

Amos 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Publish in the palaces at Ashdod, and in the palaces in the land of Egypt, and say, Assemble yourselves upon the mountains of Samaria, and behold the great tumults in the midst thereof, and the oppressed in the midst thereof.

Analysis

Publish in the palaces at Ashdod, and in the palaces in the land of Egypt— God summons pagan nations as witnesses against Israel's sin. The Hebrew **הַשְׁמִיעוּ** (hashmi'u, 'proclaim, announce publicly') demands widespread proclamation. Ashdod (Philistine city) and Egypt (Israel's former oppressor) represent notorious wickedness, yet even they will be shocked by **the great tumults** (מִיחוּמָת כְּבָזָת, mehumot rabot, 'great confusion/chaos') and **the oppressed** (עֲשֻׂקִים, ashuqim, 'the oppressed/exploited') within Samaria.

This is devastating irony: Israel, called to be holy and distinct (Exodus 19:6), has become morally inferior to pagans. When God calls the wicked to witness against His people, judgment is certain. Similarly, Jesus said Sodom and Gomorrah would fare better than cities that rejected Him (Matthew 11:23-24).

Historical Context

Samaria was Israel's capital, built by Omri (1 Kings 16:24) and famous for wealth and wickedness. By 760 BC, the Northern Kingdom's prosperity under Jeroboam II masked systemic injustice—the rich oppressing the poor while maintaining religious ritual. Archaeological excavations reveal luxury goods and elaborate architecture alongside evidence of extreme economic disparity.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How should it convict us when secular society recognizes injustice that religious people ignore or perpetuate?
2. What 'tumults' and 'oppression' might be visible in churches or Christian communities today?
3. Why does prosperity often blind religious people to their own sin and social injustice?

Interlinear Text

ארָמֵן וְתִּשְׁמַע עַל הַשְׁמָתִים יְהוָה
Publish H5921 and in the palaces at Ashdod H5921 and in the palaces H759

בְּאֶרְצֵךְ מִצְבָּה יְהוָה וְאָמַר וְאַסְּמַךְ עַל הַאֲסֵפָה
in the land of Egypt and say Assemble H5921 yourselves upon the mountains H2022

שְׁמַר וְיִרְאֶה וְמִהוּמָת בְּתִזְבֵּחַ בְּכִבּוֹת הַמִּתְּמֻמָּה
of Samaria and behold tumults the great in the midst H8432

וְעַשְׂוֵה יְהוָה בְּקָרְבָּהּ
thereof and the oppressed in the midst H7130

Additional Cross-References

Amos 4:1 (Parallel theme): Hear this word, ye kine of Bashan, that are in the mountain of Samaria, which oppress the poor, which crush the needy, which say to their masters, Bring, and let us drink.

Amos 6:1 (Parallel theme): Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!

Amos 1:8 (Parallel theme): And I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, and him that holdeth the sceptre from Ashkelon, and I will turn mine hand against Ekron: and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish, saith the Lord GOD.

Jeremiah 50:2 (Parallel theme): Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces.

Jeremiah 31:5 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt yet plant vines upon the mountains of Samaria: the planters shall plant, and shall eat them as common things.

Amos 8:6 (Parallel theme): That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the wheat?

1 Samuel 5:1 (Parallel theme): And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Eben-ezer unto Ashdod.