

**ETHICAL VALUES OF HEBREW  
PROPHETISM AS ILLUSTRATED BY AMOS**

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## CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, it becomes evident that the Church in Nigeria has not lived up to expectation in being the light to the society (Isaiah 49:6). The Church should now rise up to her challenges which are obviously implied from the ethical values Amos portrays.

The first thing is that “the Church at all times and in all circumstances must itself committed to the welfare of the poor that runs across all the strata of the Nigerian society.”<sup>95</sup>

The Church should not align herself with the rich and the mighty at the detriment of the poor and the nonentities in her midst. It is a well known fact that many in Nigeria today have become rich via ill-gotten means, the Church should keep away from such persons if her message should be relevant to the present society.

Secondly, while the church must continue to welcome genuine generosity of the people of God, it must be firm in condemning every form of bribery, fraud, corruption and embezzlement which are fast becoming very cancerous in our polity. Recognitions or any form of awards should not be due to the amount of money given but integrity before the people.

The words of Isaac Sagay are very pertinent here.

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<sup>95</sup>Otuibe, Amos A challenge to Nigerian Church and Society, p. 109.

More importantly, while the church is strong in condemning sexual immorality, far too little is heard from it, regarding our blatant materialism and get rich quick business deals, because it believes and teaches that wealth are a sign of God's blessing. The Nigerian church of many voices and several denominations, must be one in condemning all wrongs, and no sin is less condemnable than another, otherwise sinners will be encouraged to bring tainted sacrifices and blood-stained gifts to the Lord, unaware of the enormity of their sins and thus profane his sanctuary. Furthermore, the church must stop hiding behind the façade of fervent worship, to camouflage its lack of spirituality.<sup>96</sup>

Sagay is very right because the church has now become a theatre for all sorts of performance, all in a devilish effort to win more members and more financial gain. The church should continue to be the torch bearer of the moral and spiritual life of the nation. Priests and Pastors like Prophet Amos should be uncompromising in denouncing the evil perpetrated by many of the so-called men of God. Instead of the mere rush for revival

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<sup>96</sup> Isaac Sagay, "The Nigerian Church and the Nation," Sunday Vanguard, September 29, 2002, p. 11.

services and miracle 'supermarkets' for miracles and financial breakthrough, there should be insistence that such experience in the revivals should permeate their daily lives. And that the spirit of righteousness and a caring disposition in dealing with a neighbour. The Book of Amos is relevant both for Israelites in those days and much more relevant to the Nigerian church and society today.