

Amos 6 is like a divine wake-up call to a people who are comfortable, prosperous, and completely unprepared for the judgment that is about to fall on them. It speaks powerfully to any generation that is rich in material things and poor in spiritual concern.

1. At Ease When Judgment Is Near (Amos 6:1–7)

*“Woe to you who are at ease in Zion,
and trust in Mount Samaria,
notable persons in the chief nation,
to whom the house of Israel comes!”* (Amos 6:1, NKJV)

Amos now addresses both the Southern Kingdom (Zion/Judah) and the Northern Kingdom (Samaria/Israel). God pronounces a “woe” on those who are:

- At ease – complacent, comfortable, unconcerned.
- Trusting in Mount Samaria – banking on their strategic location, fortifications, and military strength instead of trusting the Lord.

Samaria was a brilliantly fortified city, perched on a hill with clever water engineering that brought water in from a distant spring. Humanly speaking, it looked safe, secure, and untouchable. But God was about to show them that no wall and no strategy can protect a nation that resists Him.

*“Go over to Calneh and see;
and from there go to Hamath the great;
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.
Are you better than these kingdoms?
Or is their territory greater than your territory?”* (Amos 6:2, NKJV)

God points them to other strong cities—Calneh, Hamath, Gath—that had already fallen. “Do you really think you are exempt? You are not stronger than those cities, and they were judged.”

*“Woe to you who put far off the day of doom,
who cause the seat of violence to come near;
who lie on beds of ivory,
stretch out on your couches,
eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the midst of the stall;
who sing idly to the sound of stringed instruments,
and invent for yourselves musical instruments like David;
who drink wine from bowls,
and anoint yourselves with the best ointments,
but are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.”* (Amos 6:3–6, NKJV)

Here is the picture:

- They push the idea of judgment far away in their minds—“Nothing bad is going to happen. Not in our lifetime.”

- At the same time, they bring injustice and violence near—they tolerate and participate in oppression.
- They live in luxury: ivory beds, soft couches, constant feasting on the best lambs and grain-fed calves, plenty of music, overflowing wine, expensive oils and perfumes.

But the key phrase is at the end:

“But [you] are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.” (Amos 6:6, NKJV)

“Joseph” here represents the people of Israel. The leadership and upper class are living in luxury, but they feel no grief over the spiritual and moral condition of the nation. They are numb to the suffering of others and blind to the fact that the nation is spiritually sick.

“Therefore they shall now go captive as the first of the captives, and those who recline at banquets shall be removed.” (Amos 6:7, NKJV)

The ones who are first in comfort will be first in captivity. Those who lie on couches at banquets will be the first dragged away in chains.

Application

- It is a dangerous thing to be comfortable when we ought to be broken.
- When prosperity makes us numb to sin and indifferent to others’ suffering, we are in spiritual trouble.
- God is not impressed by our standard of living; He is concerned with our standard of holiness, mercy, and humility.

2. God Swears by Himself and Announces Certain Judgment (Amos 6:8–11)

*“The Lord God has sworn by Himself,
the Lord God of hosts says:
‘I abhor the pride of Jacob,
and hate his palaces;
therefore I will deliver up the city
and all that is in it.’”* (Amos 6:8, NKJV)

In the ancient world, you would swear by something greater than yourself to confirm your word. There is nothing greater than God, so when He wants to underline the certainty of what He is saying, He swears by Himself.

Here He says:

- He abhors the pride and arrogance of His people.
- He hates their palaces – not because buildings are evil, but because these palaces are monuments to pride, gained and maintained with injustice.
- He will hand the city over with everything in it.

“Then it shall come to pass, that if ten men remain in one house, they shall die. And when a relative of the dead, with one who will burn the bodies, picks up the bodies to take them out of the house, he will say to one inside the house, ‘Are there any more with you?’ Then someone will say, ‘None.’ And he will say, ‘Hold your tongue! For we dare not mention the name of the Lord.’” (Amos 6:9–10, NKJV)

The picture is grim. The judgment will be so widespread that:

- When ten people are hiding in one house, all ten will die.
- Relatives will come to remove the bodies, one by one.
- Cremation or burning the bodies appears here as a practical way of dealing with mass death, not as a theological statement in itself.
- The fear will be so intense that they will say, “Do not even mention the name of the Lord”—as if even speaking His name will bring more judgment.

*“For behold, the Lord gives a command:
He will break the great house into bits,
and the little house into pieces.”* (Amos 6:11, NKJV)

The great houses (the mansions of the powerful) and the little houses (the homes of the common people) will both be hit. Judgment will be thorough and impartial.

3. The Absurdity of Their Injustice and False Confidence (Amos 6:12–14)

*“Do horses run on rocks?
Does one plow there with oxen?
Yet you have turned justice into gall,
and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood.”* (Amos 6:12, NKJV)

Amos uses common-sense images:

- Horses do not run on jagged rock.
- No one plows solid rock with oxen.

It would be absurd to do so—and just as absurd for God’s people to turn justice into poison and righteousness into bitterness.

They have taken what should be:

- Sweet (justice, righteousness),
- And turned it into something bitter and toxic.

*“You who rejoice over Lo Debar,
who say, ‘Have we not taken Karnaim for ourselves
by our own strength?’”* (Amos 6:13, NKJV)

They boast over their military victories and expansion:

- They rejoice over capturing places like Lo Debar and Karnaim.
- They say, “We did this by our own strength.”

They attribute their success to themselves, not to God. They are proud of their achievements, blind to their sin.

*“But, behold, I will raise up a nation against you,
O house of Israel,”
says the Lord God of hosts;
“and they will afflict you
from the entrance of Hamath
to the Valley of the Arabah.”* (Amos 6:14, NKJV)

From the far north (Hamath) to the southern lowlands (the Arabah), the entire land will be afflicted. Historically, this was fulfilled when Assyria invaded and destroyed the Northern Kingdom.

Their:

- Military pride,
- Economic security,
- Religious activity—

could not protect them from the God they had ignored.

4. Practical Application for Believers Today

Amos 6 is not just a history lesson. It is a mirror.

4.1 Beware of Being “At Ease” When You Should Be Awake

“Woe to you who are at ease in Zion...” (Amos 6:1, NKJV)

It is possible to be:

- Very comfortable and very far from God’s heart at the same time.
- Busy with life, busy with entertainment, busy with prosperity—and utterly unconcerned about our spiritual condition or the needs of others.

Ask yourself:

- Have I become spiritually lazy or indifferent?
- Do I feel more urgency about my comfort than about God’s kingdom and the condition of my own heart?

Comfort is not wrong in itself, but complacency in the presence of sin and suffering is deadly.

4.2 Do Not Trust Walls, Systems, or Strength More Than God

Israel trusted:

- Their geography,
- Their fortifications,
- Their political position,
- Their past success.

We can trust in:

- Bank accounts, insurance, and retirement plans,
- Technology and medicine,
- Political systems or leaders,
- Even religious institutions—

and quietly move our trust away from the living God.

The Lord is not against planning or wisdom, but He calls us to rest our confidence in Him alone.

4.3 Grieve Over Sin—Yours and Your Nation’s

“...but are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.” (Amos 6:6, NKJV)

They were more moved by:

- Their music,
- Their food,
- Their luxuries,

than by the spiritual and moral collapse around them.

God is pleased when His people:

- Grieve over injustice and cruelty,
- Are bothered by corruption and deception,
- Are broken over sin rather than entertained by it.

This does not mean we live in constant despair, but it does mean we refuse to be **numb** to what God calls evil.

4.4 Let Justice and Righteousness Shape Your Life

Amos repeatedly condemns:

- Exploiting the poor,
- Twisting justice,
- Taking bribes,
- Crushing the vulnerable.

Following Jesus is not just about private devotion; it is also about:

- How we treat people,
- How we handle power, money, and influence,
- Whether our lives reflect fairness, truth, and compassion.

The cross shows how serious sin is: Jesus had to shed His blood for our forgiveness. The resurrection declares that He is God, Savior, and Lord. That reality should shape how we live in every sphere—home, work, church, and society.

A Clear Challenge for Believers

If you belong to Jesus, Amos 6 challenges you to:

1. Examine your comfort

- Has comfort dulled your sense of urgency about spiritual things?
- Are there areas where you have settled into compromise because standing for truth would be uncomfortable?

2. Re-center your trust

- Have you started to rely more on human strength, institutions, or your own abilities than on the Lord?
- Take time to consciously place your confidence back in God—through prayer, obedience, and dependence on His Word.

3. Let God soften your heart

- Ask Him to give you a tender heart that feels what He feels—about sin, about injustice, about people who are far from Him.
- Ask Him to show you any way you have turned justice into bitterness or righteousness into something optional.

4. Align your life with righteousness and mercy

- Are you being fair, honest, and compassionate in your dealings with others?
- Is there any way you benefit from or ignore injustice when you could speak or act differently?

If the Holy Spirit is convicting you, do not resist Him. Turn to the Lord in honest confession. He is ready to forgive, cleanse, and restore you.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (First John 1:9, NKJV)

An Invitation to Non-Believers: Prepare to Meet Your God

Amos 6 lies in the flow of a book where God repeatedly warns a nation heading toward judgment. Those warnings still echo today.

Just as Israel had a “day of reckoning” with Assyria, so every person will one day stand before God. Scripture says:

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment...” (Hebrews 9:27, NKJV)

The problem is not just that we make mistakes; the problem is sin—our deep, inward rebellion against God and His ways. We cannot fix that by:

- Trying harder,
- Becoming more religious,
- Cleaning up our own act.

That is why God Himself took the initiative.

Jesus Christ:

- Came into this world as fully God and fully man,
- Lived a sinless life,
- Went to the cross and shed His blood to pay for our sins,
- Rose from the dead on the third day.

His resurrection declares that He is God, Savior, and Lord.

At the cross, the judgment we deserve fell on Him. Through His resurrection, He offers us new life—real forgiveness, reconciliation with God, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

You do not need to become religious to be saved—you need to come to Jesus in repentance and faith.

If you sense God drawing you, you can respond sincerely in your own words. A prayer like this can express your heart:

“Lord God, I admit that I have sinned and gone my own way. I cannot save myself. I believe that Jesus Christ shed His blood on the cross for my sins and that He rose from the dead and is God, Savior, and Lord. I turn from my sin and I put my trust in Him. Please forgive me, cleanse me, and make me Yours. Teach me to follow You from this day forward. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

If you truly turn to Jesus in this way, He will not turn you away.

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” (John 6:37, NKJV)