

# The Generation the Prophets Warned Each Culture Against

1. Amos (760 BC)
  - a. Spoke to other nations
    - i. 1:3-5 – Syria
    - ii. 1:6-9 – Philistia
    - iii. 1:9-10 – Phoenicia
    - iv. 1:11-12 – Edom
    - v. 1:13-15 – Ammon
    - vi. 2:1-3 – Moab
    - vii. 2:4-5 – Judah
  - b. 4:6-12 - Reviews the cycles of discipline
  - c. Sins:
    - i. Seeking religious answers, but not seeking God (5:4-6)
    - ii. Turn justice into bitterness; cast righteousness to the ground (5:7)
    - iii. Despise him who tells the truth and hate the one who reproves in court (5:10)
    - iv. You trample on the poor and force him to give you grain (5:11)
    - v. You oppress the righteous, takes bribes; you deprive the poor of justice in the courts.(5:12)
  - d. 5:13 – The prudent man keeps quiet in such times
    - i. This culture cannot change its course of events, so the prudent man waits in peace.
    - ii. The prudent man will be persecuted if he dare to step up the correct this culture.
  - e. The Lord hates their religious celebrations and assemblies (5:21-24)
  - f. 6:4-7 - The wealthy, ruling class and religious leaders do not bother to worry about the unraveling of cultural norms
  - g. 6:12 – ***“You have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into bitterness.”***
  - h. 8:4-8 – Crimes against society:
    - i. “trample on the needy”
    - ii. “bring the poor of the land to an end”
    - iii. Religious days are a burden because these days interrupt business – the people are corrupt, but yet very committed to their religion
    - iv. “make the ephah small and the shekel great” – simply means put less product in the package, but yet increase the price in the market.
      1. The ephah was a bulk measurement about half bushel, but shrinking.
      2. The shekel was the standard weight about 2/5 of an ounce, but here it was getting heavier.
      3. So, when the merchant measured out the grain (which was less) it would seem to have weighed more (since the weights were heavy) and the cost would go up.
    - v. “deal deceitfully with false balances”
    - vi. “buy poor for silver”
    - vii. “buy needy for a pair of sandals” – the price the poor were paying for food is the same price the poor were being sold for to pay their debt.

- viii. “sell the chaff of the wheat” – the chaff was the useless part of the stalk that was separated from the grain in the threshing process. In this case the wealthy merchants are selling the useless chaff as if it were the valuable grain.
  - i. 8:11-12 - **“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord God, “when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it.”**
2. Micah 735-700 BC
- a. Concerning his ministry to Judah, Jeremiah 26:12-17 states (600 BC):  
**“Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah. He told all the people of Judah, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: “‘Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.’ (quote from Micah 3:12) “Did Hezekiah king of Judah or anyone else in Judah put him to death? Did not Hezekiah fear the Lord and seek his favor? And did not the Lord relent, so that he did not bring the disaster he pronounced against them? We are about to bring a terrible disaster on ourselves!” - Jeremiah 26:12-17**
  - b. Situation:
    - i. The leaders and the wealthy have continued to destroy the middle class (the rural communities, farmers, shepherds, small businesses) with unjust legal practices and unjust business dealings.
    - ii. The middle class is now the poor and the oppressed.
    - iii. Religious leaders, the wealthy and political leaders work together to oppress the poor (formerly the middle class) of their privileges and possessions (particularly their land inheritance in their tribe.)
    - iv. Religion is not Truth, but the remains of empty covenant rituals combined with the local pagan religions
  - c. False prophets and religious leaders opposed Micah in Micah 2:6-7:  
**“ ‘Do not prophesy,’ their prophets say. ‘Do not prophesy about these things; disgrace will not overtake us. Should this be said, O house of Jacob? Has the LORD grown impatient? Are these his deeds? Do not my words do good to him who walks uprightly?’”**
  - d. Ruling class rebuked Micah 3:1-12:
    - i. Leaders – 3:1-4
    - ii. Religious Leaders – 3:5-7
    - iii. Leaders and Rulers – 3:9-12
  - e. Rebuke by the Lord in Micah 6:9-16
3. **Hamis** or *chamac* /kha-mase/ - “violence” “cruelty” “wrong” “injustice” “unjust gain”  
 – Refers to **social injustice** or **social violence**
- a. Genesis 6:11 – Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and was full of VIOLENCE
  - b. Isaiah 59:6 – “Their cobwebs are useless for clothing; they cannot cover themselves with what they make. Their deeds are evil deeds, and acts of **violence** are in their hands.”
  - c. Jeremiah 6:7 – “As a well pours out its water, so she pours out her wickedness. **Violence** and destruction resound in her; her sickness and wounds are ever before me.”

- d. Ezekiel 7:11 – “**Violence** has arisen, a rod to punish the wicked. None of the people will be left, none of that crowd— none of their wealth, nothing of value.”
- e. Ezekiel 7:23 – “Prepare chains! For the land is full of bloodshed, and the city is full of **violence**.”
- f. Ezekiel 8:17 – “He said to me, “Have you seen this, son of man? Is it a trivial matter for the people of Judah to do the detestable things they are doing here? Must they also fill the land with **violence** and continually arouse my anger?”
- g. Joel 3:19 – “But Egypt will be desolate, Edom a desert waste, because of **violence** done to the people of Judah, in whose land they shed innocent blood.”
- h. Obadiah 1:10 – To Edom: “Because of the **violence** against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever.
- i. Jonah 3:8 – “let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their **violence**.”

**THE HOPE and PROTECTION:**

2 Samuel 22:3 - my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior— from **violent** people you save me.”

Psalms 7:16 – “The trouble they cause recoils on them; their **violence** comes down on their own heads.”