司阿、你看見甚麼。我說、看見一筐夏天的果子。耶和華說、我民以色列的結局到了。我必不再寬恕他們。

8:3 主耶和華說、那日殿中的詩歌變為哀號。必有許多屍首在各處拋棄、無人作聲。

8:4 你們這些要吞喫窮乏人、使困苦人衰敗的、當聽我的話。

8:5 你們說、月朔幾時過去、我們好賣糧。安息日幾時過去、我們好擺開麥子、賣出用小升斗、收銀用大戥子、用詭詐的天平欺哄人。

8:6 好用銀子買貧寒人、用一雙鞋換窮乏人、將壞了的麥子賣給人。

8:7 耶和華指著雅各的榮耀起誓、說、他們的一切行為、我必永遠不忘。

8:8 地豈不因這事震動、其上的居民不也悲哀麼。地必全然像尼羅河漲起、如同埃及河湧上落下。

8:9 主耶和華說、到那日、我必使日頭在午間落下、使地在白晝黑暗。

8:10 我必使你們的節期變為悲哀、歌曲變為哀歌。眾人腰束麻布、頭上光禿。使這場悲哀如喪獨生子、至終如痛苦的日子一樣。

8:11 主耶和華說、日子將到、我必命飢荒降在地上。人飢餓非因無餅、乾渴非因無水、乃因不聽耶和華的話。

8:12 他們必飄流、從這海到那海、從北邊到東邊、往來奔跑尋求耶和華的話、卻尋不著。

8:13 當那日、美貌的處女、和少年的男子必因乾渴發昏。

8:14 那指著撒瑪利亞牛犢（原文作罪）起誓的說、但哪、我們指著你那裡的活神起誓。又說、我們指著別是巴的神道（神原文作活）起誓。這些人都必仆倒、永不再起來。

Summer fruits 【Amos 8:1-14】

INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth vision of Amos, which is the fruit of summer. This is a metaphor, which means that the end is near. Because the summer fruit does not last long, if not eaten in time, it will soon rot. Let's look at the first point:

SPARE NO MORE

As the so-called summer fruit shows vision, autumn and winter wait for spring sun. If you ask about the ending, look back at the Yangtze River! First, the contrast of seasons. Why summer fruit? In summer, the temperature in May in Israel may even exceed 40 degrees Celsius. Prophet Hosea said: “when I saw your ancestors, it was like seeing the early fruit on the fig tree. (Hosea 9:10)” Early ripening in spring, ripening in summer. This is why God wants the prophet to see. The Bible says: “This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: a basket of ripe fruit. (Amos 8:1)” If God took the initiative to issue instructions and asked the prophets to read them, there must be a reason! Because it doesn't fit the season, right? Since the fruit is already ripe in spring, it should be harvested! Who waits until the fruit is ripe before harvesting it? Where did people go when it was time to harvest the fruit?

Second, what did you see? In just a few verses, “seeing” shows three times. Mentioned three times, it shows its importance! What did you see? It turned out to be a basket of summer fruits, which should be figs. When you see figs, what do you think of? Do you find it strange? Why are spring fruits harvested in summer? Today in China, what did you see? From the satellite image, it is not difficult to see the funeral procession line by line, and the queue of people waiting for the cremation. Did you see that? Do you see how many of them are people who have not heard the gospel? These people who have not yet believed in the Lord, they line up, where are they going? Just go to hell! Are you indifferent? Not only in China,

but also in the whole world! What is the church doing? What are you and I waiting for? Do you have to wait until summer to harvest the spring fruit? It's Late and is already rotten!

Finally, the end of summer fruits. "Summer fruit" and "end" both appear in the same verse. In the original text, they are homophones, expressing puns. It means that the summer fruit is a sign that the end is coming. What outcome? The prophet did not go around in circles, bluntly: "I will spare them no longer. (Amos 8:2)" The implication here is that we are always under God's forgiveness. But one day, this forgiveness will have an end. Today, this warning comes upon us again. It is an indisputable fact that the Lord will come again, and it is imminent that the Lord will come soon. There is no doubt about it! The prophet Amos previewed the fruits of summer, did you see that? Forty years later, the northern kingdom of Israel showed us what was to come. Haven't you understood yet? Let's look at the second point:

DISASTER STRIKES

When disaster strikes, maybe I'm not ready, right? But disaster doesn't take into account how we feel, it just happens! First, poetry becomes wailing. Probably we all want to be happy, preferably healthy, right? A friend sent me a song: "I wish you health". The contents of the lyrics are "health is happiness". After hearing this, I asked: Is it happiness if you are healthy? What is happiness? During the Cultural Revolution, we felt very happy after singing Dongfanghong. Someone put Chairman Mao's badge on his body, and then told everyone that he was very happy! What none of us could have imagined was that just as people were praising the great, glorious, correct party, and the great Chairman Mao, Lin Biao fell to his death in Undurhan, Mongolia. This is already the norm in the world! Amos prophesied here that one day, when the people of God were still singing hymns in the temple, the Assyrian Empire would march south and destroy the northern kingdom. At that time, even the king and the people were taken into captivity, and it became a reality that poetry turned into wailing.

Second, there must be consequences for doing evil. The prophet didn't finish his words. He said that at that time, "Many, many bodies—flung everywhere! Silence!" This scene of

corpses strewn all over the field is not uncommon in history. During the civil war between the Kuomintang and the Communist Party, Lin Biao besieged Jinzhou in the northeast and starved to death hundreds of thousands of people. After breaking through Jinzhou, Lin Biao said: I will suffer retribution for this battle! In the end, he finally did as he said, the plane crashed, and he died together with his wife Ye Qun and son Lin Liguo. This is considered as a small scene of corpses strewn all over the field. The land of China that is going on today, no matter what percentage is used to estimate it, is a catastrophe full of corpses! Inferring the cause from the result, how much sin must have been committed? You can conceal the report, and you can make a lie, but you can't pass the eyes of God! Cain killed Abel, God asked him: "Where is your brother Abel?" Cain said: "I don't know, am I my brother's keeper?" God said a word that could make the world tremble: "Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground!"

Finally, the earth is darkened by day. God said: "In that day," declares the Sovereign Lord, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. (Amos 8:9)" This is God's response to man's evil actions! Are you who devour the needy and bring down the afflicted? Will you deceive with deceitful scales? What? Will you still sell the spoiled wheat? You have money saved in Switzerland, but no money to buy Pfizer's vaccine? The foreign minister went to Africa and waived 130 billion debts in Africa, but without money to pay the debts of local finance? Said: it is your own responsibility! Without money, the people would have no money to see a doctor and be admitted to the hospital for treatment, but a good friend of mine was deceived and brainwashed, saying that a strong country is already a national health insurance, and he believed it to be true! Do you know? If you reverse true and false, God will darken the earth in broad daylight! Do you think God can be mocked? Let's look at the third point:

THE INEVITABILITY OF JUDGMENT

What is a judgment? Judgment means that God's righteousness is manifested, and God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven. First, turn your religious festivals into mourning. Israel is a

nation that attaches great importance to festivals. Among them, the relatively large and main ones are the Feast of Tabernacles, Passover, and Shavuot. The holidays used to be a time for celebration, but not now. Why? Because you have done evil, and you have committed great crimes! It is no longer as simple as asking two girls to kneel on the streets of Guangzhou.

The Bible says: “you who trample the needy!” “We may market wheat, skimping on the measure, boosting the price.” What is weigh with a small steelyard? It is the scale used to weigh valuables, such as gold, silver, antler, etc. Nucleic acid testing for the whole people is also a means of plucking wool and tyranny. Leading to people’s desperation, life is worse than death, organ transplation, genocide! Already there are mourners everywhere, and people still need to sing praises for him!

Second, famine fell on the earth. The Four Horsemen in the Revelation, the white horse plague has come, the red horse war or persecution has come, and the blue horse death has come, will the black horse famine be far behind? God said to Amos: “the granary of the Promised Land, “The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord. (Amos 8:11)” Elimelech in the Book of Ruth lived in Bethlehem, but because of the famine in the country, he led his family to Moab, the cursed land. As a result, his two sons died and were buried in a foreign country with him. In the days to come, the obvious economic crisis is just around the corner, so what should you prepare for? Is it worrying or listening to God’s words and trusting in God?

Finally, fell down and never got up again. After about forty years after the prophecy of the prophet Amos, the curse finally came. The Assyrian Empire really came, it really destroyed the northern kingdom, and it really took the king and the people away! The Bible says: “People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the Lord, but they will not find it. Amos 8:12)” Seek the face of the LORD while He may be found! When the Titanic was about to sink, who was watching and praying? When the Northern Kingdom is

about to perish, who is praying for her? Which one among us is praying for mercy for her when today is the first day of Chinese New Year? The Bible makes it clear: “ they will fall, never to rise again. (Amos 8:14)” Who are these people? Including you? Does that include your loved ones? Does that include your friends?

CONCLUSION

Dear brothers and sisters, have you tasted the fruit of summer? That’ s a basket of summer fruits! Can you eat it? Peter said: “The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. (1 Peter 4:7)” Have you prayed? Do you write devotionals every day? Did you take notes during worship? Have you asked questions and participated in discussions in Sunday School? Are you involved in discipleship? Did you do your homework? Are you involved in church serving?

Let us pray……

(Amos 8:1-14)

8:1 This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: a basket of ripe fruit.

8:2 “What do you see, Amos?” he asked. “A basket of ripe fruit,” I answered. Then the Lord said to me, “The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.

8:3 “In that day,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “the songs in the temple will turn to wailing.[a] Many, many bodies—flung everywhere! Silence!”

8:4 Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land,

8:5 saying, “When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?”—skimping on the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales,

8:6 buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the wheat.

8:7 The Lord has sworn by himself, the Pride of Jacob: “I will never forget anything they have done.

8:8 “Will not the land tremble for this, and all who live in it mourn? The whole land will rise like the Nile; it will be stirred up and then sink like the river of Egypt.

8:9 “In that day,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.

8:10 I will turn your religious festivals into mourning and all your singing into weeping. I will make all of you wear sackcloth and shave your heads. I will make that time like mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day.

8:11 “The days are coming,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “when I will send a famine through the land—not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord.

8:12 People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the Lord, but they will not find it.

8:13 “In that day “the lovely young women and strong young men will faint because of thirst.

8:14 Those who swear by the sin of Samaria—who say, ‘As surely as your god lives, Dan,’ or, ‘As surely as the god[b] of Beersheba lives’ — they will fall, never to rise again.”

憐憫與信實 【摩 9:1-15】

引言

這是阿摩司先知第五個異象，也是最後一個異象，就是最終審判及毀滅。這也使我有興趣去看看與阿摩司同時代、在南國猶大服事的以賽亞先知說：“若不是萬軍之耶和華給我們稍留餘種、我們早已像所多瑪、蛾摩拉的樣子了（賽 1:9）。”這也是阿摩司書最核心的信息。我們看第一點：

最終的審判

阿摩司先知將北國以色列最終被毀滅的結局宣告出來，令人驚訝。還有四十年才會發生的事情，現在就講出來，還不能使你儆醒禱告嗎？首先，偶像祭壇必被毀。試想一下，210年前，耶羅波安建國時，在伯特利建立拜偶像的祭壇時，曾幾何時會想到滅亡的結局呢？他不守利未人獻祭規矩的品性，自成一體、另起爐灶拜偶像，是在出賣他外表的敬虔。看啊！歷史上有許多不守規矩的人，為了追求所謂成功，為達目的不惜一切手段，其結局也一定是毀滅！北國設在撒瑪利亞的祭壇，神要擊打它的柱頂、震動它的門檻。以色列人心想，你是不是南國派來的細作呀？跑來這裡帶風向、製造假新聞？先知的心情沉重，說，耶和華神不是已經警告過你們了嗎？

其次，無所遁形當面對。神說：“不要往伯特利尋求、不要進入吉甲、不要過到別是巴。因為吉甲必被擄掠、伯特利也必歸於無有（摩 5:5）。”神的話並沒有停在這裡，乃是繼續說：“要尋求耶和華、就必存活。免得他在約瑟家像火發出、在伯特利焚燒、無人撲滅（摩 5:6）。”北國人不肯聽啊！罪人的本性是什麼？就是不聽且逃，像亞當一樣。不但逃，還躲，躲藏在遮不住身體的無花果樹下。有用嗎？先知說：“他們雖然挖透陰間、我的手必取出他們來。雖然爬上天去、我必拿下他們來（摩 9:2）。”犯了罪的人，除了坦然面對神、悔改歸向神，別無拯救、更無出路。

最後，降福降禍皆由神。在阿摩司先知時代的以色列人，彷彿對躲藏情有獨鍾，遇到什麼事兒就躲起來。他們想藏在山頂上、海底下，甚至還想將陰間給挖透。大衛說：“我若升到天

上、你在那裡。我若在陰間下榻、你也在那裡（詩 139:8）。”當以色列人犯的罪越來越多，所積攢神的忿怒也越來越多。神就藉著先知宣告，說：“我必向他們定住眼目。降禍不降福。”這是一種終局式、完結篇的審判。摩西的臨終遺言，說：“我今日呼天喚地向你作見證、我將生死、禍福、陳明在你面前、所以你要揀選生命、使你和你的後裔都得存活（申 30:19。”當人走到這個地步時，“降禍不降福”也就來到神子民的身上。我們看第二點：

頌讚的恩典

人在順境中來讚美神，似乎容易一點，會不會？在逆境中學習忍耐，好像也是一種無奈，有沒有？那麼，在咒詛中呢？還能仰望神、讚美神、感謝神嗎？這也是阿摩司先知很想表達的信息。首先，低谷頌讚是信心。此時此刻的以色列人，落在如此的光景，還有可能去讚美神嗎？耶和華的眼目不再是恩典的記號，耶和華的膀臂也似乎觸不到位。甚至先知說：“主萬軍之耶和華摸地、地就消化、凡住在地上的都必悲哀。地必全然像尼羅河漲起、如同埃及河落下（摩 9:5）。”即使以色列人離開埃及已經約 300 多年，對埃及尼羅河水漲落仍記憶猶新。這也是以色列人選擇讚美的起點、出黑暗、入光明的新生命！約伯一家在一天之內遭遇橫禍、投訴無門，但仍選擇信靠耶和華。很難，對不對？是，此時最重要的是信心。人非有信，不能得神的喜悅。阿摩司說：“那在天上建造樓閣、在地上安定穹蒼、命海水澆在地上的、耶和華是他的名。”

其次，普世大愛是觀察。我們今天會說，當我們看見基督被掛在十字架上的時候，就曉得何為愛了。這是神向世人啟示的制高點！在此之前的漸進啟示過程中，所羅門將神普遍啟示的奧秘向人宣告：“神造萬物、各按其時成為美好。又將永生安置在世人心裡。（永生原文作永遠）然而 神從始至終的作為、人不能參透（傳 3:11）。”阿摩司也提醒，說：“耶和華說、以色列人哪、我豈不看你們如古實人麼。我豈不是領以色列人出埃及地、領非利士人出迦斐託、領亞蘭人出吉珥麼（摩 9:7）。”神既然連外邦人都如此看顧，更別說對他自己的選民以色列人啊！

最後，存留選民是拯救。先知並不是單單說咒詛的話，也會說恩典、憐憫的話。他說：“主耶和華的眼目察看這有罪的國。必將這國從地上滅絕、卻不將雅各家滅絕淨盡。這是耶和華

說的（摩 9:8）。”這是神的恩典、咒詛中宣告的恩典！再過四十年，以色列人就將被擄到亞述帝國去了。但是，神會在你們當中保留餘數，使你們不至於滅絕淨盡！上面提到的古實人，就是衣索比亞人，或是埃塞俄比亞人。從 1984 年到 2014 年的 30 年間，以色列政府至少幫助了 16 萬“古實以色列人”回歸以色列，堪稱奇蹟！我們看第三點：

重建的應許

約伯經過神的管教，體會神所懲治的人是有福的。因為他打破、又纏裹。他擊傷、用手醫治。首先，以色列家被分散。神是不可輕慢的！即使是神的選民，你拜偶像就要為此付出代價。先知說：“我必出令、將以色列家分散在列國中、好像用篩子篩穀、連一粒也不落在地上（摩 9:9）。”耶穌基督來，對著彼得解釋了這句經文，說：“撒但想要得著你們、好篩你們、像篩麥子一樣（路 22:31）。”今天敵基督政權對教會的逼迫、抓捕神的僕人、酷刑神的子民，也如同撒但用篩子篩穀、篩麥子一樣，一個也不會放過。我們當中有些人想鑽空子、做牆頭草、與敵基督暗通款曲、一同包餃子時眉來眼去。你放心，在神面前“無一人能逃避、無一人能逃脫。”

其次，重建帳幕堵破口。還記得 2013 年發生在溫州、河南、安徽等地的拆十架、毀教堂運動嗎？有人說那一輪共毀了幾千座教堂，我沒有統計數字。但我知道，那裡的教堂被毀了、十架被拆了、王怡牧師、曹三強牧師等被捕入獄了。全球的基督徒都在為此禱告、流淚禱告！今天，神藉著阿摩司先知來安慰我們：“到那日、我必建立大衛倒塌的帳幕、堵住其中的破口、把那破壞的建立起來、重新修造、像古時一樣（摩 9:11）。”這破口也包括我們屬靈生命的破口、生命見證的破口，如今神都要來重建！

最後，被擄歸回神子民。主前 722 年，神就真的容讓亞述帝國來毀了北國以色列。主前 586 年，神又讓巴比倫帝國來毀了南國猶大。並且，他們都被擄、分散到列國中去。直到 1948 年 5 月 13 日，以色列復國。神也真的應驗了祂的預言：“我必使我民以色列被擄的歸回、他們必重修荒廢的城邑居住、栽種葡萄園、喝其中所出的酒。修造果木園、喫其中的果子（摩 9:14）。”

結語

感謝主！這一次，誰也不能再將他們擄走了。因為神藉著先知說：“我要將他們栽於本地、他們不再從我所賜給他們的地上拔出來。這是耶和華你的神說的（摩 9:15）。”這是一句聽見就感動、讀出來就落淚的話語！神的憐憫與信實，是何等地長闊高深！祂的慈愛直到永遠！我們一同禱告……

（摩 9:1-15）

9:1 我看見主站在祭壇旁邊。他說、你要擊打柱頂、使門檻震動、打碎柱頂落在眾人頭上。所剩下的人我必用刀殺戮。無一人能逃避、無一人能逃脫。

9:2 他們雖然挖透陰間、我的手必取出他們來。雖然爬上天去、我必拿下他們來。

9:3 雖然藏在迦密山頂、我必搜尋捉出他們來。雖然從我眼前藏在海底、我必命蛇咬他們。

9:4 雖被仇敵擄去、我必命刀劍殺戮他們。我必向他們定住眼目。降禍不降福。

9:5 主萬軍之耶和華摸地、地就消化、凡住在地上的都必悲哀。地必全然像尼羅河漲起、如同埃及河落下。

9:6 那在天上建造樓閣、在地上安定穹蒼、命海水澆在地上的、耶和華是他的名。

9:7 耶和華說、以色列人哪、我豈不看你們如古實人麼。我豈不是領以色列人出埃及地、領非利士人出迦斐託、領亞蘭人出吉珥麼。

9:8 主耶和華的眼目察看這有罪的國。必將這國從地上滅絕、卻不將雅各家滅絕淨盡。這是耶和華說的。

9:9 我必出令、將以色列家分散在列國中、好像用篩子篩穀、連一粒也不落在地上。

9:10 我民中的一切罪人說、災禍必追不上我們、也迎不著我們。他們必死在刀下。

9:11 到那日、我必建立大衛倒塌的帳幕、堵住其中的破口、把那破壞的建立起來、重新修造、像古時一樣。

9:12 使以色列人得以東所餘剩的和所有稱為我名下的國。此乃行這事的耶和華說的。

9:13 耶和華說、日子將到、耕種的必接續收割的、踹葡萄的必接續撒種的。大山要滴下甜酒。小山都必流奶（原文作消化見約珥書第三章十八節）

9:14 我必使我民以色列被擄的歸回、他們必重修荒廢的城邑居住、栽種葡萄園、喝其中所出的酒。修造果木園、喫其中的果子。

9:15 我要將他們栽於本地、他們不再從我所賜給他們的地上拔出來。這是耶和華你的神說的。

Mercy and faithfulness 【Amos 9:1-15】

INTRODUCTION

This is the fifth and final vision of the prophet Amos, the final judgment and destruction. This also made me interested to see the prophet Isaiah, who served in the southern kingdom of Judah at the same time as Amos, said: “Unless the Lord Almighty had left us some survivors, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah.(Isaiah 1:9)” This is also the core message of Amos. Let’s look at the first point:

FINAL JUDGMENT

The prophet Amos’ amazing announcement of the eventual destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel. Doesn’t the telling of something that will happen in forty years still cause you to watch and pray? First, the altar of idols must be destroyed. Just imagine, 210 years ago, when Jeroboam established his country and built an idol worship altar in Bethel, when did he think of the end of destruction? He did not abide by the character of the Levites’ sacrificial rules, and instead formed his own way and made a fresh start to worship idols, which was betraying his outward godliness. Look! There are many unruly people in history, in order to pursue the so-called success and do everything possible to achieve their goals, the end must be destruction! The altar of the northern kingdom in Samaria, God will strike its capital and shake its threshold. The Israelites thought, are you a spy sent by the southern kingdom? Come here to lead the way and create fake news? The prophet’s heart was heavy, and he said, Didn’t God warn you already?

Secondly, there is nothing to hide but to face it. God said: “Do not seek Bethel, do not go to Gilgal, do not journey to Beersheba. For Gilgal will surely go into exile, and Bethel will be reduced to nothing. (Amos 5:5)” God’s word did not stop here, but continued: “Seek the Lord and live, or he will sweep through the tribes of Joseph like a fire; it will devour them, and Bethel

will have no one to quench it. (Amos 5:6)” The people of the Northland won’ t listen! What is the nature of a sinner? Just don’ t listen and run away, like Adam. Not only did he run, but he also hid, hiding under the fig tree that could not cover his body. Is that useful? The Prophet said: “Though they dig down to the depths below, from there my hand will take them. Though they climb up to the heavens above, from there I will bring them down. (Amos 9:2)” People who have committed sins except to face God calmly, repent and turn to God, there is no other way to be saved, let alone a way out.

In the end, it is up to God to bring blessings and disasters. The Israelites in the time of the prophet Amos seemed to have a special liking for hiding, and they would hide when they encountered anything. They want to hide on top of mountains, under the sea, and even dig down to the depths below. David says: “If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. (Psalm 139:8)” As the Israelites sinned more and more, the wrath of God accumulated more and more. God then proclaimed through the prophet, saying: “I will keep my eye on them for harm and not for good.” This is a kind of final and concluded judgment. Moses’ last words said: “This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live. (Deuteronomy 30:19)” When people come to this point, “disasters but not blessings” will also come to God’ s people. Let’ s look at the second point:

GRACE OF PRAISE

It seems easier for people to praise God when they are in good times, isn’ t it? Learning patience in adversity seems to be a kind of helplessness, isn’ t it? So what about under the curse? Can you still look up to God, praise God, and thank God? This is also the message that the prophet Amos wanted to convey. First, the praise of the valley is faith. At this moment, in such a situation, is it possible for the Israelites to praise God? The eyes of the Lord are no longer a sign of grace, and the arm of the Lord seems out of reach. Even the Prophet said: “The Lord, the Lord Almighty—he touches the earth and it melts, and all who live in it mourn;

the whole land rises like the Nile, then sinks like the river of Egypt; (Amos 9:5)” Even though it has been more than 300 years since the Israelites left Egypt, the memory of the rise and fall of the Nile River in Egypt is still fresh. This is also the starting point for the Israelites to choose to praise, a new life out of darkness and into light! Job’ s family encountered unforeseen disasters within one day and had nowhere to complain, but he still chose to trust God. Very difficult, right?

Yes, the most important thing at this time is faith. Without faith, one cannot please God. Amos said: “he builds his lofty palace in the heavens and sets its foundation on the earth; he calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the land—the Lord is his name. (Amos 9:6)”

Second, universal love is observation. We will say today that when we see Christ hanging on the cross, we know what love is. This is the commanding height of God’ s revelation to the world! In the previous process of progressive revelation, Solomon declared to man the mystery of God’ s general revelation: “ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)” “Are not you Israelites the same to me as the Cushites?” declares the Lord. “Did I not bring Israel up from Egypt, the Philistines from Caphtor and the Arameans from Kir? (Amos 9:7)” Since God cares about the Gentiles in this way, let alone His chosen people, the Israelites!

Lastly, the retention of the elect is salvation. Prophets do not only speak words of curse, but also words of grace and mercy. He said: “Surely the eyes of the Sovereign Lord are on the sinful kingdom. I will destroy it from the face of the earth. Yet I will not totally destroy the descendants of Jacob,” declares the Lord. (Amos 9:8)” This is God’ s grace, the grace proclaimed in the curse! In another forty years, the Israelites will be taken captive to the Assyrian Empire. However, God will keep a remnant among you so that you will not be

completely wiped out! The Cushites mentioned above were Ethiopians, In the 30 years from 1984 to 2014, the Israeli government helped at least 160,000 “Cushites” return to Israel, which is a miracle! Let’ s look at the third point:

PROMISE OF RECONSTRUCTION

After being disciplined by God, Job realizes that those who are chastened by God are blessed. For he broke and bound up. He strikes and heals with his hands. First, the house of Israel was scattered. God is not to be mocked! Even if you are God’ s chosen people, you have to pay the price for worshiping idols. The Prophet said: “For I will give the command, and I will shake the people of Israel among all the nations as grain is shaken in a sieve, and not a pebble will reach the ground. (Amos 9:9)” Jesus Christ came and explained this verse to Peter, saying: “Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. (Luke 22:31)” Today’ s antichrist regime persecutes the church, arrests God’ s servants, and tortures God’ s people, just like Satan uses a sieve to sift grain and wheat, and will not let a single one go. Some of us want to take advantage of loopholes, being a fence-sitter, secretly communicate with the antichrist, and flirt with each other while making dumplings together. Don’ t worry, before God “no one can avoid, no one can escape.”

Second, restore the shelter and repair its broken walls. Do you still remember the 2013 movement to remove crosses and destroy churches in Wenzhou, Henan, Anhui and other places? Some people say that thousands of churches were destroyed in that round, but I don’ t have the statistics. But I know that the church there was destroyed, the cross was torn down, and pastors Wang Yi and Cao Sanqiang were arrested and imprisoned. Christians all over the world are praying and weeping for this! Today, God comforts us through the prophet Amos: “In that day “I will restore David’ s fallen shelter—I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins—and will rebuild it as it used to be. (Amos 9:11)” This breach also includes the breach in our spiritual life and the gap in our life testimony, and now God will come to restore it!

Finally, the captives of God's people returned. In 722 BC, God really allowed the Assyrian Empire to destroy the northern kingdom of Israel. In 586 BC, God sent the Babylonian Empire to destroy the southern kingdom of Judah. Moreover, they were all taken captive and scattered among the nations. Until May 13, 1948, Israel was restored. God has indeed fulfilled His prophecy: "and I will bring my people Israel back from exile. "They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. (Amos 9:14)"

CONCLUSION

Thank God! This time, no one can take them away again. For God said through the prophet: "I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them," says the Lord your God. (Amos 9:15)" This is a sentence that moves you when you hear it, and tears when you read it! How great and deep is God's mercy and faithfulness! His love is forever!

Let us pray.....

(Amos 9:1-15)

9:1 I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and he said: "Strike the tops of the pillars so that the thresholds shake. Bring them down on the heads of all the people; those who are left I will kill with the sword. Not one will get away, none will escape.

9:2 Though they dig down to the depths below, from there my hand will take them. Though they climb up to the heavens above, from there I will bring them down.

9:3 Though they hide themselves on the top of Carmel, there I will hunt them down and seize them. Though they hide from my eyes at the bottom of the sea, there I will command the serpent to bite them.

9:4 Though they are driven into exile by their enemies, there I will command the sword to slay them. "I will keep my eye on them for harm and not for good."

9:5 The Lord, the Lord Almighty—he touches the earth and it melts, and all who live in it mourn; the whole land rises like the Nile, then sinks like the river of Egypt;

9:6 he builds his lofty palace in the heavens and sets its foundation on the earth; he calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the land—the Lord is his name.

9:7 “Are not you Israelites the same to me as the Cushites?” declares the Lord. “Did I not bring Israel up from Egypt, the Philistines from Caphtor and the Arameans from Kir?

9:8 “Surely the eyes of the Sovereign Lord are on the sinful kingdom. I will destroy it from the face of the earth. Yet I will not totally destroy the descendants of Jacob,” declares the Lord.

9:9 “For I will give the command, and I will shake the people of Israel among all the nations as grain is shaken in a sieve, and not a pebble will reach the ground.

9:10 All the sinners among my people will die by the sword, all those who say, ‘Disaster will not overtake or meet us.’

9:11 “In that day “I will restore David’s fallen shelter—I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins—and will rebuild it as it used to be,

9:12 so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name,” declares the Lord, who will do these things.

9:13 “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills,

9:14 and I will bring my people Israel back from exile. “They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit.

9:15 I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,” says the Lord your God.