

Attending Your Own Funeral

Will Peterson

Amos 5:1-17

5 Hear this word that I take up over you in lamentation, O house of Israel:
2 "Fallen, no more to rise, is the virgin Israel; forsaken on her land, with none to raise her up." **3** For thus says the Lord GOD: "The city that went out a thousand shall have a hundred left, and that which went out a hundred shall have ten left to the house of Israel." **4** For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel: "Seek me and live; **5** but do not seek Bethel, and do not enter into Gilgal or cross over to Beersheba; for Gilgal shall surely go into exile, and Bethel shall come to nothing." **6** Seek the LORD and live, lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel, **7** O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth! **8** He who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the LORD is his name; **9** who makes destruction flash forth against the strong, so that destruction comes upon the fortress. **10** They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks the truth. **11** Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but 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 turn aside the needy in the gate. **13** Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time. **14** Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said. **15** 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. **16** Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the Lord: "In all the squares there shall be wailing, and in all the streets they shall say, 'Alas! Alas!' They shall call the farmers to mourning and to wailing those who are skilled in lamentation, **17** and in all vineyards there shall be wailing, for I will pass through your midst," says the LORD.

To ignore the Lord's Word is to sign your own death certificate.

1. A lamenting Prophet (vv.1-3)
2. A call to live (vv.4-6)
 - a. Before the Lord carries out His judgement and justice there is always a time to repent.

- b. The God they thought was with them was about to break out on them like a fire if they did not repent as God was calling them to.
3. And indictment of sin (v.7)
4. The all-powerful God (vv.8-9)
5. And indictment of sin (vv.10-13)
6. A call to live (vv.14-15)
7. A lamenting people (vv.16-17)