



Amos 6.³⁻⁶—meditation

- ³Ye that put far away the evil day, obstruct the day of consequence
and cause the seat of violence to come near; promote a violent reign
⁴That lie upon beds of ivory,
and stretch themselves upon their couches,
and eat the lambs out of the flock,
and the calves out of the midst of the stall;
⁵That chant to the sound of the viol,
and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David;
⁶That drink wine in bowls,
and anoint themselves with the chief ointments:
but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.

Here, Amos continues his indictment of Israel's political leaders. They promote violent forms of governance and obstruct all attempts to hold them accountable for their personal and institutional crimes. As can be seen from their comfortable and profligate lifestyle, they have been extraordinarily successful at escaping justice. They recline on the most expensive divans as they feast upon the choicest cuts of meat while washing it down with copious amounts of the finest wine. In addition they are massaged with the finest lotions while live music fills the air. While the populace suffers, the political leaders' care nothing for the pain they cause as their daily lives remain unaffected by others' suffering.

It is difficult to read Amos' description of the moral depravity of Israel's power brokers without the thought forcing its way into our consciousness, "My goodness. This sounds an awfully lot like 2022 America. There is one big difference, however. Ordinary Israelite citizens were powerless to do anything about it. Today, American citizens can reject such depraved political leadership through the ballot box. Yet, we do not. We countenance their behavior, returning them to office over and over again, while we wish that we too could live the "good life"—in actuality an evil life masquerading as good—imitating them in whatever humble ways we can. In this way, Amos' ancient critique rest on all of us, not only the political elite.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

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