

Conviction before Comfort

Amos 3:6 "Does disaster come to a city, unless the Lord has done it"?

Isa 45:7 "I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the Lord, who does all these things."

V1-2 "Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God."

V3-4 'Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?' Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high."

V5 "Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the Lord?"

Isaiah 30:15 "For thus the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has said, 'In repentance and rest you shall be saved, in quietness and trust is your strength.'"

V6: "To loosen the bonds of wickedness, To undo the straps of the yoke, And to let the oppressed go free, And break every yoke?"

V9: "If you take away the yoke from your midst. . . ."

V7 "Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?"

Heb 13:3, "Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body."

V9 "Remove . . . the pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness."

V10: "And if you pour yourself [soul] out for the hungry, and satisfy the desire [soul] of the afflicted . . . "

V8: "Then shall your light break forth like the dawn." V10b: "Then shall your light rise in darkness, And your gloom be as the noonday."

V8: "And your healing will spring forth speedily. . . ." V11: "And [he will] make your bones strong."

V8: "And your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard." V9: "Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am."