



Plumb Line

Thus says the Lord, "For three transgressions of Judah and for four I will not revoke its punishment, because they rejected the law of the Lord and have not kept His statutes, their lies also have led them astray, those after which their fathers walked."

Amos 2:4

I began reading the book of Amos this morning in the course of my normal personal study. I was struck by the prophecies of judgment, one right after another, in chapter 1 and 2. The first six prophecies concerned pagan nations, confirming that God is Sovereign over all people, not just His own chosen.

The words of the prophecy concerning Judah were short in comparison to those concerning Israel. Israel had become an apostate state within a short amount of time, quickly moving from the ways of Yahweh into compromise and tolerance, and then outright abandonment for the perverted pleasures of the pagans. Judah was slower to descend into apostasy. For a time she clung to the ways of God, His laws, statutes, and precepts, but little by little, complacency and compromise crept in.

In the feature verse, we see the Lord confirming that Judah's punishment will not be withheld because they have "rejected the law of the Lord and have not kept His statutes." They believed their own lies, their own compromise. They got off course and then refused to correct it, because their lies had become their truth.

I think about that in our day to day walk as followers of Christ in this day and age. In the 2000 years since the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah, we have seen the compilation of the canon of Scripture, the birth of the Church, the spread of the Gospel across the inhabited world, but we have also found it remarkably easy to stray from the plumb line of the truth of God. We quickly compromise in the face of resistance. We back down from the truth and see our way to "reason" and into tolerance. We believe the lie that we cannot tell someone else how to live, nor hold them to our standards. But the standards by which we live are not our own, they are God's, the Sovereign of all.

We must not get complacent in our own daily walk. We must not assume we know the truth and measure choices and actions and thoughts against our own memory or interpretation of it. We must keep the plumb line of God's word handy for reference, and measure everything against it. When we don't, we will find ourselves, like Judah, rejecting the law of God and not keeping His statutes. Our lies to ourselves will lead us astray. Though we are saved for eternity, we will still face judgment. The Lord chastens those whom He loves. Follow His plumb line and build a life that is straight and true to His word.

Father, we thank You for Your word, Your truth. We recognize You as the Sovereign ruler of all, including ourselves and those who choose not to recognize You. Help us to follow Your word, allowing it to correct and change us, keeping it at the forefront of our minds always, and to walk in Your truth daily, regardless of what those around us do.