

Rich & Poor, Part 2

IN THE TIME OF THE KINGS AND PROPHETS

September 2021

ABUSES OF POWER

David (King of Israel 1010-970 BC)

- **2 Samuel 12:1-10** — For what sin(s) did God (through the prophet Nathan) rebuke David?

- What do you think the Lord meant when he told David in verse 8, “And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more”? What warning does this statement speak to the rich and powerful today?

Solomon (King of Israel 970-930 BC)

- **1 Kings 4:6** — Adoniram son of Abda was Solomon’s official in charge of _____.
- **1 Kings 5:13-18** — Solomon conscripted _____ thousand men who worked in shifts that spent one month in Lebanon and then two months at home. These workers harvested and prepared lumber for the temple. Solomon also had _____ thousand carriers and _____ thousand stonecutters in the hills, plus _____ foremen supervising the work.
- **1 Kings 9:15-23** — List the building projects for which Solomon conscripted forced laborers:
 - the Lord’s _____ - and these cities: _____
 - his own _____
 - the _____
 - the wall of _____
- Solomon also built up Lower _____, as well as _____, _____ in the desert, all his _____ cities, and the towns for his _____ and for his _____. He built whatever he desired to build in _____, in _____, and in all his territory.
- What people did Solomon use as his slave labor?
- **1 Kings 11:28** — Solomon put Jeroboam in charge of the whole _____ force of the tribes of Joseph.

Rehoboam (King of Israel/Judah 930-913 BC)

- **1 Kings 12:1-20** — What request did the Israelites make of new King Rehoboam (verse 4)?
 - What answer did Rehoboam give the people (verse 14)
 - Whom did Rehoboam send out to assert his authority (verse 18)?

Ahab (King of Israel ca. 874-853 BC)

- **1 Kings 21** — What did King Ahab want?
 - How did he get it?
 - What was Jezebel's rationale for her action (verse 7)?
- **2 Kings 9:24-26** indicates that Naboth's sons were also murdered in this atrocity.

Nehemiah (Governor of Judah 445 to ca. 407 BC)

- **5** — What offense were the Jewish nobles and officials committing against their own people (verses 10-11)? (See **Leviticus 25:35-38**.)
 - What effect was this sin having on those who had to take out loans (verses 4-5)?
 - What did Nehemiah require the nobles and officials to do (verse 11)?
 - What privilege of the governor did Nehemiah hold—but decline to use (verses 14, 18)?
 - Why did he not use this privilege (verses 15, 18)?

WARNINGS AND HOPE FROM THE PROPHETS

Amos (ca. 762 BC)

- **2:6-8** — List the sins of Israel that the Lord names here:
 - they sell the _____ for silver & the _____ for a pair of sandals
 - they trample on the heads of the _____ as on the dust of the ground & deny _____ to the oppressed
 - father & son use the same girl
 - they lie down beside every altar on _____ taken in pledge (see **Exodus 22:26-27**)
 - in the house of their god they drink _____ taken as fines
- **3:13 to 4:3** — In 3:15, as he describes the opulence of the wealthy in Israel—which the Lord will tear down—the Lord lists the _____ house, the _____ house, the houses adorned with _____, and the _____.
 - 4:1 — How do these women treat the poor and needy?
- **5:4-15** — How many times does Amos mention justice (especially in the courts) in these verses? _____
 - In addition to the idolatry alluded to in verse 5, what other sins does Amos or the Lord mention here?
- **6:1-7** — What pleasures do the wealthy in Israel enjoy?
 - According to Amos, what concern are they lacking, for which they will go into exile?

- **8:4-7** — What sins of the merchants and the wealthy in Israel does Amos list here?
 - verse 4 —
 - verse 5 —
 - verse 6 —

Hosea (ca. 766-722 BC)

- **6:4-9** — What sins does the Lord mention in verses 8-9?
 - Extrapolating from verse 6, what does our treatment of others have to do with worshiping God?
 - Jesus quotes verse 6 in **Matthew 9:9-13** and **12:1-8**. What did he want the Pharisees to learn from that teaching?

Isaiah (ca. 745-696 BC)

- **1:10-26** — The Lord rejects his people's sacrifices (1:11) because...
 - ...verse 15 — their hands are full of _____
 - ...verse 23 — their rulers love _____ and chase after _____; they do not defend the cause of the _____ and do not hear the case of the _____
 - verses 16-17 — What specific actions does God call his people to take in order to wash and make themselves clean?
- **3:13 to 4:1** — As the Lord sits in his court to judge the people (verse 13), what offenses does he find in them (verses 14-15)?
 - *Notice the contrast drawn here between the wealthy (3:16 to 4:1) and the poor (3:14-15) in the land. Because of this contrast, what will the Lord do to the wealthy and to their whole society?*
- **5** — What sins of the rich or powerful does Isaiah condemn here?
 - verse 8 —
 - verses 11-12 —
 - verses 22-23 —
- **9:16-17** — How does the Lord feel about the fatherless and widows who act wickedly?
- **10:1-4** — Consider the sins Isaiah lists in verses 1-2. What kind of people have the power to do such things?
- **11:1-5** — This prophecy foretells the coming of a great leader from the family of David (son of Jesse). How will this leader treat the needy and the poor?
- **58:1-10** — The Lord rebukes his people for fasting and expecting God to respond by helping them, when in fact, despite their fasting, they continue to do evil. What sins are they committing?
 - verse 3 —
 - verse 4 —
 - What kind of fasting does God desire instead?
 - verse 6 —
 - verse 7 —
 - verses 9-10 —

- **61:1-3** — Some 700 years after Isaiah, Jesus read this prophecy aloud and said it was fulfilled in himself (**Luke 4:16-21**). According to this prophecy, what kinds of people would be helped by the person fulfilling it?

Micah (ca. 722-701 BC)

- **2:1-3** — What evil does the Lord name in verse 2 (which the wicked planned in verse 1)?
- **2:8-9** — What crimes does the Lord say the powerful among his people are committing...
...against “those who pass by”?
...against “the women of my people” and “their children”?
- **6:6-8** — What kind of sacrifices and worship does the Lord desire (verse 8)?
 - *Jesus alludes to this passage in his rebuke of the Pharisees in **Matthew 23:23**.*

Jeremiah (ca. 627-581 BC)

- **5:26-29** — What evil things do the wicked among God’s people do?
 - verse 26 — they set traps to catch _____
 - verse 27 — their houses are full of _____
 - verse 28 — they do not seek _____, they do not promote the case of the _____, they do not defend the just cause of the _____
- **7:1-11** — What sins against other people does the Lord warn against in verses 5-6?
- **7:30-34** — These horrific acts took place just outside Jerusalem, on the high places of _____ in the Valley of Ben _____. What the people of Judah did there, God says (verse 31), he did not command, nor did it enter his mind!
- **19:1-7** — Describing the same horrific acts, what does the Lord say he will do to punish Judah and Jerusalem because of this sin?
- **22:1-5** — According to the Lord, what is the responsibility of rulers...
...to the one who has been robbed?
...to the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow?
...to the innocent?
- **22:13-19** — What did King Jehoiakim do wrong (verses 13-14, 17)?
 - What did his father, King Josiah, do right (verses 15-16)?
- **34:8-22** — What did the people of Judah begin to do right?
 - What did they then do wrong?
 - What punishment did God pronounce for them because of this sin?

Lamentations (586 BC, when Jerusalem was besieged and destroyed by the Babylonian army)

- **3:34-42** — What two sins (verses 34-35) are mentioned here as catching the Lord's attention, so that he punished Jerusalem?

Ezekiel (593-571 BC)

- **22:6-9, 12, 25-29** — What sins had the princes and people of Israel committed...
 - ...against father and mother?
 - ...against the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow?
 - ...against the poor, their own neighbors?
 - ...against married women (verse 25)?
 - ...against people who have what they want (verses 25, 27)?
 - ...against the poor and needy?
 - ...against the foreigner?

Daniel (605-537 BC)

- **4:19-27** — verse 27: Daniel advised King Nebuchadnezzar that, in order to escape the judgment God had pronounced, he should renounce his sins by doing what was _____ and his wickedness by _____.

Zechariah (520 to the late 500s or early 400s BC)

- **7** — It was not fasting that God wanted most. What did he want? "Administer true _____; show _____ and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the _____ or the _____, the _____ or the _____. Do not plot _____ against each other."

Malachi (ca. 430 BC)

- **2:13-16** — Why was the Lord no longer accepting the people's offerings (verses 13-14)?
- **3:1-5** — When the Lord comes to refine and purify his people, he will be quick to testify against sorcerers, _____, _____, those who defraud _____ of their wages, those who oppress the _____ and the _____, and those who deprive the _____ of justice, but do not fear God.
- **4:5-6** — God promised to send "Elijah" (see Matthew 17:1-13), who would turn the hearts of the _____ to their _____, and the hearts of the _____ to their _____ — or else God would come and destroy the land.