

Warnings of God (50 Minutes)
Amos 4:6-13, NKJV, 2023-11-12A, #1

Introduction: Today, I want to begin a series on “The Bible in Relation to Current Events.” If you do not believe that the Bible is relevant for today, read the Bible, put it down, and look around. When we know the Bible, we know what to expect (cf. Hosea 4:6; 2 Peter 3:18; Matthew 22:29; Luke 24:25-32, 44-46).

Today, I want to talk to you about what to expect when God warns a nation. We will examine God’s warnings to the Northern Kingdom of Israel recorded in Amos 4:6-13. Many Bible scholars believe that the events recorded in Amos 4 are judgments.

Some reasons I believe God is warning rather than disciplining or judging: (1) First, God warns before He disciplines or judges. God gave 120 years of warnings through Noah before the judgment of the flood (Genesis 6:3). The Southern Kingdom of Israel received over 40 years of warnings through the prophet Jeremiah. The Northern Kingdom of Israel received over 50 years of warnings through the prophets Amos and Hosea. (2) Second, the discipline or judging of the Northern Kingdom of Israel resulted in the Assyrian captivity (Amos 4:2-3, 12-13; 9:2-4; Isaiah 10:5-19). The disciplining or judging of the Southern Kingdom of Israel resulted in the Babylonian captivity (Jeremiah 25:10-12; Daniel 1:1-2).

- I. **Expect Famine When God Is Warning a Nation (Amos 4:6).**
 - A. Study the famines in the Bible and observe the relationship of famines to sin, discipline, and judgment.
 - B. Observe God’s purpose for the famine in relation to Joseph, Jacob, and Joseph’s family (Genesis 41:16-57; 46:1-7; cf. Genesis 15:13-19; 50:20; Romans 8:28).

- II. **Expect Unusual Changes in the Weather When God Is Warning a Nation (Amos 4:7-8).**
 - A. The weather is not controlled by “Mother Nature” but by “Father God.”
 - B. The Bible teaches that God is sovereign over the weather (Amos 4:7-8; cf. Genesis 6:17; 7:1-24; 8:1-19; Exodus 9:13-35; 10:21-29; 14:21-22; Deuteronomy 28:24; Joshua 10:11; 1 Kings 17:1; 18:41-46; 19:11-13; 2 Chronicles 7:13-14; Jonah 1:4-17; 4:8; Job 36:27-32; 37:1-24; 38:22-30; Mark 4:35-41).
 - C. Satan can cause storms with God’s permission (Job 1:18-19).

- III. **Expect Damage to the Food Supply When God Is Warning a Nation (Amos 4:9; cf. Deuteronomy 11:17; 28:18, 38-40, 42).**

- IV. **Expect Diseases When God Is Warning a Nation (Amos 4:10a).**
 - A. “Plague” translates the Hebrew masculine noun דֵּבַר *deber*, *deh’-ber*.
 1. Some of the meanings of “deber” are "epidemic, disease, destruction, death, bubonic plague, and pandemic."
 2. According to the Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon, “deber” occurs 49 times in the Hebrew Old Testament, called the “Tanach.” The Authorized Version or Old King James Version translates “deber” "pestilence" 47 times, "plague" one time in Hosea 13:14 and " murrain," which is a cattle disease, one time in Exodus 9:3.

3. These are the 49 versus where דָּבַר *deber*, *deh'-ber* occurs: Exodus 5:3; 9:3, 15; Leviticus 26:25; Numbers 14:12; Deuteronomy 28:21; 2 Samuel 24:13,15; 1 Chronicles 21:12, 14; 2 Chronicles 6:28; 7:13; 20:9; 1 Kings 8:37; Psalm 78:50; 91:3, 6; Jeremiah 14:12; 21:6, 7, 9; 24:10; 27:8, 13; 28:8; 29:17, 18; 32:24, 36; 34:17; 38:2; 42:17, 22; 44:13; Ezekiel 5:12, 17; 6:11, 12; 7:15; 12:16; 14:19, 21; 28:23; 33:27; 38:22; Amos 4:10; Habakkuk 3:5; Hosea 13:14.
 4. Study each occurrence of “deber” and observe (1) The connection of “deber” with God; (2) the connection of “deber” with God's warnings, with the disciplining of God, and with the judgments of God; (3) the connection of “deber” (pestilence) with famine, and sword (war).
- B. When a cure is found for one disease, expect another disease.**
- V. Expect Wars When God Is Warning a Nation (Amos 4:10b).**
- A. The “sword” means war.**
- B. God frequently used wicked nations to discipline His people and then God judged the nation that He used to discipline His people:**
1. God used the Assyrians to discipline the Northern Kingdom of Israel and then God used the Babylonians to destroy the Empire of the Assyrians (Isaiah 10:1-34).
 2. God used the Babylonians to discipline the Southern Kingdom of Israel and then God used the Medes and Persians to destroy the Babylonian Kingdom (Jeremiah 20:4-5; 34:21-22; Daniel 1:1-2; 5:17-31).
 3. God used Alexander the Great to destroy the Empire of the Medes and Persians (Daniel 2:24-45).
- C. Assignment: Read Deuteronomy 28 and then read The Book of Judges and notice the cycle in Judges:**
1. Rebellion or Disobedience,
 2. Retribution or Discipline,
 3. Recognition of Sins,
 4. Repentance of Sins,
 5. Rescue by God,
 6. Return to Rebellion or Disobedience.
- VI. Expect the Destruction of Cities When God Is Warning a Nation (Amos 4:11).**
- A. Expect some cities to be destroyed by fires, earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, tsunamis, and volcanoes.**
- B. God is sovereign over cities (Amos 3:6).**
- VII. Expect Everyone in the Nation to Suffer When God is Warning a Nation (Amos 4:6-11; cf. Jeremiah 25:8-11; Lamentations 2:20-22; 4:1-12; Daniel 1:1-7).**

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