

The Non-Natural Condition for Life  
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From Amos 5. THE NON-NATURAL CONDITION FOR LIFE, PART 1

#1. "Seek me that you may live" (v. 4.) The prophet writes that "life" is based on a single condition. This means that life is contingent. It is not a base nor a foundation for anything else.

#2. There is God, and then there is seeking God. Therefore life is teleological: a goal, a purpose, an end. Amos contends that life is to be fully teleological in just that way. "Success" does not qualify.

#3. Dismissal of this truth bears with it supernatural repercussions. "Seek the Lord that you may live, or He will break forth like a fire, O house of Joseph, and it will consume with none to quench it for Bethel" (v. 6.)

#4. Seeking God means transcending self, the times, the material and culture.

#5. Question: Why would anyone risk relationship with God? Reason: Because there is no intention to transcend this world.

#6. To seek God is a guided (by Scripture) human practice, but it is also a non-natural condition for life. This is its importance.

#7. Seek God, seek good, love God and hate evil (v. 14, 15.)

THE BIG PROBLEM: Rationalism makes things like "God," "good," and "evil" appear to be malleable. But Scripture teaches that these are not malleable (easily changed or influenced). These are fixed in the mind of God. Human history cannot redefine them. Human will cannot reshape them.

From Amos 5. THE NON-NATURAL CONDITION FOR LIFE, PART 2

#1. "Seek me that you may live" (v. 4.)

#2. This world of circumstance, according to Amos, is to be confronted by the non-natural condition: "Seek good and not evil, that you may live and thus may the Lord God of hosts be with you, just as you have said" (v. 14.)

[Seek God], [seek good], [love God], [hate evil] are eternal laws that govern our behavior in all circumstances and states of being. Good and evil are whatever the Lord God of Hosts says they are. Everything that is causal over this world of circumstance is beyond the range of

circumstance. "The Pleiades and Orion" are symbols of this truth (v. 8.) The alternation of night and day (v. 8) and ocean mechanics are all references to this truth.

#3. Priorities in this world of circumstance are not determined by circumstance nor by men engulfed in the circumstance. "Hate evil, love good and establish justice in the gate! Perhaps The Lord God of hosts may be gracious to the remnant of Joseph" (v. 15.) A personal version: |Tolerate no evil thought, speech or behavior in yourself| |Recognize and insist that transcendent good be pushed into all circumstance| |Do the right thing in every circumstance regardless of personal consequences|.

#4. Believers seek the grace of God and rely on the power of God in this world of circumstance.

Amos then teaches us this: Stand to the circumstance, good or bad, on the non-natural condition and give it the status of the Pleiades and Orion and the oceans: all, instruments of God.