

# Amos 6:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Pass ye unto Calneh, and see; and from thence go ye to Hamath the great: then go down to Gath of the Philistines: be they better than these kingdoms? or their border greater than your border?

## Analysis

**Pass ye unto Calneh, and see; and from thence go ye to Hamath the great: then go down to Gath of the Philistines**—God commands Israel to examine three conquered cities as object lessons. Calneh (Assyrian Kullani) fell to Tiglath-Pileser III around 738 BC. Hamath (Syrian city) was defeated by Assyria circa 720 BC. Gath (Philistine city) had been conquered by Uzziah of Judah (2 Chronicles 26:6). **Be they better than these kingdoms? or their border greater than your border?** (הַטּוֹבִים מִן־הַמַּמְלָכוֹת הָאֵלֶּה, *hatovim min-hamamlachot ha'eleh*)—rhetorical question: if these great cities fell, what makes Israel think they're immune?

This confronts nationalistic pride and false security. Israel trusted in their covenant status, but covenant unfaithfulness removes covenant protection. If powerful nations fell to judgment, covenantbreakers will fare no better. Peter echoes this: 'judgment must begin at the house of God' (1 Peter 4:17).

## Historical Context

Amos likely prophesied this between 760-750 BC, before some of these cities fell—making it a genuine prophecy. Israel's complacency during prosperous times

blinded them to approaching judgment. They thought their election guaranteed safety, but election without obedience brings greater accountability (Amos 3:2).

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What forms of false security—national identity, church membership, religious heritage—do people trust instead of genuine faith?
2. How does examining other fallen nations or churches warn against presumption on God's patience?
3. Why do prosperous times often breed spiritual complacency and blindness to approaching judgment?

## Interlinear Text

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עָבַר וְ	כָּלְנָה	וּרְא וְ	וּלְכ וְ	מִשָּׁם	חַמָּת	כִּב
Pass	ye unto Calneh	and see	H1980	H8033	ye to Hamath	greater
H5674	H3641	H7200			H2574	H7227
וְיָרַד וְ	גַּת	פְּלִשְׁתֵּי יָם	הַטּוֹבִים	מִן	הַמְּמָלָכֹת	וְ
then go down	to Gath	of the Philistines	be they better	H4480	than these kingdoms	
H3381	H1661	H6430	H2896		H4467	
הָא לָהּ	אֲמ	כִּב	מִגְבֻּלְכֶם:	מִגְבֻּלְכֶם:		
H428	H518	greater	or their border	or their border		
		H7227	H1366	H1366		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Nahum 3:8** (Parallel theme): Art thou better than populous No, that was situate among the rivers, that had the waters round about it, whose rampart was the sea, and her wall was from the sea?

**Genesis 10:10** (Kingdom): And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

**2 Kings 18:34** (Parallel theme): Where are the gods of Hamath, and of Arpad? where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah? have they delivered Samaria out of mine hand?

**2 Chronicles 26:6** (Parallel theme): And he went forth and warred against the Philistines, and brake down the wall of Gath, and the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod, and built cities about Ashdod, and among the Philistines.

**1 Samuel 17:4** (Parallel theme): And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

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