

We recognize Amos' words from the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech. How do these words resonate for us today?

Amos 5

עמוס ה'

(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.

(יא) לָכֵן יַעַן בּוֹשֵׁסְכֶם עַל־דָּל וּמִשְׁאַת־בֵּר תִּקְחוּ מִמָּנוּ בְּתֵי גִזִית בְּנִיתֶם וְלֹא־תִשְׁבוּ בָם כַּרְמֵי־חֶמֶד נִטְעַתֶם וְלֹא תִשְׁתּוּ אֶת־יַיְנֵם : (יב) כִּי יָדַעְתִּי רַבִּים פְּשָׁעֵיכֶם וְעֲצָמִים חֲטֹאתֵיכֶם צָרְרִי צַדִּיק לְקַחֵי כֶּפֶר וְאַבְיוֹנִים בְּשַׁעַר הַטּוֹ : (יג) לָכֵן הַמִּשְׁפָּיִל בָּעֵת הַהִיא יָדָם כִּי עֵת רָעָה הִיא : (יד) דַּרְשׁוּ־טוֹב וְאַל־רָע לְמַעַן תַּחֲיוּ וְיִהְיֶיכֶן יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי צְבָאוֹת אֲתֶכֶם כַּאֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתֶּם : (טו) שְׂנֹאוּ־רָע וְאַהֲבוּ טוֹב וְהִצִּיגוּ בְשַׁעַר מִשְׁפָּט אוֹלֵי יַחַן יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי צְבָאוֹת שְׂאֵרֵי יוֹסֵף :

(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.

(כא) שְׂנֹאתִי מַאֲסֹתֵי חַגֵּיכֶם וְלֹא אֲרִיחַ בְּעֲצֻרְתֵיכֶם : (כב) כִּי אִם־תַּעֲלוּ־לִי עֹלוֹת וּמִנְחֹתֵיכֶם לֹא אֲרַצֶּה וְשֹׁלֵם מְרִיאֵיכֶם לֹא אֲבִיט : (כג) הִסֵּר מֵעָלַי הַמָּוֶן שְׁרִיף וְזַמְרַת נְבֻלָּיִף לֹא אֲשַׁמַּע : (כד) וַיִּגַּל כַּמִּים מִשְׁפָּט וּצְדָקָה כַּנַּחַל אֵיתָן :