

Amos 6:3–6

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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 6:3-6.

Reason for choosing

Someone could ask: Why did you choose to write about Amos 6:3-6?

My answer: I wanted to remind friends about God’s view concerning rulers who are more interested in obtaining power and money instead of serving people.

Negative characteristics

Notice the negative behavior described in Amos 6:3-6.

Amos 6:3-6—“Woe to you who put far off the day of doom, who cause the seat of violence to come near; who lie on beds of ivory, stretch out on your couches, eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall; who sing idly to the sound of stringed instruments, and invent for yourselves musical instruments like David; who drink wine from bowls, and anoint yourselves with the best ointments, but are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.”

Civil rulers

Bible students are aware of examples in the Bible concerning civil rulers who don’t truly serve the people. Notice God’s warning to Samuel.

1 Samuel 8:11-17—“And he said, ‘This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants.’”

Religious rulers

Bible students are also aware of examples in the Bible concerning religious rulers who don't truly serve the people. Notice a few examples in the New Testament.

Matthew 23:4—"For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers."

Matthew 23:13—"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in."

Matthew 23:15—"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves."

Example of the Son of God

The Son of God taught a different way of helping people. Notice what He taught His disciples about leadership.

Matthew 20:25-28—"But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.' "