

# Amos 2:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek: and a man and his father will go in unto the same maid, to profane my holy name:

## Analysis

Continuing the indictment of Israel: "That pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek." The phrase "pant after dust on the head" uses Hebrew imagery of extreme cruelty—they desired to see the poor in such distress they put dust on their heads (sign of mourning and humiliation). Israel's wealthy elite took pleasure in others' suffering. "Turn aside the way of the meek" means perverting justice, denying the vulnerable legal protection. The next clause is even more shocking: "and a man and his father will go in unto the same maid, to profane my holy name." This describes father and son both using the same young woman sexually—likely a servant or slave. This violated multiple laws (Leviticus 18:15, 19:29, 20:11) and profaned God's name by associating Him with such immorality.

## Historical Context

Israel's prosperity under Jeroboam II (793-753 BC) created massive wealth inequality. Archaeological evidence shows monumental architecture for elites alongside modest homes for common people. The wealthy oppressed the poor through debt slavery, corrupt courts, and economic exploitation. Sexual immorality accompanied social injustice—classic pattern when covenant restraints are abandoned. Both wealth and sex became idols.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How do social injustice and sexual immorality often accompany each other in cultures abandoning God?
2. In what ways does claiming God's name while living immorally profane that name today?

## Interlinear Text

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וְלֹא יַמְלֹךְ עַל הַשָּׂאָפָּה יְמִינָה עַפְרָה אֶרְזָה בְּרָאשׁ הַלְּמִינָה בְּרָאשׁ הַלְּמִינָה  
That pant H5921 after the dust H6083 of the earth H776 on the head H7218 of the poor H1800 the way H1870

עַל יְלִכּוֹת יְאָבֵד יְאָשָׁר יְטַבּוּ יְמִינָה  
of the meek H6035 and turn aside H5186 and a man H376 and his father H1 will go H413

בְּקַדְשֵׁי שְׁמָךְ אֶת לְמִינָה בְּקַדְשֵׁי הַמְּבָאָר  
in unto the same maid H5291 to profane H4616 to profane H2490 name H8034 my holy H6944

## Additional Cross-References

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**Amos 5:12** (Parallel theme): For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right.

**Isaiah 10:2** (Parallel theme): To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless!

**Ezekiel 22:11** (Parallel theme): And one hath committed abomination with his neighbour's wife; and another hath lewdly defiled his daughter in law; and another in thee hath humbled his sister, his father's daughter.

**1 Corinthians 5:1** (Parallel theme): It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

**Micah 2:2** (Parallel theme): And they covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.

**Micah 2:9** (Parallel theme): The women of my people have ye cast out from their pleasant houses; from their children have ye taken away my glory for ever.