

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

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

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

הַשְׂאֵפָ יִם	עַל	עֶפֶר	אֶרֶץ	בְּרֹאשׁ	יָלֵד יִם	וְדֶרֶךְ
That pant	H5921	after the dust	of the earth	on the head	of the poor	the way
H7602		H6083	H776	H7218	H1800	H1870
עֲנָוִים יִם	וְטוּ	וְאִישׁ	וְאָבִי	וְיָלְכוּ	אֶל	
of the meek	and turn aside	and a man	and his father	will go		
H6035	H5186	H376	H1	H3212	H413	
הַנְּעִרָה	לְמַעַן	לְחַלֵּל	אֶת	שֵׁם	קִדְשִׁי	
in unto the same maid		to profane		name	my holy	
H5291	H4616	H2490	H853	H8034	H6944	

Additional Cross-References

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.