



Lesson 4: Lord of All Nations (Amos)

SABBATH

⁸ The lion hath roared! Who will not fear? The Lord GOD hath spoken! Who can but prophesy?
⁹ Proclaim in the palaces at Ashdod and in the palaces in the land of Egypt, and say, “Assemble yourselves upon the mountains of Samaria, and behold the great tumults in the midst thereof and the oppressed in the midst thereof. ¹⁰ For they know not to do right,” saith the LORD, “who store up violence and robbery in their palaces.”

Key Thought: “Acts of inhumanity are sins against God and will be judged accordingly.”

** Which filter are we going to view this lesson with?? God angry because his imposed law has been broken, therefore, needing to punish his children in order to maintain order and holiness?? OR A parent concerned over the path chosen by His children that will ultimately lead to their destruction??
**

SUNDAY

Crimes against Humanity

In Amos 1, 2 some of the crimes listed are: Human trafficking, perpetual anger, killing pregnant women, dishonoring a treaty, disrespect of the dead, taking bribes, dishonesty, AND, in Amos 2:4,

“Thus saith the LORD: “For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof, *because they have despised the law of the LORD,* and have not kept His commandments; and their lies caused them to err, after which their fathers have walked.”

Did they despise the imposed law, or the Natural Law, the Law of Life itself??

At the end of the 3rd paragraph, the lesson states, “From God’s perspective, the person who assists and supports a crime, is as guilty as the person who commits it.” Any thoughts?? Is this correct?? Do we have any scripture to support or refute this statement?? Does it matter which filter we use??
Matt. 18: 5-7.

⁵ And whoso shall receive one such little child in My name, receiveth Me. ⁶ But whoso shall cause one of these little ones who believe in Me to fall, it were better for him that a millstone were hung about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ “Woe unto the world because of offenses! For it must happen that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh.



Consider this scenario: Two men in a moving van stop to ask you for directions to a specific address. You give them detailed directions and go on about your day. The following day, you see a news story that the people who live at that address were robbed of everything they own. You assisted the crime. Now what??

The 4th paragraph starts with, “ Because God is all-sovereign, He holds the destiny of all the world in His hands.” Is this correct?? Any scripture to support or refute?? Which Law construct was this statement made from?? Did God hold Lucifer’s destiny in His hands? Is there anyone, whose destiny, God does not hold in His hands?? Mine and Yours. He doesn’t make our choices for us.

I think the author is trying to say that eventually, God’s Will will be done on earth, “as it is in Heaven.” We have the **choice** to accept or reject. We have the **power** to accelerate or decelerate this process.

MONDAY

Justice for the oppressed

Is God a Socialist? Is the lesson’s author one?? What does “Social Justice” mean?? We hear a lot about it these days from political figures, who should remain nameless. Does God’s view about social justice differ from humanity’s??

In many cases means which should be devoted to the missionary work is diverted into other channels, from mistaken ideas of benevolence. We may err in making gifts to the poor which are not a blessing to them, leading them to feel that they need not exert themselves and practice economy, for others will not permit them to suffer. We should not give countenance to indolence, or encourage habits of self-gratification by affording means for indulgence. While the worthy poor are not to be neglected, all should be taught, so far as possible, to help themselves. {CS 166.1}

There are two classes of poor whom we have always within our borders—those who ruin themselves by their own independent course of action and continue in their transgression, and those who for the truth’s sake have been brought into straitened circumstances. {4MR 134}

In the 4th paragraph, the lesson states, “The Bible clearly teaches that social justice should be a **natural product of the gospel**.” I couldn’t agree more. Note: Natural product – Natural Law. Does it matter which Gospel??

TUESDAY

The Peril of Privilege

Are there any parallels between the Israel of Amos’ day, and present day SDA’s?? What privileges do we have in common??



Education, Higher socio-economic status, A unique understanding of scripture, Waiting on a messiah [1st vs 2nd advent], Knowledge of health laws.

Are SDA's honest in all of their financial dealings? Do we care for our worthy poor? Have we robbed God? Have we grown fat and lazy, like Sodom?

Read Luke 12: 43-51.

⁴³ Blessed is that servant whom his lord, when he cometh, shall find so doing. ⁴⁴ In truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. ⁴⁵ But if that servant say in his heart, 'My lord delayeth his coming,' and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink and be drunken, ⁴⁶ the lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him asunder and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. ⁴⁷ And that servant, who knew his lord's will and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. ⁴⁸ But he that knew not and committed things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required; and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more. ⁴⁹ "I am come to send fire on the earth, and what will I, if it be already kindled? ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how I am straitened till it be accomplished! ⁵¹ Suppose ye that I have come to give peace on earth? I tell you, nay, but rather division.

Is, as the lesson asserts, the principle taught, by our Savior: "when great privileges in life are abused, they will be replaced by great penalties"? Is this what really happens, first of all, and if so, why??

"God speaks to his people in blessings bestowed; and when these are not appreciated, he speaks to them in blessings removed, that they may be led to see their sins, and return to Him with all the heart." PP 470.

WEDNESDAY

Israel's Rendezvous with God

Read Ex. 20: 18,19.

¹⁸ And all the people saw the thunderings and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they removed and stood afar off. ¹⁹ And they said unto Moses, "Speak thou with us and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."

This was the first experience of Israel "meeting their God". What caused the fear?? Was Israel afraid of "meeting their God" in Amos' day?? Was there, perhaps a memory of that first meeting, passed down from generation to generation??



In the 3rd paragraph, the lesson states, “The people of Israel did not behave like normal people anymore, and God found it impossible to get their attention. Moreover, God’s judgments had resulted in the hardening of the people’s hearts.”

Any thoughts?

Refer to PP 470 above for some insight.

More insight. 19MR 181.1 (Manuscript Releases Volume Nineteen [Nos. 1360-1419])

Why were the eyes of the people blinded, and their hearts hardened? As they listened to Christ’s words and witnessed His miracles, they were convinced of His divinity. The Spirit of God impressed their hearts, leading them to say, This is indeed the Messiah, the One for whom we have looked, the Desire of all nations. **But they hardened their hearts, and refused to accept Him.** To a great degree, the priests and rulers were responsible for the people turning away from the truth to the maxims of men. And today the preachers of the people are following the footsteps of the priests and elders of the Jewish nation. **When conviction is trampled on, the light that has shone into the chambers of the mind grows dim, and the darkness of error takes the place of the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness.**

RH September 14, 1905, par. 7 (The Review and Herald)

Often the professed followers of Christ are found with hearts hardened and eyes blinded, because they do not obey the truth. Selfish motives and purposes take possession of the mind. In their self-confidence they suppose that their way is the way of wisdom. They are not particular to follow exactly the path that God has marked out. They declare that circumstances alter cases, and when Satan tempts them to follow worldly principles, they yield, and, making crooked paths for their feet, they lead others astray. The inexperienced follow where they go, supposing that the judgment of Christians so experienced must be wise.

CT 364.2 (Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students)

Let me tell you what I know of this heavenly Guest. The Holy Spirit was brooding over the youth during the school hours; but some hearts were so cold and dark that they had no desire for the Spirit’s presence, and the light of God was withdrawn. **The heavenly Visitant would have opened the understanding, would have given wisdom and knowledge in all lines of study that could be employed to the glory of God. He came to convince of sin and to soften the hearts hardened by long estrangement from God.** He came to reveal the great love wherewith God has loved these youth....

ST November 5, 1896, par. 10 (The Signs of the Times)

The Holy Spirit comes to convince of sin, and to soften hearts hardened by estrangement from God. It comes to reveal the love wherewith God loves us, and the possibilities that open



before every believing child of God. But are not some afraid of this heavenly guest? At times it comes with an all-pervading influence, but is it received? Do those to whom it comes bow before God with contrite hearts, pleading that they may be prepared to receive the blessings he is presenting to them? I entreat of all to receive this heavenly visitant as an abiding guest; for it will guide you into all truth, and give you joy and peace in the Lord.

What do the above passages tell us about who bears the responsibility of hardened hearts?? What do they tell us about God's relationship to hardened hearts??

Let's be very clear on this: Whether it's blessings given or removed, whether it's discipline given or protection from Satan's decided attacks on us, EVERY THING GOD DOES IS A REVELATION OF HIS LOVE FOR HUMANITY. Even "God's wrath" of LETTING THEM GO at the time of the final judgment is a revelation of God's love.

THURSDAY

The Pride that Leads to a Fall

This focuses on the book of Obadiah, and his prophecies regarding Edom [Esau's descendants]. Certainly, the Edomites treated their blood relatives poorly, and the lesson states, "Edom will drink God's cup of wrath, while the fortunes of God's people will be restored." Edom's "kicking Israel while they were down" is a revelation of character, of rejecting the Law of Life.

My question, regarding pride leading to a fall, is: Are SDA's proud of their day of worship, their education system, their health message, their diets, their knowledge of Scripture, especially prophetic Scripture?? Was there another group on Earth with these privileges that completely missed God's 1st Advent?? Are we in danger of missing the 2nd Advent due to misunderstanding God's character, and His Law, which is based on His character of Love??