

FROM DANGER TO DANGER

Amos 5:18-19 ... "Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! For what good is the day of the Lord to you? It will be darkness, and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him!"

The Israelites thought that they could negotiate with the enemy and prevent being taken captive. They expected God to honor them for compromising and to give them continued freedom. But, in the time of the Prophet Amos, God's people had drifted so far from God that he allowed them to be taken into captivity by the king of Persia (which, in today's world, is Iran).

Today's verse is a proclamation by the Prophet Amos' to God's people, that the day of the Lord was soon coming to punish them for their sins. In an earlier verse (15), Amos said, "Hate evil, love good; establish justice in the gate. It may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph." It was his advice that if they repented and turned from evil, God might still save them. But they did not turn away from evil, and God did not withhold his hand of judgment. Many of God's people were taken captive.

The "day of the Lord" is not something to look forward to by those who have rebelled against God. It is a day of judgment and punishment, not a day of celebration and triumph. Today's verse says that the day of the Lord will be darkness, not light. The illustration of running from a lion and being met by a bear, is a reflection of the problem Amos was warning the Israelites about. They were willing to negotiate with one enemy of God, to appease another enemy of God.

You cannot negotiate with God or his enemies, and you cannot compromise between your relationship with God and satan. The day of the Lord is coming for each of us. Do not be misled. You either honor God with your life, or you suffer the consequences.

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