

Sermon Notes
National Presbyterian Church
January 20, 2019
850-700 BC Prophets

GOD'S EXPECTATIONS OF HIS PEOPLE

Amos 5:14-15

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said.

Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Hosea 6:1-3

"Come, let us return to the LORD; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; -- on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.

Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth."

Hosea 12:6

But as for you, return to your God: *hold fast to love and justice* (love neighbor) *and wait continually for your God* (love God).

Micah 6:6,8

⁶ "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to *do justice, and to love kindness* (love neighbor), *and to walk humbly with your God* (love God)?"

Amos 5:21-24

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

GOD SHARES HIS EXPECTATIONS *FOR INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY LIFE* IN TWO COMMANDMENTS

= **Love God, Love Neighbor** (Matthew 22:37-39)

.. Spelled out in **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS** ...

The Ten Commandments

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery

1. You shall have no other gods before me. (honest worship)
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol
3. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord
4. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy: (social cohesion, includes treating the poor and weak fairly)
5. Honor your father and your mother (social cohesion)
6. You shall not murder (violence)
7. You shall not commit adultery (sexual sins).
8. You shall not steal (inappropriate business dealings)
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor's (greed and air treatment of others)

GOD'S PEOPLE STRAY FROM GOD'S WAYS AND THE PROPHETS FORCEFULLY REMIND THEM OF Their Accountability & God's Grace & Standards

Hosea 11:1-4 (God's Grace -- first; But no response! Only idols)

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

*The more I called them, the more they went from me;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols.*

Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms;
but they did not know that I healed them.

I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love.

I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks.

I bent down to them and fed them.

Amos 3:1-2,10-12, 14-15 (murder, theft, covet)

¹ Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O people of Israel, . . . the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt:

You only have I known of all the families of the earth;

THEREFORE I will punish you for all your iniquities.

¹⁰ They do not know how to do right, says the LORD -- those who store up ***violence and robbery*** in their strongholds.

¹¹ **THEREFORE** thus says the Lord God: An adversary shall surround the land, and strip you of your defense; and your strongholds shall be plundered.

Micah 3:5 (Some prophets have been caught up in the corruption)

⁵ Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray, who cry "Peace" when they have something to eat, but declare war against those who put nothing into their mouths.

BUT SOME PROPHETS SPEAK UP:

Amos 2:6-8 (covet, theft, murder, adultery; callousness)

⁶ Thus says the LORD: I will not revoke the punishment (on my people Israel); because they

1. sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals—
2. they trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth,
3. and push the afflicted out of the way;
4. father and son go in to the same girl, so my holy name is profaned;
5. they lay down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge;
6. and in the house of their God they drink wine bought with fines they imposed.

Amos 5:11-15

¹¹ THEREFORE because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, even though you have

- built houses of hewn stone, you shall not live in them;
- planted pleasant vineyards, you shall not drink their wine.

¹² For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins— you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate.

Amos 6:4-7 (Sabbath)

⁴ Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall;

⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David improvise on instruments of music;

⁶ who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, ***but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!***

⁷ THEREFORE they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Amos 8:4-5, 11 (sabbath, covet, theft, false witness)

⁴ Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵ saying,

1. "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; (greed)
2. and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? (sabbath)

3. We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, (false witness)

¹¹ The time is surely coming, says the Lord God, when I will send a famine . . . of hearing the words of the LORD.

Hosea 4:1-3 (more than 50% of the Ten Commandments)

Hear the word of the LORD, O people of Israel; for the LORD has an indictment against the inhabitants of the land.

There is no faithfulness or loyalty (no love of God or neighbor),
and no knowledge of God in the land (no love of God).

Swearing, lying (false witness) ; murder (murder); stealing (theft),
and adultery break out. (adultery)

8. bloodshed follows bloodshed (murder) . . .

THEREFORE the land mourns, and all who live in it languish . . even the fish of the sea are perishing.

Micah 6:9-16 (covet, theft, false witness, murder)

⁹ The voice of the LORD cries to the city (it is sound wisdom to fear your name): Hear, O tribe and assembly of the city!

1. Can I forget the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked,

2. and the scant measure that is accursed?

3. Can I tolerate wicked scales and a bag of dishonest weights?

4. **our wealthy are full of violence;**

5. your inhabitants **speak lies**, with tongues of deceit in their mouths.

¹³ **THEREFORE** I have begun to strike you down, making you desolate because of your sins.

- You shall eat, but not be satisfied . . .

- You shall put away, but not save . . .

and what you save, I will hand over to the sword.

- You shall sow, but not reap . .

- You shall tread grapes, but not drink wine.

¹⁶ For you have kept the statutes of Omri

and all the works of the house of **Ahab (c. 850BC, Elijah)**,

and you have followed their counsels.

THEREFORE I will make you a desolation, and your inhabitants an object of hissing; so you shall bear the scorn of my people.
