

Amos 5:21

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 12, 2020.

By Dave Havir

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 5:21.

Reason for choosing

Someone could ask: Why did you choose to write about Amos 5:21?

My answer: I wanted to address some wrong conclusions that people develop from this verse.

Let’s see what Amos 5:21 says.

Amos 5:21—“I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies.”

Erroneous conclusions

Notice two erroneous conclusions.

- Some religious people say that Amos 5:21 shows God denouncing popular holidays created by mankind.
- Other religious people say that Amos 5:21 shows God desires for people to quit observing His feast days.
- First, I believe that God was talking about His feast days.
- Second, I believe that God was focusing upon their behavior—sometimes even at His feast days.

His feast days

Let’s look at some verses that influence me to believe that God was talking about His feast days (including the Sabbath).

Amos 5:21-23—“I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies. Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. Take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments.”

Isaiah 1:11-14—"To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?" says the LORD. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs or goats. When you come to appear before Me, who has required this from your hand, to trample My courts? Bring no more futile sacrifices; incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; they are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them."

Their behavior

- I believe that God was saying that their observing His feast days (including the Sabbath) was not enough to excuse some of their other behavior.
- What was the behavior of the people that displeased God?

In the book of Amos, God mentioned two general characteristics (justice and righteousness) that He wanted to see.

Amos 5:24—"But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream."

In the book of Isaiah, God mentioned a specific behavior of the people that displeased Him.

Isaiah 1:15—"When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood."

Important lesson

Did you notice that last sentence in Isaiah 1:15? God wasn't happy with their Sabbath worship because their hands were full of blood.

He said that their keeping the Fourth Commandment was not enough to please Him. Why? They were violating the Sixth Commandment.

Keeping the Fourth Commandment did not excuse people when they broke the other nine Commandments. God loves all His Commandments.