

# “AT EASE IN ZION”

## Introduction

- 1) **Amos** was a prophet sent to the northern kingdom of Israel (755 BC)
  - a) Announced the doom of the coming captivity of the unfaithful nation
- 2) In chapters 3-6, the Lord states the case against Israel – its sins and coming punishment
  - a) 5:1 – 6:14 – Two “Woe” Oracles against Israel
    - i) 6:1 – **“Woe to you who are at ease in Zion, and trust in Mount Samaria”**
- 3) God’s people were condemned for feeling “at ease [secure] in Zion”
  - a) What does this mean? And how would this apply to God’s people (the church) today?

## **I) Our God is a God of All Comfort**

### **A) 2 Corinthians 1:3-7**

- 1) God comforts us in our tribulations so that we may comfort others in trouble
  - 2) Sufferings and consolation abound in Christ; we are partakers of both
- B) God’s direction and discipline are comforting (Psa. 23:4)
- C) God’s word gives us comfort (Psa. 119:50; Rom. 15:4)
- D) Divine comfort helps us “in every good word and work” (2 Thess. 2:16-17)
- E) Unfortunately, some take careless “ease” in external, earthly things and fail to be alert and fruitful in the spiritual service of the Lord
- 1) The truth of God comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable!

## **II) The Problems Afflicting Those Who Are “At Ease in Zion”**

### **A) *Pride*** (Amos 6:1, 8)

- 1) Had an inflated view of themselves and their self-importance – lack of humility
- 2) God resists the proud (1 Pet. 5:5-6; 1 Cor. 1:26-31)
- 3) Those who exalt themselves will be disgraced (Lk. 18:9-14; cf. Amos 6:7)
- 4) Do not allow your earthly education, wealth, race, politics make you feel superior
  - a) Christians are not superior – we are *servants* who have benefited by submitting to the gracious plan of God that everyone needs (Matt. 20:26-28; 25:21, 40)

### **B) *Worldliness*** (Amos 6:4-6)

- 1) Beds of ivory, relaxation, fine food, music, drink wine from bowls, best ointments
- 2) Fancy and expensive things are not inherently wrong – depends on our attitude toward them and the effect of these riches on our life (Lk. 12:15-21)
  - a) If self-indulgent wealth defines who we are, then we have sold our soul (1 Tim. 6:17-19)
- 3) Worldly things can distract us from dealing with spiritual matters (Amos 6:6b)

### **C) *Indifference*** (Amos 6:6b)

- 1) “Not grieved for the affliction of Joseph”
  - a) Ignorance of truth/rejection of faithful preaching (3:10; 5:10; 7:16)
  - b) Oppression of poor and needy (4:1; 5:11-12; 8:4)
  - c) Immorality (2:7)
  - d) Vain worship/idolatry (4:4-5; 5:21-23; 8:14)
- 2) Tempting to be indifferent toward dangers and problems around us – “not bother me!”
  - a) We must be alert and ready for any error that would afflict the people of God (Eph. 4:14; 1 Pet. 5:8; Jude 3-4a); beware of a false sense of security (Rev. 3:17)
  - b) Voices of concern and opposition are *not* “troublemakers,” but help alert us to dangers!

## Conclusion

Israel was spiritually asleep while ignorance and error brought them down to destruction. What about us today? Are we “at ease in Zion” – full of pride, worldliness, and indifference? Our ease [comfort, security] must result from being faithful to God and loyal to the truth of His word.