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God’s basic message to Israel in this passage:
Those who sow self-deception will reap destruction.

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Deceptive Theology (Amos 5:18-20)

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, ¹⁹as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. ²⁰Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

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3 Dangers of Self-Deception

1. Self-deception turns THEOLOGY into FALSE HOPE

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Application: DEVOTE yourself to the STUDY of GOD’S WORD

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” (2 Tim. 2:15)

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Deceptive Worship (Amos 5:21-24)

²¹I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not

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accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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Justice – moral practice; to do what is right in personal and social life; mainly concerns outward action

Waters – flood waters

Righteousness – correct moral principle; piety; virtue; mainly concerns the inward state

Stream (*wadi*) – represents a dry valley in which water runs down in the rainy season

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2. Self-deception turns **WORSHIP** into **WORTHLESS EMOTION** and **RITUAL**.

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John 7:37-38

³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

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Application: **PRIORITIZE AUTHENTICITY** in your **WORSHIP**.

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Deceptive Identification (Amos 5:25-27)

²⁵ “Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? ²⁶You shall take up Sikkuth your king, and Kiyyun your star-god—your images that you made for yourselves, ²⁷and I will send you into exile beyond Damascus,” says the Lord, whose name is the God of hosts.

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3. It turns IDENTITY into IDOLATRY

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James 4:6-10

...“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God... ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded...¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

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Application: TRADE in your IDENTITY for a CALLING

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Mark 8:34-36

³⁴ And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow

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me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

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Self-deception thrives on rationalization, emotionalism, and pride.

The antidotes are self-examination, honesty, and humility.

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Which of these areas do you need to submit to Christ today?

Have you truly surrendered your life to Him?