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OUR NATIONAL SIN

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING

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"Seek ye me and ye shall live, but seek not the house of God, nor enter into the sanctuary, and go not to the sacramental altar (Beersheba, the place of the oath). . . . Seek the Lord and ye shall live; lest he break out like a fire among the favored sons, and it devour and there be none to quench it in the house of God. Ye who turn justice to bitterness and cast down righteousness to the earth. . . . Ye who hate him that reproveth in public, they abhor him that speaketh uprightly. . . . For I know how manifold are your transgressions and how mighty are your sins, ye that afflict the just, that take a bribe and that turn aside the needy in the community from their right. Therefore he that is cowardly will keep silence in such a time, for it is an evil time. . . . Hate the evil and love the good, and establish justice in public affairs; it may be that Jehovah, the God of communities (host-ordered companies) will be gracious unto the remnant of the favored classes. . . . Woe unto you that desire a Pentecost! Wherefore would ye have a day of Jehovah! It is darkness and not light. As if a man did flee from a lion and a bear bit him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall and a serpent bit him. Shall not the day of Jehovah be darkness and not light! even very dark and no light in it. I hate, I despise your religious services and I will take no delight in your solemn congregations. Yes though you offer me your consecration meetings and sacraments I will not accept them; neither will I regard your song services of thanksgiving. Take away from me the noise of your choirs; for I will not hear the melody of your organs. But let justice roll down as waters and righteousness as a mighty stream."--Amos 5: 4-24.

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