

Amos: Lesson 11 Homework

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1. Dr. Constable's Notes- pages 82-96
The Anchor Bible- Amos- A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary by Francis I. Andersen and David Noel Freedman- pages 799-849
2. In lesson 11 this week, the first fascinating thing I learned was how important God valued His peoples' hearts. "These people were scrupulous in observing the religious holidays, but their hearts were not in it" (Andersen and Freedman 805). The fall behind Israel's religiosity was not that their sacrifices were poorly executed but because they were never doing it for God in the first place. The Israelites would honor God with their hands and feet, but in their hearts, they would practice injustice and evil in their daily lives. "It is to be pointed out that such activities cannot exist without the passive acquiescence and ultimately the connivance of the authorities" (Andersen and Freedman 815). This is where the corruption lied. It was not an unconscious or accidental evil done in God's eyes, but it was a conscience and deliberate knowing of the wrongs they were doing. But they not only approved and continued to intentionally practice these sins. They would offer God sacrifices as if they were doing nothing wrong. And this atrocity started from the top down and from the bottom up.
It is important that Israel repented now and not later. "At that time in the future, when they finally stop listening to the written code, the Mosaic tradition, and they seek the word, they will not find it because the oracle has to be delivered by a prophet and there will be none" (Andersen and Freedman 824). In this downfall, it is pivotal that Israel repents now and not when it is convenient for them. When evil is being practiced, the best time to turn to God is not when it is most comfortable for the Israelites, but it must be done speedily. If God's Words are not heeded currently, "Now or in the future there will be no famine of food and drink, rather of listening and obeying, and that dearth will bring judgment" (Andersen and Freedman 825). The greatest tragedy is not being able to hear from God and have a genuine relationship with Him anymore. When the call to repent is not taken seriously, God will stay silent in the future.
3. How is a famine of God's Words seen in today's world?