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OT655: Amos (Eng Text OA: Spring 2023)

Professor: R. Russell Mack, Ph.D.

Written Assignment: Reading, Reflection, and Essay

Date: 03/13/2023

Lesson 7 Essay

First, list the book title(s) you read for Amos 4 and the respective pages.

Jeremias, Jorg, "The Book of Amos": A Commentary. The Old Testament Library. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1995. Pages 63 to 80.

Lessing, Robert Reed, "Amos" Concordia Commentary. Concordia Publishing House, 2009. Pages 285-298.

Second, in a few paragraphs of approximately 350 words total length, detail what you learned about these verses that were new, fascinating, or compelling to you. Focus on being specific about your learning and not the application of it (save that for the discussion posts).

Here in chapter 4, we hear for the second time (verse 1), "Listen to this saying." The prophet no longer addresses the entire family of Israel (verses 1-3).

The first comparison is drawn from the images so frequent in Amos, suggested by the herds. The cows of Bashan are not, as some have thought, the women of Samaria, in contrast to the "bulls of Bashan", the image of brute force; but here they represent a choice herd fattened in the plentiful pastures of the plateau of Bashan, beyond the Jordan. Their nourishment is the oppression of the weak and the crushing of the poor. The masters who graze them, their kings,

provide them with the means to satisfy their thirst for well-being. I believe that drunkenness, so often pointed out as one of the plagues of Ephraim, is not excluded from this image.

This whole passage refers to the material prosperity of Samaria and the excesses that accompany it, but this well-being is acquired at the expense of the weak and the poor whom it oppresses. More and more the ambition of men and their governors today tends towards material prosperity. The rich themselves form trusts to acquire billions, ruin all small industries and prevent them from living. States make immense and sustained efforts to acquire industrial preponderance over other nations and prevent their development. With material prosperity, excesses, and immorality increase and multiply. Moral reform is, despite appearances, entirely foreign to the minds of men, for the fear of God is not before their eyes. The Lord roars from Zion, and in an instant, all this prosperity is stricken with death. The holiness of God could no longer bear all this injustice. The days have come: terror falls on the maddened flock, which comes out en masse through the breaches, in inexpressible confusion, not knowing where its path leads it.

Third, identify at least one question that was not answered by your reading. This could become the topic of your research paper.

Is this not a vivid example of what is happening to us today?