

THE GROWTH OF PROPHECY IN TERMS OF SIN & PUNISHMENT

WHAT IS SIN?

HOW IS IT PUNISHED?

WHAT DOES G*D WANT?

**ACCORDING TO
AMOS**

INJUSTICE & SIN INCURS PUNISHMENT

OPPRESSION SIN ALSO IS PUNISHMENT

You **silenced** the prophets (2:12). YAHWEH will be **silent**:

“a famine . . . of hearing the words of the LORD” (8:11)

PUNISHMENT IS INEVITABLE DESTRUCTION

G*D DEMANDS OBEDIENCE

(NOT SACRIFICE)

& JUSTICE

WHAT IS SIN?

HOW IS IT PUNISHED?

WHAT DOES G*D WANT?

**ACCORDING TO
HOSEA?**

**IGNORANCE & SIN IS PUNISHMENT
FAITHLESSNESS**

**PUNISHMENT CLEANSSES & SOFTENS
ALLOWS FAITHFUL ISRAEL TO RESPOND TO
GOD'S *CHESED* (UNDYING LOVE)**

The LORD wants **chesed, not SACRIFICE;
knowledge, not burnt offerings. (6:6)**

***CHESED* =
FIDELITY – MERCY – LOVING KINDNESS**

A PROPHET

(Heb. *navi*, from *nava*, 'to speak' [by inspiration])

is one who **speaks (with/for) G*d.**

For Hosea, what the prophet speaks is

G*d's UNDYING LOVE

(*CHESED*)

So PROPHECY is also (ultimately)
GOOD NEWS
BUT FIRST THE BAD NEWS

1st ISAIAH
(Chapters 1-39)

WHAT IS SIN?

HOW IS IT PUNISHED?

WHAT DOES G*D WANT?

IDOLATRY
(FALSE WORSHIP)

PUNISHMENT IS SLAVERY
& **PURIFICATION**

“I will smelt away your dross as with lye
and remove all your alloy” (1:25).

YAHWEH wants Justice, Faithfulness
& Freedom

RECAPITULATING & REWORKING PROPHETIC THEMES

SACRIFICE is useless (= IDOLATRY)

I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of fed beasts;

I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats. . . .

When you stretch out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;

your hands are full of blood. (1:11, 15)

WHAT G*D WANTS IS NOT SACRIFICE BUT RIGHTEOUSNESS

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your doings

from before my eyes;
cease to do evil,

learn to do good;
seek justice,

rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan,

plead for the widow. (1:16-17)

G*D REJECTS EMPTY “CLEANSING” RITUAL
IN FAVOR OF
VOLUNTARY OBEDIENCE,
IN & THROUGH WHICH
WE FREE OURSELVES
FROM THAT WHICH ENSLAVES US:

Come now, let us reason together [KJB],

says the LORD:

though your sins are like scarlet,

they shall be like snow?

though they are red like crimson,

they shall become like wool?

[NO! Only] if you are **willing and obedient**,

you shall eat the good of the land; (16-19)

HOW DO WE FREE OURSELVES?

[YAHWEH] said [to Isaiah],
“Go and say to this people:
‘Keep listening,
 but do not comprehend;
keep looking,
 but do not understand.’
Make the mind of this people dull,
 and stop their ears,
 and shut their eyes,
so that **they may not** look with their eyes,
 and listen with their ears,
 and comprehend with their minds,
 and turn and **be healed.**” (6:9-10)

So that they may **NOT** turn and be healed?

WHY? 27:11; 28:13; 29:9-10, 13, 18-19; 31:6; 32:3-4

HOW? 35:3-6