

Amos 3:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For they know not to do right, saith the LORD, who store up violence and robbery in their palaces.

Analysis

They know not to do right (וְלֹא יָדְעוּ אֲשֶׁר-נִכְחָה, v'lo yad'u asot n'chochah)—The Hebrew יָדַע (yad'u, 'to know') implies not mere intellectual ignorance but moral corruption; they've lost the capacity to recognize righteousness. The word נִכְחָה (n'chochah, 'right, straight, honest') contrasts with their crooked dealings. **Who store up violence and robbery in their palaces** (הָאוֹצְרִים חֲמָס וְשׁוֹד בְּאַרְמְנוֹתֵיהֶם, ha'otz'rim chamas v'shod b'armenoteihem)—their wealth is 'stored up' violence (חֲמָס, chamas) and plunder (שׁוֹד, shod).

This indicts economic systems built on exploitation. Their palaces—symbols of success—are actually warehouses of injustice. James 5:1-6 echoes this: the wages of defrauded workers cry out to God. When injustice becomes normalized, people lose moral clarity entirely.

Historical Context

During Jeroboam II's reign (793-753 BC), Israel experienced unprecedented prosperity through military expansion and trade. The wealthy elite accumulated luxury goods through predatory lending, land seizure, and corrupt courts. Amos confronts this 'prosperity gospel'—wealth divorced from justice proves spiritual bankruptcy.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How might modern Christians 'store up violence and robbery' through economic systems we benefit from but don't examine?
2. What does it mean to lose the ability to recognize what is right due to cultural or economic complicity in injustice?
3. How can churches today avoid confusing material prosperity with God's blessing when it's built on exploitation?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא	יָדְעוּ	עֲשׂוֹת	נְכִיחַ	נֹאֵם	יְהוָה	הַאֲזִיכֵּם
H3808	For they know	not to do	right	saith	the LORD	who store
	H3045	H6213	H5229	H5002	H3068	H686
וְעָלְמוּ	וְשָׁדוּ	בְּאַרְמְנוֹתֵיהֶם:				
up violence	and robbery	in their palaces				
H2555	H7701	H759				

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 4:22 (Parallel theme): For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.

Zephaniah 1:9 (Parallel theme): In the same day also will I punish all those that leap on the threshold, which fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit.

Psalms 14:4 (References Lord): Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.

