

Pride Goes Before...

8.2.2020

Amos 6

Amos 6:1–14 (CSB)

6 Woe to those who are at ease in Zion
and to those who feel secure on the hill of Samaria—
the notable people in this first of the nations,
those the house of Israel comes to.

2 Cross over to Calneh and see;
go from there to great Hamath;
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.

Are you better than these kingdoms?
Is their territory larger than yours?

3 You dismiss any thought of the evil day
and bring in a reign of violence.

4 They lie on beds inlaid with ivory,
sprawled out on their couches,
and dine on lambs from the flock
and calves from the stall.

5 They improvise songs to the sound of the harp
and invent their own musical instruments like David.

6 They drink wine by the bowlful

and anoint themselves with the finest oils
but do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph.
⁷ Therefore, they will now go into exile
as the first of the captives,
and the feasting of those who sprawl out
will come to an end.

ISRAEL'S PRIDE JUDGED

⁸ The Lord GOD has sworn by himself—this is the declaration of the LORD, the God of Armies:

I loathe Jacob's pride
and hate his citadels,
so I will hand over the city and everything in it.

⁹ And if there are ten men left in one house, they will die. ¹⁰ A close relative and burner^c will remove his corpse from the house. He will call to someone in the inner recesses of the house, "Any more with you?"

That person will reply, "None."

Then he will say, "Silence, because the LORD's name must not be invoked."

¹¹ For the LORD commands:

The large house will be smashed to pieces,
and the small house to rubble.

¹² Do horses gallop on the cliffs?

Does anyone plow there with oxen?

Yet you have turned justice into poison
and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood—

¹³ you who rejoice over Lo-debar

and say, "Didn't we capture Karnaim
for ourselves by our own strength?"
¹⁴ But look, I am raising up a nation
against you, house of Israel—
this is the declaration of the Lord,
the GOD of Armies—
and they will oppress you
from the entrance of Hamath,
to the Brook of the Arabah.

Introduction:

A. Is pride really a big deal?

1. Almost all of us have moments where our pride shows up.
2. Maybe it is a moment when:
 - a. Someone gets recognized for the work you did.
 - b. Your opinion or idea is dismissed or ignored.
 - c. Pride keeps us from listening to advice, accepting discipline, and making the most of many of our situations.

B. The root of pride is sin.

1. **Pride is a symptom of our sin.**
2. The fall of Satan and Adam and Eve were due to their sinful pride.
3. ***The sin of pride has caused more deaths, ruined more businesses, wrecked more families, started more wars, and caused more pain than perhaps any other sin.***
 - a. And if we would drill down, we will find that at the root of sins like Adultery, Murder, Theft, and Idolatry is pride.

b. The writer of Proverbs is right when he said in Prov. 16:18: Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall.

4. I can't help but think that the LGBTQ+ movements theme is PRIDE.

a. To take pride in our sinfulness is not only a sin we practice today, but is very prominent in the life of Israel.

b. When we boast in our sin, we reap destruction.

C. Amos continues the theme of God's judgment upon His people.

1. Israel has mistreated the poor, made a mockery of justice, and ignored righteousness.

2. While they have openly oppressed those God had told them to protect, they have grown increasingly rich and prideful.

3. Amos 6 calls out Israel's complacency and pride and points to the judgment that ensues.

D. For us today, as we read this ancient message to ancient people, let us be mindful of how pride is still a major problem in our lives and in our world.

1. And I feel that the crux of today's simple message is:

2. If we continue in our pride-fulness, we will experience God's judgment.

1. Israel was prideful in her security.

A. The first verses of Amos 6 describe Israel's wealth and position.

1. She didn't believe that judgment or evil could touch her.

2. So instead of doing the hard work of repentance and reform, God's people spent their time building expensive creature comforts, inventing songs and instruments, and enjoying the finest parts of life.

3. Israel was comfortable, fat, and happy.

4. Their thought was: Why worry, I have all I need!

B. The truth for us today is: **Pride leads to false security.**

1. **False security leads to complacency.**

2. **Complacency makes us easy targets.**

3. Israel didn't realize that judgment was coming.

a. She didn't want to imagine that her comfortable existence would be over soon.

b. She had been lulled into a false security.

C. False security places hope and trust in places outside of God.

1. A great army provides a sense of security.

2. A gun, or self-defense teachings, or money in the bank can make us feel safer than we are.

3. We gain a sense of security when we practice avoidance or find escape from reality in frantic activity or addictive habits.

4. **But if your hope is placed in anything other than God's power and presence, you have a false sense of security.**

a. I think one of the lessons we are learning in this season is how fragile everything is.

b. Our health is fragile.

c. Our infrastructure is fragile.

d. Items we generally take for granted, like toilet paper and simple groceries, literally disappeared in a few days.

5. Complacency, pride, and false-security are threats to our way of life.

a. But they are absolutely deadly when it comes to our spiritual life.

b. Pride leads us to believe we are ok when we are anything but.

D. God responded to Israel's pride and complacency by declaring to Israel that all of the things she loved and trusted would be taken away.

1. Her feasting, her celebration, her comfort would all be removed in that day
2. It would be replaced with exile and slavery.
3. As we look to the future as described in Revelation, we see God doing this same thing in the Last Days.
 - a. Revelation depicts famines, destructive warfare, and the elimination of wealth and luxury in an apocalyptic scale.
 - b. Please hear me: Our sinful pride is leading people to hell and destruction.
 1. Jesus said this even about the religious people of His day.
 2. HE said that there would be those in the that day that had even performed miracles in Jesus' name and yet would not enter heaven.
 3. Israel thought she was good, but she was evil.

Israel was prideful in her security. Secondly:

2. Israel was prideful in her accomplishments.

A. Vs. 13 says "you who rejoice of Lo-debar and say Didn't we capture Karnaim for ourselves by our own strength".

1. Most of us here aren't familiar with these towns.
2. But Amos' audience was.

B. The name Lo-Debar means "Nothing".

1. Literally, it means nothing.
2. Picture this: God is saying you are rejoicing over nothing...

3. Pride causes us to rejoice over things that mean nothing or have no value.

C. So much of our time, money, effort, and talent is spent on things that have no value.

1. Pride leads us to boast of those things that have no eternal value and neglect that which does.
2. One of my favorite TV shows is American Pickers.
 - a. American Pickers features two guys who travel all over the US and search through people's barns and houses for hidden treasures and antiques.
 - b. Often, they are called to go through buildings full of stuff and junk left over after a loved one had passed away.
 - c. These are people who bought and accumulated stuff their whole life then passes it down to their kids.
 - d. But instead of the stuff being a blessing, it becomes a burden to the children.

3. Pride leads us to invest in things that become burdens down the road.

- a. I'm afraid that many of us, myself included, are investing in things that amount to nothing.
- b. And instead of repenting, we are boasting in the nothing.
- c. Lord, forgive us for boasting in nothing!!!

What is the antidote for pride?

3. We are called to humility, not pride.

A. The counterpart to pride is humility.

1. Throughout both the Old and New Testament, we are told of the benefits of humility.

2. [Pro 11:2 CSB] **2 When arrogance comes, disgrace follows, but with humility comes wisdom.**

3. [Pro 15:33 CSB] 33 The fear of the LORD is what wisdom teaches, and humility comes before honor.

4. [Philippians 2:3 CSB] 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.

5. [1Pe 5:5 CSB] 5 In the same way, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

B. Time and again, God invited Israel to repent and to practice humility.

1. This would be demonstrated by a change of heart.

2. They would repent.

3. They would put on sackcloth and ashes as a public expression of humility.

4. If Israel had turned away from their selfish pride, and had turned to God, she could have avoided much of her pain.

C. As I look at our nation today, I don't see humility and the wisdom that follows humility. Prov. 11:2

1. Instead we have become brash, arrogant, mean, inconsiderate.

2. Jesus said in **Matthew 24:12** "Because lawlessness will multiply, the love of many will grow cold.

a. A few weeks ago, the Lord upon my heart the word Lawlessness.

b. Turn on the news and we are watching lawlessness run rampant in our land.

c. And, along with that, "love is growing cold".

1. Love for God.
2. Love for humanity.
3. Love for our country and our rule of law.

3. When people put themselves first, pride ushers in God's judgment.

4. The Message God has for us today is simple:

A. **Pride brings judgment.**

1. Too often, our pride wants to complicate our response.

a. Well, I'll change when he changes.

b. I'll repent when she says she is sorry.

c. Pride demands that others change before I do.

2. Yet this morning, God isn't speaking this message to the world.

a. He is speaking to you and I.

b. He is calling US to repent of our sin and pride and to submit to Him.

B. Today, I want to invite us into a few moments of prayer.

1. My prayer needs to be: Lord, where am I living pridefully?

2. How do you want ME to respond?

3. This isn't about what someone said on Facebook, or what is going on in Portland or DC. It's about me humbling myself before the God of the Universe and saying, "Here am I, Change me!"