

Warning Shots

November 29, 2015

Text: Amos 4:6-13

I. The LORD Warns His People with Covenant Curses (6-11)

- A. The Curses: Famine, Unnatural Drought, Agricultural Disaster, Plague & Warfare, Overthrow & Burning of Cities (Lev 26:25-26; 28:21-23, 45-48)
- B. The Curses Compared to the Plagues of Egypt and the Overthrow of Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen 19; Exod 7-12)
- C. The Mercy in the Curses (11)
- D. The Purpose of the Curses: Repentance (Deut 4:29-30; 30:1-3)
- E. Israel's Response: Hardness of Heart

II. The LORD Himself Will Come (12-13)

- A. Remember the LORD:
 - 1. The LORD Is Sovereign Over All Creation
 - 2. The LORD Knows the Human Heart
- B. Prepare to Meet Your God

Quotations

“Wherever punishment is for vengeance, there the curse and wrath of God manifest themselves, and these he always withholds from believers. On the other hand, chastisement is a blessing of God and also bears witness to his love, as Scripture teaches.” — John Calvin

Reflection Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

- 1. Why does the Lord bring disaster on his own people?
- 2. How does the Lord's fatherly discipline on the New Testament church differ from the covenant curses in the Old Testament? (Compare Hebrews 12:7-11 with Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28) What similarities are there?
- 3. How have you seen the Lord's hand of fatherly discipline on your life?
- 4. How can you give thanks for God's discipline in your life?