

# When God Calls The Common: Amos

## Amos 1:13-15

As was evident with the Israelites in their frequent seasons of ignoring God and their subsequent disobedience—sin generates more sin:

### **Jeremiah 9:3**

*And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD.*

And remember this reoccurring phrase about reoccurring sin we have seen in Amos:

“for three transgressions ... and for four.” God is saying, *If they had only sinned once or twice, I would have had mercy, but their continual sin exposes their stubborn hearts—so I can no longer turn away the punishment.*

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Ask yourself how far you would go in tolerating bad behaviour in your children before administering discipline. And how much selfish behaviour would you tolerate from those adults/relatives in your life—even your spouse—before confronting the issue? How is God different in the way He applies discipline and justice?

\*STUDY POINT: Provide three Scriptures that illustrate your answer to the question above.

In the same way, war—which is rooted in the sin of pride—generates more war. Peace never resulted from people killing one another. Real peace comes from knowing God through Jesus Christ. This is the peace our world needs:

### **John 14:27**

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

Peace results from love, humility and a reverent fear of God:

### **Romans 14:11-12**

*For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

So, I was not a little concerned to read an article in the news a few days ago concerning the mounting tensions resulting from the declaration of nuclear threats from Putin in Russia, and sadly, also from Biden in the United States.

Such escalation in military boasting on the part of Russia and America would embolden a terrifying trajectory toward nuclear force. And this would mean a war to end all wars—and ultimately, a war that would end the human race.

Some excerpts from the article:

“After Russian President Vladimir Putin put his country's nuclear forces on high alert on February 27, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said “The prospect of nuclear conflict, once unthinkable, is now back within the realm of possibility.” Recent statements by government officials and pundits, both in Russia and the United States, have made it clear that while nuclear war should be unthinkable, they are indeed thinking about it—a lot...What are they thinking? If there's one thing we know about such a conflict, it is as President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said in a joint statement in 1985, that nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. The US and Russia currently have some 3,000 strategic nuclear warheads pointed at each other, and if only 300 Russian warheads got through to cities in the United States, 77 million to 105 million people would be killed in the first afternoon...In addition, the economic infrastructure of the United States would be gone. There would be no electric grid, internet, food distribution system, banking or public health system, or transportation network. In the months following, most of those who survived the initial attack would also die—from starvation, exposure, disease and radiation poisoning. A US attack on Russia would produce the same destruction there, it said. And the fires caused by these combined attacks would put millions of tons of soot into the upper atmosphere, blocking out the sun and dropping temperatures across the globe to levels not seen since the last ice age. Food production would crash, triggering a global famine that would destroy modern civilization, according to a study published in the journal Science Advances. It is hard to understand by what definition anyone could win such a war.”

Now this is the only kind of war in which there could be no winner. Such is this manifestation of complete destruction. Remember, in human carnality, sin begets sin and war begets war—until we eventually annihilate ourselves. Throughout history, there have been victors in battle. Today, I want to teach you about a kind of war in which the Winner can be predicted 100% of the time.

We declared war against God when we—His masterwork creation—sinned against Him and each other. We essentially fell short of His glory, and went our own way:

**Romans 3:23** *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

**Isaiah 53:6**

*All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

So, when it comes to continual, unrepentant sin against His own children, God enters into the battle to exact justice and win the war. Case in point:

**Amos 1:13**

*(KJV) Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of the children of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border:*

*(NIV) This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Ammon, even for four, I will not relent. Because he ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead in order to extend his borders,*

Politically motivated war is nothing new. War rooted in pride and covetousness can be about winning land, money, position, or power. In the case of Amos 1:13-15, the prize pursued is *population*—taking territory by killing present inhabitants and future heirs. This atrocity may seem strange to us today, but further illustrates how sin reproduces itself, even unto atrocities like this:

**2Kings 8:12**

*"Why is my lord weeping?" asked Hazael. "Because I know the harm you will do to the Israelites," he answered. "You will set fire to their fortified places, kill their young men with the sword, dash their little children to the ground, and rip open their pregnant women."*

**Hosea 13:16**

*The people of Samaria must bear their guilt, because they have rebelled against their God. They will fall by the sword; their little ones will be dashed to the ground, their pregnant women ripped open."*

**Amos 1:14**

*(KJV) But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour the palaces thereof, with shouting in the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind:*

*(NIV) I will set fire to the walls of Rabbah that will consume her fortresses amid war cries on the day of battle, amid violent winds on a stormy day.*

**Amos 1:15**

*(KJV) And their king shall go into captivity, he and his princes together, saith the LORD.*

*(NIV) Her king will go into exile, he and his officials together," says the LORD.*

Amos employs rich metaphor to communicate God's consuming fire of victory over Ammon. Remember that Rabbah was Ammon's capital city so God takes out the government, the defence, and all contents and inhabitants of the land—with nuclear force and finality. The Assyrian invasion is God-sized and formidable. It's interesting that the Ammonites had descended from sin—an incestuous relationship between Lot and his younger daughter (See Genesis 19:30-38). Historically, the Ammonites were hostile towards Israel. Even though Israel began to worship Ammonite idols, the Ammonites still invaded:

**Judges 10:6-8**

*And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him. And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon. And that year they vexed and oppressed the children of Israel: eighteen years, all the children of Israel that were on the other side Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead.*

Beloved believer, if God is challenged to and engaged in war, He will come forth as Champion every time. Don't resist Him. Don't ignore Him.

**Hebrews 3:15**

*While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.*

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Is there a place for the raw fear of God in our personal relationship with Him? Explain.

Nations, heed God's Word:

**Psalm 2:1-12**

*Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.*

Amen.

~ Reverend Darren McClelland