



AMOS

Lesson #3 -- Teachers' Notes

Looking For God In All The Wrong Places

Teachers, as always, you will need to really read and study the Bible Book of the Month. You can't expect to do a good job just coming to class to read the lesson sheet without previous study.

Looking For God In all the Wrong Places

OPEN: Some time ago there was a hit song entitled "Looking for love in all the wrong places." Someone might even remember who sang it and what year, I don't recall, but the title kind of comes from that.

The Setting: Note that this is depicted as a funeral sermon by Amos, a Lamenting! We're preparing our funeral sermon now!

Vss. 1-3. Just as Jerusalem is referred to as the Virgin of Judah, so Samaria, the capital of the north is referred to under the metaphor of a maiden.

Q-1. Bethel and Dan. They also apparently had shrines at many other locations also where Baal was worshipped.

Q-2. Jeroboam (the first, remember Amos lives in the time of the second king by the name of Jeroboam) had said that Jerusalem was too far to go to worship. He wanted to introduce a "convenient" religion. So he built the altar and golden calf at Bethel and one at Dan in the northern part of the country.

Teacher, stress this lesson for us today!

Q-3. Pleiades and Orion are heavenly constellations.

Q-4. The Message of the Stars is that there is a God who is the Creator of the magnificent universe!

Try to read as much of the scripture in class as possible. The "Scripture" is powerful! I suggest you read it in sections rather than the entire chapter at one time.

I. Seek God -- 1-13

II. Seek Good -- 14-17

In Vss. 16 point out the "funeral" sermon idea used by Amos. Again, stress the lesson.

III. Something The Lord Hates -- 18-25

Emphasize that the term "*the Day of the Lord*" is used by many of the prophets and refers to a day of "visitation" by the Lord, a coming in history, to bring retribution on a nation or the enemies of God's people. (You could let some students look up other passages where the phrase is used.)

Verse 19 is very picturesque. Imagine a man running away from one calamity and meeting another headlong!

Or running into the house, slamming the door shut, puffing and huffing, thinking he is now safe, and leaning against the wall, a snake in the crack of the rocks bites him! (It would probably bring humorous chuckle in Amos' day.)

Vss. 21-27 is **POWERFUL**. It has so much significance for us today and the way God will accept or refuse our worship.

READ in class vss 21-24 for sure! Dwell on this. The lessons ought to be self-evident.

Make the applications today as you think pertinent.

[TEACHER: Help your class to see how vital it is to study the Old Testament today. We will **repeat** history if we don't learn from it.]