

Retributive Holy Justice

In order to gain understanding, I've turned to "The Message" version of the Bible to help me through the final chapters (only 30 or so to go).

So today, it's pretty clear the Lord is talking about Retribution on the kingdoms that not only took their territories by force, but were highly abusive in doing so, rather than merciful.

Now comes the payback, as only the Lord can administer.

Amos 1 (MSG)

The Message of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa, that he received on behalf of Israel. It came to him in visions during the time that Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam II son of Joash was king of Israel, two years before the big earthquake.

Swallowing the Same Old Lies

² The Message:

GOD roars from Zion,
shouts from Jerusalem!
The thunderclap voice withers the pastures tended by shepherds,
shrivels Mount Carmel's proud peak.

³⁻⁵ GOD's Message:

"Because of the three great sins of Damascus
—make that four—I'm not putting up with her any longer.
She pounded Gilead to a pulp, pounded her senseless
with iron hammers and mauls.
For that, I'm setting the palace of Hazael on fire.
I'm torching Ben-hadad's forts.
I'm going to smash the Damascus gates
and banish the crime king who lives in Sin Valley,
the vice boss who gives orders from Paradise Palace.
The people of the land will be sent back
to where they came from—to Kir."
GOD's Decree.

⁶⁻⁸ GOD's Message:

"Because of the three great sins of Gaza
—make that four—I'm not putting up with her any longer.
She deported whole towns
and then sold the people to Edom.
For that, I'm burning down the walls of Gaza,
burning up all her forts.
I'll banish the crime king from Ashdod,
the vice boss from Ashkelon.
I'll raise my fist against Ekron,
and what's left of the Philistines will die."
GOD's Decree.

9-10 GOD's Message:

“Because of the three great sins of Tyre
—make that four—I'm not putting up with her any longer.
She deported whole towns to Edom,
breaking the treaty she had with her kin.
For that, I'm burning down the walls of Tyre,
burning up all her forts.”

11-12 GOD's Message:

“Because of the three great sins of Edom
—make that four—I'm not putting up with her any longer.
She hunts down her brother to murder him.
She has no pity, she has no heart.
Her anger rampages day and night.
Her meanness never takes a timeout.
For that, I'm burning down her capital, Teman,
burning up the forts of Bozrah.”

13-15 GOD's Message:

“Because of the three great sins of Ammon
—make that four—I'm not putting up with her any longer.
She ripped open pregnant women in Gilead
to get more land for herself.
For that, I'm burning down the walls of her capital, Rabbah,
burning up her forts.
Battle shouts! War whoops!
with a tornado to finish things off!
The king has been carted off to exile,
the king and his princes with him.”
GOD's Decree.

I would truly hate to be on the receiving end of the Lord's retribution. Mercy until the end is going to be our practice, even when it hurts like you-know-what to offer it because in both the short and the long run, it's not worth losing our righteousness in dealing with anyone, even our enemies, the world's way.

Just let the Lord handle matters of retribution, while we continue pressing forward into our anointing and into our greatest blessings. The best is surely yet to come!

I hope you have an amazing day!!

- Jack