

# Amos 5:13

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BIG SANDY, Texas—On Nov. 14, I began a series of articles about the book of Amos. The first article was titled "Overview of the Book of Amos."

Since that time, I chose to write about various verses from the book of Amos. This article will discuss Amos 5:13.

## **Reason for choosing**

Someone could ask: Why did you choose to write about Amos 5:13?

My answer: The time may come when Amos 5:13 is good advice for disciples to follow, so I thought that we should be aware of what it says.

## **Light of the world**

Before we read Amos 5:13, let's review an important Christian goal.

The Son of God instructed His disciples to be lights in this dark world.

*Matthew 5:14-16*—"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp-stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

## **A time for Amos 5:13**

Although it is important for disciples to reflect the light of God, they should not ignore the valuable piece of advice found in Amos 5:13.

*Amos 5:13*—"Therefore the prudent keep silent at that time, for it is an evil time."

## **An act of a coward?**

There are some people who have an aversion to keeping quiet. In their mind, they believe that a Christian should always be willing to speak up. In fact, they believe that the absence of speaking up is the act of a coward.

Would you call the Son of God a coward if you found out that He hid from people?

■ John 8:59—When the crowd took up stones to throw at Him, He hid Himself and went out of the temple—going through the middle of the crowd.

■ John 10:39-40—When the crowd sought to seize Him again, He escaped out of their hand and went into the remote area beyond Jordan to the place where John was baptizing people.

- John 12:36—After He spoke to them, He departed and was hidden from them.

Why did the Son of God hide? He was not a coward. But it was not His time to assert Himself.

### **Talkative and silent**

It is interesting to see how the Son of God could be talkative at times and silent at other times.

- Some of His more-talkative times were Matthew 23:1-39 and John 8:12-58.
- Some of His more-silent times were Luke 23:1-9 and 1 Peter 2:19-25.

### Characteristics of the time

Looking back to Amos, let's notice the characteristics of the evil time during the time of Amos.

*Amos 5:10-12*—"They hate the one who rebukes in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks uprightly. Therefore, because you tread down the poor and take grain taxes from him, though you have built houses of hewn stone, yet you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink wine from them. For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: afflicting the just and taking bribes; diverting the poor from justice at the gate."

### **Valuable advice**

Notice God's words of valuable advice during the time of Amos.

*Amos 5:14-15*—"Seek good and not evil, that you may live; so the LORD God of hosts will be with you, as you have spoken. 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."