

MLK Day Reading: Amos 5:11-15, 21-24

In this section, the prophet Amos urges the people to choose life: to choose to do the right thing, avoiding bribery and injustice and focusing on justice.

Amos 5

(11) "Surely, because you impose a tax on the poor and exact a levy of grain from him; you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them, you have planted delightful vineyards, but shall not drink their wine. (12) For I have noted how many are your crimes, and how countless your transgressions— you enemies of the righteous, you takers of bribes, you who subvert the cause of the needy in the gate! (13) Surely, at such a time the prudent person keeps silent, for it is an evil time. (14) Seek good and not evil, that you may live, and that the Eternal, Adonai Tzva'ot, may truly be with you, as you think. (15) Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; perhaps the Eternal, the God of Hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

(21) I loathe, I spurn your festivals, I am not appeased by your solemn assemblies. (22) If you offer me burnt offerings—or your meal offerings— I will not accept them; I will pay no heed to your gifts of fatlings. (23) Spare me the sound of your hymns, And let me not hear the music of your lutes. (24) Instead, let justice well up like water, righteousness like an unfailing stream.

עמוס ה'

(יא) לָכֵן יֵעַן בּוֹשְׁסֵיכֶם עַל־דָּל וּמִשְׁאַת־בֵּר תקַחְוּ מִמֶּנּוּ בְּתִי גְזִית בְּנִיתֶם וְלֹא־תִשְׁבוּ בָּם בְּרִמְי־חֶמֶד נִטְעַמְתֶּם וְלֹא תִשְׁתּוּ אֶת־יַיְנָם: (יב) כִּי יִדְעֹתִי רַבִּים פִּשְׁעֵיכֶם וַעֲצָמִים חֲטָאתֵיכֶם צִרְרֵי צְדִיק לְקַחֵי כֶּסֶף וְאַבְיוֹנִים בַּשַּׁעַר הַטּוֹ: (יג) לָכֵן הַמִּשְׁפִּיל בַּעֵת הַהִיא יָדָם כִּי עֵת רָעָה הִיא: (יד) דָּרֹשׁוּ־טוֹב וְאַל־רָע לְמַעַן תִּחְיוּ וַיְהִי־כֵן יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי־צַבָּאוֹת אֲתָכֶם כְּאֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתֶּם: (טו) שִׁנְאוּ־רָע וְאַהֲבוּ טוֹב וְהִצִּיגוּ בַשַּׁעַר מִשְׁפָּט אוֹלֵי יַחַגּוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי־צַבָּאוֹת שְׂאֲרֵית יוֹסֵף: (ס) (טז)

(כא) שִׁנְאתִי מֵאַסְתִּי חֲגִיכֶם וְלֹא אֲרִיחַ בַּעֲצֻרְתֵיכֶם: (כב) כִּי אִם־תַּעֲלוּ־לִי עֹלוֹת וּמִנְחֹתֵיכֶם לֹא אֲרַצֶּה וְשִׁלְמִם מְרִיאֵיכֶם לֹא אֲבִיט: (כג) הֶסֶר מַעֲלֵי הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְזִמְרַת נְבֻלָּה לֹא אֲשַׁמֵּעַ: (כד) וַיִּגַּל כְּפָיִם מִשְׁפָּט וּצְדָקָה כְּנַחַל אֵיתָן:

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