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**What if** Amos 4:2 is a part of God’s judgement on those who don’t honor His warning on dividing the land found in Joel 3:2?

**\*Amos 4:2** The Sovereign LORD has sworn by his holiness: "The time will surely come when you will be taken away with hooks, the last of you with fishhooks.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** is an Italian surname. It is derived from the Sicilian word for "sickle" A **sickle**, **bagging hook** or **reaping-hook** is a single-handed agricultural tool designed with variously curved blades and typically used for harvesting, or cutting.

**\*Amos 5:1** Hear this word, Israel, this lament I take up concerning you:

**\*Amos 5:2** "Fallen is Virgin Israel, never to rise again, deserted in her own land, with no one to lift her up."

**\*Amos 5:** **3** This is what the Sovereign LORD says to Israel: "Your city that marches out a thousand strong will have only a hundred left; your town that marches out a hundred strong will have only ten left."

***“God Mourns When…”***

1. **Amos 5:1 & 10 When “Truth” is** rejected, loathed, disliked, or hated.
2. **Amos 5:2 When God’s people choose** to be deserted, rather than to call on Him.
3. **Amos 5:3 When we are decimated** by our choices. Yet, we continue to misplace our security in past victories and situations.

***“The Past is Marred by the Present ”***

***(Amos 5:5)***

1. **Bethel**, **Gilgal**, and **Beersheba** were once places associated with great privilege and spiritual heritage. Now places of *vain, empty worship*.
2. **Bethel** was the place where God met Jacob (Genesis 28:11-19, Genesis 35:1-7). **Gilgal** was the place where Israel’s spiritual reproach was rolled away in the days of Joshua (Joshua 5:1-12).
3. **Beersheba** was connected to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 21:22-33, 26:23-33, 46:1-5).

**\*Amos 5:10** There are those who hate the one who upholds justice in court and detest the one who tells the truth.

**\*Amos 5:13** Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times, for the times are evil.

**\*Amos 5:14** Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is.

***“The Cause, the Curse & the Cure”***

1. **Falsehood** became the norm and a total rejection of truth.
2. **Hatred of Government** with its corruption and unfair courts while the elite mistreat the people.
3. **V:4, 6, &14** Seek God and live. Seek good not evil.

***A Key Misunderstanding of the Future***

**\*Amos 5:18** Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be darkness, not light.

**\*Amos 5:19** It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him.

**\*Amos 5:20** Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light—pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?

**\*Amos 5:21** "I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me.

1. **Christian Schools** have wrongly the believed the day of Lord is what they are looking forward to as taught by Amillennialism.
2. **Blindness** about the day of Lord is keeping many Christians unprepared.
3. **I hate, I despise your feast days**: This would have amazed – and offended – those in Israel who heard Amos say this. They told themselves that they were really honoring God and pleasing Him by their observance of the **feasts** and **sacred assemblies**, but God was offended by their religious ceremonialism, disconnected from the heart, justice towards one another, and the Day of the Lord.

**\*Amos 5:4** This is what the LORD says to Israel: "Seek me and live;