Judah - Religious (Born Again) Christians Belonging to Churches

"Because they have rejected the law of the LORD and have not kept his decrees" (2:4)

- born again Christians are not supposed to be religious! The 'law of the LORD' is not to become legalists and parishoners!

"because they have been led astray by false gods" (2:4)

- professional Christian 'ministers' elevated above the congregation

"the gods their ancestors followed" (2:4)

- strong tendency of Christians to drift back to Judaism

"I will send fire that will consume the fortresses of Judah" (2:5)

- all church buildings either destroyed or abandoned

'Ephraim - America'

Note: Ephraim is the lead tribe of the Northern Tribes of Israel - as such 'Ephraim' and 'Israel' are interchangeable (see Hosea)

"They sell the righteous for silver..." (2:6)

- America becomes a nation of wage slaves and slave owners

"They trample on the heads of the poor..." (2:6)

- Ultra-wealthy sleep on ivory beds and drink exotic wines, while the poor man is homeless, jobless, and hopeless

"Father and son use the same girl" (2:7)

- All restraint of promiscuity and sexual lust is gone

"I destroyed the AMORITE (10) before them.." (2:9)

Amonites - original native tribes of American lands

- God conquered the native american warriors to clear the way