**AMOS LESSON 11, (02-28-16)** AMOS 2, pg. 17

God gave the Israelites the Law for their own benefit so that they could worship Him and prosper but rather than appreciate what He had provided, they believed the lies of pagan nations, intermarried with them and worshiped their idols. They perverted the Mosaic Law into a system of works, trying to obtain salvation when the Law had been designed to point them to the **GRACE** of God and so that they would learn to depend on Him for everything else after salvation. The Law referred to the Mosaic Law in general while the Commandments referred to statutes, ceremonies, and civil laws.

**PP** Mosaic Law Spiritual Law pertaining to the Congregation.

***Amos 2:5 But I will send a fire upon Judah, And it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem."***

*“In 586 B.C. after a lengthy siege, Nebuchadnezzar broke through Jerusalem’s defenses, slaughtered the royal family, burned the temple, the palace, and all houses in the city, and deported almost the entire population to Babylon, 2 Kings 25:1-12.”*

*Bible Knowledge Commentary*

**AMOS LESSON 12, (03-06-16)**

**COMMUNION:** We are the Royal Family of God assembled together this morning to obey the command given to us:

***Luke 22:19 …do this in remembrance of Me***.

***1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*** [Tell others about the free gift of salvation that is offered to them because of Christ’s perfect sacrifice on the cross for the sins of the entire world***.***]

***John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.***

***Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.***

***Colossians 1:15-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17) He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.***

**The Bread:** Unleavened bread represents the impeccability of the humanity of Christ.

Unleavened bread relates to fellowship with God. That was what the Feast of Unleavened Bread represented.

***John 6:47-54 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. 48) "I am the bread of life. 49) "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50) "This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51) "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh."***

There were hundreds and hundreds of strict laws that could have condemned Christ, but He never broke even one of them. We are responsible for this one which relates to bread:

***Matt. 4:4 Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God...***

**THE CUP**: Represents the perfect completed work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

*“On Feb. 10 this year hundreds of millions of people started observing Lent.*

*The traditional purpose of Lent is the penitential preparation of the believer—through prayer, penance, repentance, almsgiving, and self-denial.”*

*Wikipedia*

Definition of Penance: “*voluntary self-punishment to atone for a sin.”*

*World English Dictionary and Dictionary.com*  AMOS 2, pg. 18

Poor, misguided people who “do penance” evidently don’t know that self-punishment can never atone for sin. Only the perfect sacrifice of one, perfect, qualified man on the cross, Jesus Christ, is acceptable to God as an atonement for sin.

Lent is not commanded nor is it practiced in the Bible.

Lent, along with its pious customs, are observed by Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Anglicans, as well as some Baptists and Mennonites.

Our point of contact with God is always **GRACE**. Everything depends on who and what God is and on what He has done for us, not on who or what we are or on what we have done.

***1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also died for sins ONCE for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God…***

***1 John 2:2 …and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.***

***John 19:30 ...it is finished!***

H***ebrews 10:10 ...we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once*** [and for all time] ***for all.***

***Hebrews 10:12 …but He*** [Christ]***, having offered ONE SACRIFICE for sins FOR ALL TIME, sat down at the right hand of God…***

***Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering He*** [by Christ offering Himself on the cross] ***has perfected for ALL TIME those who are sanctified.*** [those who were set apart for special blessings the moment they believed the gospel. Most people do nott understand this!]

***2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***END OF COMMUNION

***Amos 2:6 Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Israel and for four I will not revoke its punishment, because they sell*** [into slavery] ***the righteous*** [those who would pay] ***for money*** [they borrowed] ***and the needy for a pair of sandals.***

At last, the Lord pronounces judgment on Israel, the Northern Kingdom.

Greed became so all-consuming that for insignificant debts one would sell his fellow countryman into slavery. The people who could be trusted to pay off loans were being sold into slavery for the amount they owed. The desperately poor were also being sold into slavery for as little as the amount of a pair of sandals. This was done to their kin, their fellow Israelites which was contrary to the Mosaic Law.

The rich were paying bribes to the corrupt judges who were supporting the rich when they sued the poor who couldn’t pay their bills and then sold those destitute people into servitude and slavery.

***Proverbs 22:16 He who oppresses the poor to make more for himself or who gives to the rich*** [a bribe]***, will only come to poverty.***

***Proverbs 14:31 He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, but he who is gracious to the needy honors Him.***

***Jeremiah 5:28 They are fat, they are sleek, They also excel in deeds of wickedness; They do not plead the cause, the cause of the orphan, that they may prosper; and they do not defend the rights of the poor.***

During the time of the prophet Joel, the people were no better than the people of Israel.

***Joel 3:3 "They have also cast lots for My people, Traded a boy for a harlot and sold a girl for wine that they may drink.***

Read: ***2 Kings 4:1-7*** God’s supply and provision for us is as large as our faith and obedience.

Read: ***Deut. 15:1-11***

 AMOS 2, pg. 19

***Amos 1:4-5*** promises prosperity for Israel on the condition of obedience to the Lord. This surely applies to our country as well. ***“There shall be no poor among you.”***

A NT verse relates to lazy freeloaders who would try to take advantage of those who are generous to the poor is:

***2 Thess. 3:10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.***

***Amos 1:6*** You will not borrow.

***Proverbs 22:7 The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave.***

**AMOS LESSON 13, (03-13-16)**

***Amos 2:7-11*** deal with the mandate to treat the poor graciously and forbids taking advantage of them.

***Amos 2:7 These who pant after the very dust of the earth on the head of the helpless also turn aside the way of the humble; and a man and his father resort to the same girl In order to profane My holy name.***

Amos makes an issue of how to treat the poor. He makes at least five references to them in this short book.

The judicial system of Israel was so tainted that injustice ran rampant. The judges were so greedy and selfish that they even resented the poor having enough dust left to throw upon their heads as a token of sorrow for being brought to so low a state.

The legal procedures were being perverted to exploit the poor. Contrary to the Mosaic Law.

***Exodus 23:6 You shall not pervert the justice due to your needy brother in his dispute.***

***Deuteronomy 16:19 You shall not distort justice; you shall not be partial, and you shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous.***

***Proverbs 22:22-23 Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, 23) for the LORD will take up their case and will plunder those who plunder them.***

***…and a man and his father resort to the same girl In order to profane My holy name.***

It is not clear whether a father and his son shared the same prostitute, temple prostitute, or probably a young slave girl. The Greek word for “girl” in the Septuigent is PAIDISKEN; in any case, it was a grievous sin which profaned the God of Israel and us all.

The way a slave girl was to be dealt with concerning a father and his son is given in the following verses:

***Exodus 21:7-11 "If a man sells his daughter as a female slave, she is not to go free as the male slaves do. 8) "If she is displeasing in the eyes of her master who designated her for himself, then he shall let her be redeemed. He does not have authority to sell her to a foreign people because of his unfairness to her. 9) "If he designates her for his son, he shall deal with her according to the custom of daughters. 10) "If he takes to himself another woman, he may not reduce her food, her clothing, or her conjugal rights. 11) "If he will not do these three things for her, then she shall go out for nothing, without payment of money.***

***Amos 2:8 And they lay themselves down upon clothes laid to pledge by every altar, and they drink the wine of the condemned in the house of their god.***

God’s Law placed restrictions on items which could be taken as collateral.

***Exodus 22:26-27 "If you ever take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, you are to return it to him before the sun sets, 27 for that is his only covering; it is his cloak for his body. What else shall he sleep in? And it shall come about that when he cries out to Me, I will hear him, for I am gracious.***

 AMOS 2, pg. 20 ***Deuteronomy 24:10-13 When you make your neighbor a loan of any sort, you shall not enter his house to take his pledge. 11) "You shall remain outside, and the man to whom you make the loan shall bring the pledge out to you. 12) "If he is a poor man, you shall not sleep with his pledge. 13) "When the sun goes down you shall surely return the pledge to him, that he may sleep in his cloak and bless you; and it will be righteousness for you before the LORD your God.***

***Deuteronomy 24:17 You shall not pervert the justice due an alien or an orphan, nor take a widow's garment in pledge.***

The dignity of the borrower was preserved by prohibiting the lender to enter his house and take anything he might want as a pledge. It was one who made the pledge that chose the item of collateral, not the one who was making the loan. This lends itself to harmony between the two and eliminated greed on the part of the lender.

*“But these hardhearted* ***\*usurers*** *unlawfully kept the garments of the poor as their own, and reclined luxuriously upon them at their feasts and carousals in their pagan temples.”*

H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., *Amos, The Pulpit Commentary* (London; New York: Funk &Wagnalls Company, 1909), 25.

**\***A person who lends money and charges interest, especially at an exorbitant or unlawful rate. Dictionary.com

It was customary in the Mid-East for the ancients to recline and rest, reclining at full length in eating, the upper part of the body resting on the left elbow.

***By every altar…*** included pagan altars such as the ones at Dan and Bethel where sacrificial feasts were observed.

***And they drink the wine of the condemned*** [those who were fined unjustly] ***in the house of their god.***

The rich fat cats would guzzle the wine obtained by fines extorted from the oppressed.

*“These rich sinners got drunk on wine purchased with the fines they exacted from the poor. Then, in their drunken stupor, they slept by the altars on other people’s garments, defiling the garments and disobeying the law. The officials were getting rich by exploiting the people, and then were using their unjust gain for committing sin.”*

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Concerned, “Be” Commentary Series* (Colorado Springs, CO: Chariot Victor, 1996), 20.

**AMOS LESSON 14, (04-03-16)**

***Verses 7 and 8*** give us an example of how “the haves” afflict the “have-nots”. The rich and powerful oppressed the poor with their unjust fines and taxes. There is nothing new under the son is there? *Examples:*

**PROPERTY TAXES:**

*The Texas Constitution, Article 8. Section 1-e*

*Sec. 1-e. ABOLITION OF AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES. No State ad valorem taxes shall be levied upon any property within this State.*

“Ad valorem” means a tax imposed on something (property) according to its estimated value.

*The Texas Bill of Rights Article 1 Section 2*

***INHERENT POLITICAL POWER; REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT.*** *All political power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority, and instituted for their benefit. The faith of the people of Texas stands pledged to the preservation of a republican form of government, and, subject to this limitation only, they have at all times the inalienable right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such manner as they may think expedient.*

**INHERITANCE TAXES:**

The Mosaic Law demonstrates the importance of parents passing on their land to their children. Thousands of families every year are prohibited from passing their land on to their children because they have to sell their land in order to pay the sinister inheritance tax to our ever growing government.

 AMOS 2, pg. 21

Of course the inheritance our parents leave us is nothing compared to the eternal inheritance that awaits mature believers but parents have a right to pass on to their children the property that they usually worked so hard to obtain without a greedy government demanding a share of it.

***Proverbs 13:22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children****…*

This is yet another way that those in power cheat and oppress the people.

**CARBON TAXES:** (The Bill was not enacted)

***Boxer-Sanders Carbon Tax***

*In 2013 Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT) proposed a carbon tax in their Climate Security Act of 2013.**[[1]](http://www.heritage.org/research/testimony/2014/11/the-impacts-of-carbon-taxes-on-the-us-economy%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1)  The tax started at $20 per metric ton and would rise by 5.6 percent per year, reaching $50 per metric ton by 2030 (the endpoint for the Heritage analysis).*

*Using the Heritage Energy Model (HEM), a derivative of the Energy Information Administration’s National Energy Modeling System (NEMS), Heritage projected what the economic impacts would have been had the bill become law.**[[2]](http://www.heritage.org/research/testimony/2014/11/the-impacts-of-carbon-taxes-on-the-us-economy%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn2)*

*The impacts would have included (dollar values are adjusted for inflation):*

* *GDP loss of $146 billion in 2030*
* *A family of four losing more than $1,000 of income per year,*
* *Over 400,000 lost jobs by 2016,*
* *Coal production dropping by 60 percent and coal employment dropping by more than 40 percent by 2030,*
* *Gasoline prices rising $0.20 by 2016 and $0.30 before 2030, and*
* *Electricity prices rising 20 percent by 2017 and more than 30 percent by 2030.*

[***http://www.heritage.org/research/testimony/2014/11/the-impacts-of-carbon-taxes-on-the-us-economy***](http://www.heritage.org/research/testimony/2014/11/the-impacts-of-carbon-taxes-on-the-us-economy)

***Proverbs 16:12 It is an abomination to kings to do evil, for the throne is established by righteousness.***

***Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, But when a wicked man rules, people groan.***

***Proverbs 25:5 Remove the wicked from the king’s presence, and his throne will be established through righteousness.***

***Proverbs 17:15 He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous, Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.*** [Example. Kim Davis]

Read: ***Nehemiah 5:1-9*** Nehemiah confronted those in power, holding them accountable for taking advantage of their own countrymen and their disregard for the law.

Read: ***Nehemiah 9:21-37*** People get the government and the leaders they deserve

In ***verses 9-12***, Amos writes for God in the first Person, reminding them of all of the wonderful blessings of protection and provision He had given them. Were they thankful for it? Did they show their appreciation by obeying God?

***Amos 2:9 Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, though his height was like the height of cedars and he was strong as the oaks; I even destroyed his fruit above and his root below.***

The Amorites were the most powerful of all the Canaanite nations.

***Deuteronomy 1:20 "I*** [Moses] ***said to you, 'You have come to the hill country of the Amorites which the LORD our God is about to give us. 21) See, the LORD your God has placed the land before you; go up, take possession, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has spoken to you. Do not fear or be dismayed.'”*** *(The Israelites at Kadesh-Barnea)*

 AMOS 2, pg. 22

They sent spies into the land and it was all that the Lord said it was but they did not trust the Lord so they were afraid and refused to go.

**AMOS LESSON 15, (04-10-16)**

***Numbers 13:3- 33 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us." 32) So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size. 33) "There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."***

The sons of Anak were known for their size and height but they were not part of the Nephilim. This statement was made by men who had panicked and were exaggerating.

***2 Peter 2:5*** [For if God] ***did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;***

*“The Nephilim are, without doubt, the primæval tyrants mentioned under that name in Gen. 6:4. The renown of these sons of violence had come down from those dim ages, and the exaggerated fears of the spies saw them revived in the gigantic forms of the Beni-Anak. There is no certainty that the Nephilim had been giants, and no likelihood whatever that the Beni-Anak had any real connection with them.”*

Whitelaw Thomas, “*Introductory Essay on the Authenticity and Authorship of the Book of Numbers,”* in Numbers, ed. H. D. M. Spence, Exell Joseph S., *The Pulpit Commentary* (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1910), 145.

These Israelites would wonder in the wilderness for 40 years and die but their children would defeat the Amorites later under Joshua. The Gibeonites tricked Joshua into making a vow that they would be destroyed by Israel and would come under their protection. Five Amorite kings attacked Gibeon and Joshua took the Israelite army on a 25 mile forced march uphill at night to rescue the Gibeonites, ***Joshua 10:7***.

The Lord was faithful and delivered the Amorites into the hands of the Israelites as He had promised ***Joshua 24:8.*** He used large hail from heaven that fell on the Amorites but not on any of the Israelites.

The hail killed more of Amorites than those who were killed in battle. God also caused the sun to stand still for about a day so that the Israelites could finish off the Amorites, their strongest enemy, ***Josh.*** ***10:7-15*.**

Joshua had already defeated two Amorite kings on the east side of the Jordan.

Rahab knew about this great feat when she hid the Israelite spies from the Jericho patrols.

***Joshua 2:10-11 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. 11) "When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.***

***Deuteronomy 3:11 Behold, his*** [Og’s] ***bedstead was an iron bedstead; it is in Rabbah of the sons of Ammon. Its length was nine cubits and its width four cubits by ordinary cubit.)***

The bedstead is believed to have been an iron-trimmed stone coffin that measured 13 ½ feet by 6 feet.

***I even destroyed his fruit above and his root below.*** This means that God would utterly destroy the Amorites.

 AMOS 2, pg. 23

***Ezekiel 17:9 Say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Will it thrive? Will he not pull up its roots and cut off its fruit, so that it withers-- so that all its sprouting leaves wither? And neither by great strength nor by many people can it be raised from its roots again.***

***Amos 2:10 It was I who brought you up from the land of Egypt, and I led you in the wilderness forty years that you might take possession of the land of the Amorite.***

The Israelites were enslaved in Egypt for 430 years. The United States has existed as a nation for 240 years, so the Israelites were under bondage for 190 years longer than we have existed as a nation.

Just think of what it took for God to force the Pharaoh to release them, the ten plagues. Think of the logistical support it took to provide for around 2 million people wandering around in the wilderness for 40 years.

The Amorites occupied land on both sides of the Jordan and the mountains afterward possessed by Judah. Here, *“the land of the Amorite”* refers to all the Canaanites.

***Amos 2:11-12 And I raised up some of your sons for prophets, and some of your young men for Nazirites. Is it not indeed so, O people of Israel?" declares the LORD. 12) "But you made the Nazirites drink wine, and commanded the prophets, saying, 'You shall not prophesy.'***

*“The prophets gave heavenly teaching, the Nazirites exhibited holiness of life. It was the Lord who gave the prophet power and authority to proclaim his will; it was the Lord who inspired the vow of the Nazarite and enabled him to carry it out in practice.”*

H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., *Amos*, ***The Pulpit Commentary*** (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 25.

***Amos 2:13*** NASV  ***Behold, I am weighted down beneath you As a wagon is weighted down when filled with sheaves.***

***Amos 2:13*** NET ***Look! I will press you down, like a cart loaded down with grain presses down.***

It is the belief of some that it is rather degrading to think of God as being pressed down like a cart. However, what God is saying is, “You have put Me in a difficult situation. You are My people, I put you in the Land, and I put the Amorite out. Now here you are committing the same sins they committed ! Do you expect Me to shut My eyes to your sin because you are My people?

***Amos 2:14-16 "Flight will perish from the swift, And the stalwart will not strengthen his power, nor the mighty man save his life. 15) "He who grasps the bow will not stand his ground, the swift of foot will not escape, nor will he who rides the horse save his life. 16) "Even the bravest among the warriors will flee naked in that day," declares the LORD.***

Judgment is coming, and nobody will be able to escape it. The swift won’t be able to run away, the strong won’t be able to defend themselves, the armed will be as if unarmed, and even the horsemen will be unable to flee. The bravest soldiers will run away while shedding their equipment and clothing so they can run faster.

There is a point where God’s grace ends and His judgment begins, and no one is able to escape His wrath. Is this something that we in the U.S. should be concerned with?

***Hebrews 10:30-31 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31) It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.***

***Psalm 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD***

***Psalm 44:6-7 For I will not trust in my bow, Nor will my sword save me. 7) But You have saved us from our adversaries, And You have put to shame those who hate us.***

***Psalm 33:16-21 The king is not saved by a mighty army; a warrior is not delivered by great strength. 17) A horse is a false hope for victory; nor does it deliver anyone by its great strength. 18) Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope for His lovingkindness, 19) to deliver their soul from death And to keep them alive in famine.***

 AMOS 3, pg. 24 ***20) Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. 21) For our heart rejoices in Him, because we trust in His holy name.***

The history of the Northern Kingdom came to an end with the Assyrian Captivity in 722 B.C. after only a few decades after Amos’ warning in ***2 Kings 17:1-23***.

**AMOS LESSON 16, (04-17-16)**

***Amos 3:1-2 Hear this word which the LORD has spoken against you, sons of Israel, against the entire family which He brought up from the land of Egypt: 2) "You only have I chosen among all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities."***

Amos directs this condemnation against “***the entire family****”* which includes all 12 tribes that made up both the Northern and Southern kingdoms. They thought that their special calling as God’s chosen people would protect them from punishment, but on the contrary, their covenantal relationship with the Lord demanded that they assume MORE responsibility and that their evil deeds be punished.

The special privileges they received from God made many of them think that they were less accountable to Him than others, but actually, just the opposite is true.

**Luke 12:48 From everyone who has been given much, much will be required…**

Arrogant people take advantage of the gracious benefits they receive from someone over them. Rather than being thankful and working harder to demonstrate their gratitude, they see the graciousness in their superior as a weakness they can exploit. They have no integrity and keep pushing the limits to see how much they can get by with. These people cannot be trusted because they are arrogant, self-centered, selfish, and manipulative deceivers who should be treated as such.

***Verse three*** starts a series of **7**rhetorical questions in which the first 5 require a resounding “No” for the answer while the last 2 questions require a “Yes” answer.

***Amos 3:3***  (NASV) ***Do two men walk together unless they have made an appointment?***

***Amos 3:3*** (NKJV) ***Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?***

God was explaining to His people that they could not continue to grievously sin and still be on good terms with Him. But this verse has other implications as well. It certainly applies to marriage. This verse could be a corollary to the command found in:

***2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers…***

Many, if not most couples who get married these days, are not really suited for one another. They are not like-minded enough to walk together through life. Their priorities in choosing a mate are attractiveness, sexiness, income, education, personality, etc. The principle of like-mindedness and agreement applies to friendships as well.

The Lord is pointing out that certain events are inseparably connected. Example: Sin is followed by judgment. We must be in agreement with God if we are to walk in the Spirit. When we disagree with God, we walk alone.

***Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?***

When two men walk together. they must be in agreement as to the details of when and where. If we are to walk with God, we must agree that He is the Leader and that we will humbly follow Him wherever He leads.

***Amos 3:4 Does a lion roar in the forest when he has no prey? Does a young lion growl from his den unless he has captured something?***

Now we have two questions, one logically follows the other. Lions move about stealthily, quietly, and secretly as they stalk their prey. It is when he is ready to charge that lets loose with a blood-curdling roar.

 AMOS 3, pg. 25

Lions have different kinds of roars, but the most fearsome one is when they charge their prey, which in many cases, instantly immobilizes with fear. Lions can weigh up to 450 pounds, run up to 50 mph. and leap as far as 36 feet.

***Judges 14:5 Then Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came as far as the vineyards of Timnah; and behold, a young lion came roaring toward him.***

This is the kind of roar that we saw in ***Amos 1:2***.

***Amos 1:2 "The LORD roars from Zion and from Jerusalem He utters His voice; and the shepherds' pasture grounds mourn, and the summit of Carmel dries up."***

As the lion’s roar frightens and unsettles its prey, so Israel should be frightened and unsettled when the Lord roared to them by His prophets.

***Does a young lion growl from his den unless he has captured something?***

Little lions don’t make a sound when mamma is away hunting because she has taught them to keep quiet until she comes home with dinner. But when she comes back with supper, then they let out a cry, but not until then.

So animals know when to be silent and when to make a sound. We are expected to know this as well.

***Ecclesiastes 3:7*** [There’s] ***a time to be silent and a time to speak.***

Another passage about a lions roaring:

\\***Isaiah 5:29-30 Its roaring is like a lioness, and it roars like young lions; it growls as it seizes the prey and carries it off with no one to deliver it. 30) And it will growl over it in that day like the roaring of the sea.***

***Verse 30*** describes the lion’s roar of victory and contentment as it and the rest of the pride dines on the prey. These verses demonstrate that there is a natural order of things. A cause is followed by a result, just as man’s iniquity, the cause, is followed by God’s judgment, the result.

 ***Amos 3:5*** (NASV) ***Does a bird fall into a trap on the ground when there is no bait in it? Does a trap spring up from the earth when it captures nothing at all?***

(***Amos 3:5***  (NKJV) ***Will a bird fall into a snare on the earth, where there is no trap for it? Will a snare spring up from the earth, if it has caught nothing at all?***

Of course a bird doesn’t just fall into a snare when there is no trap to spring it.

The trap in this case is **sin**. Will a snare spring up from the ground to catch a bird if it has not been triggered? Of course not. The point is, God’s wrath would never come upon His people unless there was a cause and the cause is, you guessed it, **sin**.

The snare and the trap that God would use against His people were the Assyrians. They would utterly destroy the Northern Kingdom.

***Amos 3:6 If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it?***

The watchmen on the wall would alarm the people in the city that an enemy was approaching and that danger was imminent. Of course it struck fear into their hearts. It would be similar to sirens going off during WWII to warn the people that enemy bombers were about to drop bombs on them. So far, the people would agree with all that Amos was telling them. But the next question was the hardest one for them to answer.

***If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it?***

For them to answer yes, they would have to admit that the Lord was punishing them, and of course, it would also mean that they deserved it. To say that it wasn’t of the Lord would allege that He isn’t in control of what happens.

 AMOS 3, pg. 26 This was a real wake-up call for those who thought that the Lord would never bring any misfortune on His own people. The calamity is always designed by God to lead the people to repent, acknowledge His sovereignty in their lives, and trust Him for deliverance.

This question has to be answered by us as well. After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, some Christians said that the attacks were a wake-up call from God, and many people were incensed and angered by it. They failed to recognize what God was saying to them throughout Amos: “for every cause, there is an effect.” When a nation, city, or individual experiences calamity, there is a reason. It has nothing to do with “good luck” or “bad luck”.

God always gives a period of grace for people to turn from their wicked ways and to turn to Him, but if they do not, His wrath will come upon them like a mighty stream. God will not allow any nation to live in peace and prosperity for long when it ignores Him and allows wickedness to flourish.

***Isaiah 45:7 I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things.***

**AMOS LESSON 17, (04-24-16)**

The questions in ***Amos 3:4-6*** get progressively worse. The first question in ***Amos 3:3*** had no element of disaster in it; the next two questions in ***verse 4*** had an overpowering of one animal over another; the next two questions in ***verse 5*** have an overpowering of an animal by man; and in the last two questions in ***verse 6****,* the people themselves were being overwhelmed, first by other people, and then by God Himself.

As you can see, the intensity of the foreboding examples increased as the questions progressed until the people themselves are decimated by God Himself. Where a corrupt nation is, there God’s instruments of punishment are sure to be also.

Read: ***Isaiah 9:8-10:4,*** The Lord raised up a neighboring enemy to discipline Israel.

***Isaiah 10:1-4 Woe to those who enact evil statutes and to those who constantly record unjust decisions, 2) so as to deprive the needy of justice and rob the poor of My people of their rights, so that widows may be their spoil and that they may plunder the orphans. 3) Now what will you do in the day of punishment, and in the devastation which will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your wealth? 4) Nothing remains but to crouch among the captives or fall among the slain. In spite of all this, His anger does not turn away and His hand is still stretched out.***

What good is all your wealth and power you rulers? It won’t save you and all your extensive administrative, oppressing offices who constantly engage in injustice and plunder the people of their rights and possessions.

***Amos 3:7 (Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.)***

This verse is parenthetical. The Lord always revealed His major plans in advance to His prophets. The prediction could precede the event by years or even centuries, but the fulfillment was always certain. Jesus said when the unlawful religious and government goon squads came to arrest Him:

***John 13:19 Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that “I am” He.*** [The Great I AM, Jehovah, YAHWEH]***.*** The Lord does nothing unless it is revealed to His prophets.

***Psalm 25:14 The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.*** [He tells us ahead of time, warning us, that discipline will come.]

Amos said that he was neither a prophet nor a prophet’s son, ***Amos 7:14***, but God chose him to reveal His plan to His people. God reveals His purpose to administer divine discipline on them, and He gives them time to change their minds.

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**God warned: Noah** that He was going to cover the earth with water 120 years before He carried out His plans and Noah didn’t have even one person who paid any attention to his warnings. God told **Abraham** that He was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. He warned the **City of Nineveh** that He would destroy it in 40 days if they did not repent and change their ways. He told **Joseph** in Egypt about the seven-year drought that was coming. **Jesus told the disciples** on several occasions that He would be crucified on a cross, be buried, and would rise on the third day, but they didn’t believe Him.

We don’t have prophets today but we have the completed canon of Scripture which contains hundreds of prophecies from which we can learn, many already fulfilled and many are yet to be fulfilled. We can learn from those who heeded God’s warnings, like the Ninevites, and from those who did not, like the people of the Northern and Southern kingdoms.

***Amos 3:8 A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy?***

It is the responsibility of communicators of God’s Word to declare what He has spoken and to do it unvarnished, undiluted, and with clarity. The problem is that people don’t want to know the truth; they don’t like to hear bad news. That’s why the megachurches are overflowing with people and the Bible churches are usually small.

The only chance for our country to survive is for pastors to teach their congregations that the Lion has roared and judgment and perilous times are on their way. But most pastors today are afraid to tell their people the truth.

Pastors are deceiving their flocks, telling them they must unconditionally submit to the **godless tyrants** who are leading our country to ruin. Unlike the prophets of old who condemned their kings and their administrators for depriving people of their rights, these hirelings even refuse to acknowledge the evil that exists in our government for fear they might appear to be too political.

Pastors should be the **watchmen on the wall**, who blow the trumpet and sound the alarm to warn the people that the enemies of God and the enemies of our freedom have us Christians in their crosshairs. Just like the ancient prophets, it is the pastors who blow the trumpet and tell the people the truth who are usually not very well liked. They are accused of being too political, too pessimistic, and unpatriotic.

Read: ***Ezek. 3:17-21, \*33:1-11***

**AMOS LESSON 18, (5-1-16)**

***Amos 3:9 Proclaim on the citadels in Ashdod and on the citadels in the land of Egypt and say, "Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria and see the great tumults within her and the oppressions in her midst.***

So God commanded Amos to make a proclamation to the neighbors of Israel to come and take a look at what had happened to Samaria, the capital city of Israel. They would be shocked and astonished at the disintegration, panic, violence, riots, and oppression that was rampant there. Mind you, these were pagan nations that were shocked by the sin and degradation of God’s chosen people.

If we could bring Americans back who died a hundred years ago to see our country today, what do you suppose they would think? I’m not talking about the phenomenal technological advances, I’m talking about how much our society has degenerated. The lack of cordiality and good manners; children’s disrespect of their parents, their elders, and all authorities; the coarse and crude behavior; the vulgarity; rap music, the immorality; the lack of respect and common decency; the political correctness; the hostility towards the Bible; Christian persecution; the co-ed college dorms and cohabitation, the acceptance and promotion of LGBT; same-sex marriage; gay pride parades; ordained homosexual and lesbian “pastors”; open homosexuals in the military; women in front-line combat units; the complacency and indifference of the people to everything mentioned above.

Why do you think the message went out to the “citadels” of the neighboring countries? Citadels were essentially fortified palaces that would be hard for an enemy to penetrate. Only the king and the rich,

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well-connected people would have them as they were a symbol of wealth and power. Of course Israel had citadels as well. So the message was, “Don’t think your fortresses will protect you from the almighty wrath of God.

***Amos 1:4 So I will send fire upon the house of Hazael and it will consume the CITADELS of Ben-hadad.***

***Amos 1:7 So I will send fire upon the wall of Gaza and it will consume her CITADELS.***

***Amos 1:14 So I will kindle a fire on the wall of Rabbah and it will consume her CITADELS …***

***Amos 2:2 So I will send fire upon Moab and it will consume the CITADELS of Kerioth;***

***Amos 2:5 So I will send fire upon Judah and it will consume the CITADELS of Jerusalem."***

***Amos 6: 8*** “***I loathe the arrogance of Jacob, and detest his CITADELS …”***

So will the most powerful, the most sophisticated and technologically advanced military in the world protect us from God’s wrath? How about the most modern and most advanced health care providers in the world?

How about economically. Are we safe since we are supposedly the richest country in the world? Will the great number of churches we have, the most in the whole world, will they deliver us?

What about you, do you have any CITADELS in your soul that you think might defend you against the justice of God? What about all the good you’ve done and the righteous stands you have taken? Will God take those into account?

Read: ***Ezek. 33:11-16***

***Psalm 18:2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.***

**AMOS LESSON 19, (5-8-16)**

***Amos 3:10 "But they do not know how to do what is right," declares the LORD, "these who hoard up violence and devastation in their citadels."***

Of all the people on earth, these should have known how to do what is right. They had the 10 Commandments, the Mosaic Law, the priests and the prophets. But the people of the Northern Kingdom had lost all sense of justice. The norms and standards they learned from the Mosaic Law had long past been cast aside. The rich and powerful were plundering the average people who were retaliating with rioting and violence.

And isn’t it correct to say that our own rich and powerful leaders of our age have cast aside the Constitution just as the rich and powerful leaders of Israel cast aside the Mosaic Law. Our leaders no longer know how to do what is lawful either, just like Israel’s leaders in Amos’ day.

*[Fox News article on Judge Roy Moore]*

***Jeremiah 4:22 For My people are foolish, they know Me not; they are stupid children and have no understanding. They are shrewd to do evil, but to do good they do not know."***

***Psalm 14:4 Do all the workers of wickedness not know*** [how to do what is right?]***, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon the Lord?***

***Psalm 82:1-5 A Psalm of Asaph. God takes His stand in His own congregation; He judges in the midst of the rulers. 2) How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah. 3) Vindicate the weak and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and destitute. 4) Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them out of the hand of the wicked. 5) They do not know nor do they understand; they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.***

***Jeremiah 4:22 For My people are foolish, they know Me not; they are stupid children and have no understanding. They are shrewd to do evil, but to do good they do not know."***

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Doesn’t this sound like so many in our society and government today? We can point out many reasons why our country is in such big-time trouble, but the main reasons are given in this verse.

The rulers, the rich and powerful were hoarding the property they stole from the common folk in their citadels [palace fortresses]. Of course it would result in violence and devastation.

**AMOS LESSON 20 (05-15-16)**

*“Obama Decrees ALL Public Schools Must Allow Transgender Bathroom Use, The Obama administration will send a letter to every public school district in the country Friday (13th) warning them that they must allow students to use whatever bathroom and locker room [that] corresponds to their stated gender identity, or face a federal lawsuit. The decree, sent jointly by the Department of Justice and the Department of Education, comes just a few days after North Carolina and the federal government sued each other over the state’s recent law governing bathroom use in public buildings. It won’t be a new federal law, but will instead reflect the Obama administration’s interpretation of existing federal anti-discrimination law. “A school may not require transgender students to use facilities inconsistent with their gender identity or to use individual-user facilities when other students are not required to do so,” the letter says, according to The New York Times. Schools are not allowed to require that a student provide a medical diagnosis to justify the change, and they also cannot require a student to legally change their gender.”*

*The Daily Caller*, by Blake Neff, 5-12-16

**Questions:**

1. Should this be OK with Christians?

2. Is this directive, this act, constitutional?

3. Does the Constitution or decisions of the Supreme Court require the States, Governors, Lieutenant Governors, Mayors, Sheriffs, Local City Counsels, School Board members, Principal, Teachers, Parents, or Children to comply with this action?

4. Does the Bible require anyone to comply with this outrageous immoral and indecent act?

5. Does the Constitution or the Bible require anyone to voluntarily tolerate tyranny?

6. Will God hold us accountable if we say nothing and consent to this outrage?

7. Is the remedy to just wait for the courts to handle it and then abide by their decision?

a. What if they side with the LGBT, as they usually do, will you comply?

b. What will you do until the courts reach a decision?

8. Should we demand that those who hold office nullify this unconstitutional and indecent action?

9. Should We the People remove from office anyone who complies with this act?

10. Should pastors across the country be teaching their congregations the biblical support for resisting such tyranny?

This is the transcript of the audio we heard in class of Judge Andrew Napolitano which aired on Fox News

# WHAT IF THE CONSTITUTION NO LONGER APPLIED?

***Judge Andrew Napolitano***

*Posted: Nov 24, 2011 12:01 AM*

What if the whole purpose of the Constitution was to limit the government?

What if Congress' enumerated powers in the Constitution no longer limited Congress, but were actually used as a justification to extend Congress' authority over every realm of human life?

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What if the president, meant to be an equal to Congress, has instead become a democratically elected, term-limited **monarch**?

What if the president assumed everything he did was legal, just because he's the president?

What if he could interrupt your regularly scheduled radio and TV programming for a special message from him?

What if he could declare war on his own?

What if he could read your e-mails and texts without a search warrant?

What if he could kill you without warning?

What if Supreme Court justices no longer looked to the Constitution to determine the constitutionality of a law but rather simply to what justices who preceded them thought about it?

What if the rights and principles guaranteed in the Constitution have been so distorted in the past 200 years as to be unrecognizable by the Founders?

What if the 50 states were no longer sovereign entities [nation-states], equals to each other, and parents of the federal government they voluntarily constituted?

What if the states were mere provinces of a totally nationalized and fully centralized government?

What if the Constitution was amended stealthily, not by constitutional amendments duly ratified by the states, but by the constant and persistent expansion of the federal government's role in our lives?

What if the federal government decided if its own powers were proper and constitutional?

What if the Constitution was no longer the supreme law of the land?

What if you needed a license from the government to speak, to assemble or to protest against the government?

What if the government didn’t like what you planned to say so it didn’t give you the license?

What if the right to keep and bear arms only applied to the government?

What if posse comitatus [the federal law that prohibits our military from occupying our streets] was no longer in effect?

What if the government considered the military an adequate dispenser of domestic law enforcement?

What if cops looked and acted like troops and you couldn't distinguish the military from the police?

What if you were not secure in your person, in your papers and in your property?

What if federal agents could write their own search warrants in defiance of the Constitution?

What if the government could decide when you are and are not entitled to a jury trial?

What if the government could take your property whenever it wanted it?

What if the government could continue prosecuting you until it got the verdict it wanted?

What if the government could force you to testify against yourself simply by labeling you a domestic terrorist?

What if the government could torture you until you said what the government wanted to hear?

What if people running for president actually supported torture?

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What if the government tortured your children to get to you?

What if government judges and government lawyers intimidated juries into convicting the innocent?

What if the government could send you to your death and your innocence meant nothing so long as the government's procedures were followed?

What if America's prison population, the largest in the world, was a cruel and an unusual way for a country to be free?

What if half the prison population never harmed anyone but themselves?

What if the people had no rights except those the government chose to let them have?

What if the states had no rights except to do as the federal government commanded?

What if our elected officials didn't really live among us, but instead all had their hearts and their homes in Washington, D.C.?

What if the government could strip you of your rights because of where your mother was when you were born?

What if the income tax was unconstitutional?

What if the states were convinced to give up their representation in Congress?

What if the government tried to ban you from using a substance in your body that is older than the government itself?

What if voting didn't mean anything anymore because both political parties stand for Big Government [Socialism]?

What if the government could write any law, regulate any behavior and tax any event, the Constitution be damned?

What if the government was the reason we don't have a Constitution anymore?

What if you could love your country but hate what the government has done to it?

What if sometimes to love your country, you have to alter or abolish the government?

What if Jefferson was right?

What if that government is best which governs least?

What if I'm right? What if the government is wrong?

What if it is dangerous to be right when the government is wrong?

What if it is better to perish fighting for freedom than to live as a slave?

What if freedom's greatest hour of danger is NOW?

***How Angry is America at Obama? Impeachment angry!***

*“Longtime family expert and advocate Tony Perkins of the influential Family Research Council says there is a solution to the radically leftist ideas coming out of the Obama administration as the president opens all stops in trying to establish his legacy.* ***IMPEACHMENT !***

*“All three branches of our government seem to be untethered to reality: With ISIS crucifying children and burying them alive, with U.S. joblessness through the roof in a disintegrating economy, with wide-open borders and absurdly reckless immigration and refugee policies*

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*transforming America in unthinkable ways, with the nuclear and terrorist threat to our country greater than ever, our president and his administration’s most urgent national issue seems to be making sure grown men are allowed into the girls' bathroom."*

*“Where is this kind of quick decisive action from the Department of Justice on “sanctuary cities”? Where is it in the IRS scandal? Where is it on the Benghazi fiasco? Where is it on the e-mail private server issue of the previous Secretary of State?*

*“Pastors should be teaching their congregations not to voluntarily tolerate tyranny and back it up with Scriptures. If Christians were as quick to denounce immorality and injustice as Hollywood is to support them, things might be different. Christians need to boycott stores that promote the LGBT goofy ideas and not buy products from companies that support the LGBT movement.”*

*WND*, by Bob Unruh, 5-13-16

Now, back to Amos:

***Isaiah 1:23 Your rulers are rebels and companions of thieves; everyone loves a bribe and chases after rewards. They do not defend the orphan, nor does the widow's plea come before them.***

Blessing does not come from ignoring God and taking advantage of people who are less advantaged than you. Avarice, greed, and power can become addictive to those who have no doctrine.

***Micah 3:1-4 And I said, "Hear now, heads of Jacob and rulers of the house of Israel. Is it not for you to know justice? 2) "You who hate good and love evil, Who tear off their skin from them and their flesh from their bones, 3) who eat the flesh of my people, strip off their skin from them, break their bones and chop them up as for the pot and as meat in a kettle." 4) Then they will cry out to the LORD, but He will not answer them. Instead, He will hide His face from them at that time because they have practiced evil deeds.***

Money lust and power lust can easily overcome those who have no Bible doctrine. What do you suppose happens to those who ignore God and take advantage of people who are less fortunate?

The question is, “What are believers to do when rulers treat the people no better than a butcher treats a piece of meat?” Most of the time, they do nothing.

We have seen how God’s people in both the Northern Kingdom and in Judah experienced the wrath of God for complying with the evil and wickedness of their despicable kings and we wonder, how did they ever fall into such a state of depravity? We like to think that will never happen to us.

But we are going down the exact same road that they did. Time after time they remained silent and complied with something they knew was not right. Over time it got easier and easier to do that until it became a habit. It was safer to consent than resist. Fear motivated them more than being approved by God for refusing to do what was wrong.

***Isaiah 59:15a Yes, truth is lacking; and he who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey.***

They took comfort in the fact that nearly everyone else was going along with it as well. The more they backed down and remained week and faint-hearted, the more brazen and demanding the king would become.

They should have known that complying with evil, even when it is done reluctantly, is still evil. There is no neutral ground in the angelic conflict.

***Matthew 12:30 He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.***

***Ecclesiastes 3:7 [There’s] a time to be silent and a time to speak.***

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The time to speak out is when rulers go against God and the Constitution !

God looks for believers who fear Him more than a king or a president, ones who are willing to stand for justice and righteousness no matter what. He blesses and preserves such believers.

***Ezekiel 22:29-31 The people of the land have practiced oppression and committed robbery, and they have wronged the poor and needy and have oppressed the sojourner without justice. 30) "I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one. 31) "Thus I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their way I have brought upon their heads," declares the Lord GOD.***

God’s wrath falls upon a land where believers sit idly by and refuse to stand in the gap before Him to counter injustice and oppression.

**AMOS LESSON 21 (05-22-16)**

Read: ***Psalm 94:1-23***

***Nehemiah 5:7 I consulted with myself and contended with the nobles and the rulers and said to them, "You are exacting usury, each from his brother!" Therefore, I held a great assembly against them.***

Money lust and power lust can easily overcome those who have no Bible doctrine. What do you suppose happens to those who ignore God and take advantage of people who are less fortunate?

***Psalm 107:33-34 He changes rivers into a wilderness and springs of water into a thirsty ground; 34) A fruitful land into a salt waste, because of the wickedness of those who dwell in it.***

***Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.***

***Psalm 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD…***

***Amos 3:11 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD, "An enemy, even one surrounding the land, will pull down your strength from you and your citadels will be looted."***

***Proverbs 10:2 Ill-gotten gains do not profit, but righteousness delivers from death.***

Looters will soon be looted. This was fulfilled by Assyria in 722 B.C.

***Amos 3:12 Thus says the LORD, "Just as the shepherd snatches from the lion's mouth a couple of legs or a piece of an ear, so will the sons of Israel dwelling in Samaria be snatched away-- with the corner of a bed and the cover of a couch!***

There wouldn’t be much of Israel left after God dealt with their stiff necked defiance. The leaders in Samaria would continue to lounge around on their beds and couches in their decadent and lavish lifestyle, ignoring Amos’ message until they were utterly destroyed by God.

***Amos 3:13-14 Hear and testify against the house of Jacob," declares the Lord GOD, the God of hosts. 14) "For on the day that I punish Israel's transgressions, I will also punish the altars of Bethel; the horns of the altar will be cut off And they will fall to the ground.***