

## Amos 5 1-17

**First, list the book title(s) you read for Amos 5 and the respective pages.**

Jeremias, Jorg. The Book of Amos: A Commentary. The Old Testament Library. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1995. P. 81-118 and constable note video.

**Second, in a few paragraphs.**

In chapter 5 we speak of the lament of the prophet. This lamentation compares Israel to a young girl who dies childless. Death lurks, importing young people. No one comes to their aid. This song of mourning for Israel puts Israel in a reflection of conversion. The announced catastrophe will perhaps not lead the people to convert. A faint Hope nevertheless remains open: very few will escape the disaster following verse 3. It announces a call before it is too late. The restoration of justice as well as the healing of the nation passes through the return to the Lord (Verse 4.6) which cannot be found in the rituals practiced in Bethel and Gilgal. One perceives in this criticism of provincial sanctuaries a tendency to centralize the cult of Jerusalem. The creator, the sovereign of the universe does not limit his presence and his action to any specific place. His speech, devoid of diplomacy, denouncing in broad daylight a shameless formalism and hypocrisy, ends up piercing the perfectly stratified shell of this artificial and sterile piety. He showed that, in the Temple and the many sanctuaries, these consumers of the religious sought, in the end, only their person by invoking God, from whom they wanted to snatch the favors. Meanly calculating, these worshipers were engaged, according to Amos, in the vilest of swindles: that which consists in peddling to the detriment of the honor of God.

The true Church offers signs of genuine vitality because it was designed and organized by its Supreme Head: Jesus Christ. Amos spoke out against the various counterfeits of popular religion that were flourishing in his time. However, where religion seemed to flourish, God

discerned, under appearances, a corpse in full decomposition. That is why his language was at times similar to a funeral song. He wept over the dead virgin of Israel, he said, prematurely, which meant the demise of the entire nation. He only saw ruins and extermination, with a tiny minority of survivors.

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

Why Israel does not change despite the warnings of the prophet Amos?