



EPISODE TITLE: “Jesus and Amos Walk Into a Bar”

Prophetically Incorrect, Episode 6

Featured Guest: *Frank Schaeffer*

Frank is a survivor of both polio and an evangelical/fundamentalist childhood, an acclaimed novelist of 4 novels including *Portofino* who overcame severe dyslexia, a home-schooled and self-taught documentary movie director, a feature film director and producer of four low budget Hollywood features Frank has described as “pretty terrible.” Of Frank’s writing Jeff Sharlet (*The New Statesman* October 25, 2007) writes, “*Crazy For God*’ is a brilliant book, a portrait of fundamentalism painted in broad strokes with streaks of nuance, the twinned coming-of-age story of Frank and the Christian right.”

Questions:

1. Why do you think Amos’ voice takes such a positive turn at the end of this book?
2. What messages have resonated with you from this study of the Book of Amos?
3. Some people believe like Amos that God uses retributive justice to punish people who do evil. Do you agree? Does Jesus preach the same message, or something different?
4. If, as Frank suggests, moral and ethical decisions create their own outcomes, what part does God play in the results? Based on your answer, does that give you more or less hope for the future?
5. What meaning do you find the death of Jesus has for us today relative to either restorative or retributive justice? How should that affect our personal actions and public policies?

Pneuma Divina Scripture: Amos 9:7-15

⁷ Are you not like the Ethiopians to me,
O people of Israel? says the Lord.
Did I not bring Israel up from the land
of Egypt,

and the Philistines from Caphtor and
the Arameans from Kir?

⁸ The eyes of the Lord God are upon the
sinful kingdom,
and I will destroy it from the face of
the earth
—except that I will not utterly destroy
the house of Jacob,
says the Lord.

⁹ For lo, I will command,
and shake the house of Israel among
all the nations
as one shakes with a sieve,
but no pebble shall fall to the ground.

¹⁰ All the sinners of my people shall die
by the sword,
who say, ‘Evil shall not overtake or
meet us.’

¹¹ On that day I will raise up
the booth of David that is fallen,
and repair its breaches,
and raise up its ruins,

and rebuild it as in the days of old;
¹² in order that they may possess the
remnant of Edom
and all the nations who are called by
my name,
says the Lord who does this.

¹³ The time is surely coming, says the
Lord,
when the one who ploughs shall over-
take the one who reaps,
and the treader of grapes the one who
sows the seed;
the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
and all the hills shall flow with it.

¹⁴ I will restore the fortunes of my people
Israel,
and they shall rebuild the ruined cities
and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and drink
their wine,
and they shall make gardens and eat
their fruit.

¹⁵ I will plant them upon their land,
and they shall never again be plucked
up
out of the land that I have given them,
says the Lord your God.

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