

When God Calls The Common: Amos

Amos 2:1-3

Continuing with an uncommon message of judgment from a common man called by God. The perfect judgment from God is justified as He is addressing carnal, human anger that has manifested as murderous rage. This is the kind of rage we see in the world today, as evidenced by all the mass murders we see in the headlines. As Bible believers we do not scratch our heads and wonder where this global epidemic of rage comes from. Scripture is clear: Satan works through his children of disobedience.

1John 5:19

And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

1Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

The only kind of anger that is justified in God's sight is His righteous anger.

Ephesians 4:26-27

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.

Amos 2:1

(KJV) Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime:

(NIV) This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Moab, even for four, I will not relent. Because he burned to ashes the bones of Edom's king,

Here is rage. The Moabites were not satisfied to merely kill the king, they needed to burn his bones into a pile of ashes or a puddle of lime! God will never leave this kind of rage—which is an expression of the evil one's work in the world, then and now—unpunished. Our God is just!

Beloved, don't be anxious about the existence of blind, carnal rage in the world. Simply be aware that we are not wrestling against people, but spirits operating *through* people.

2Corinthians 2:11

Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Ephesians 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

So what is to be our response? We put on the full armour of God. We have an awareness that we are putting on Jesus daily.

Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Romans 13:14

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: When was the last time that you were aware of God's provision of spiritual protection through Jesus and the full armour of God? Did you actively apply the armour to your battle plan? What did that look like, and was it effective?

*STUDY POINT: Find six Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17) scriptures that would serve you well in the heat of spiritual battle. Write them down on index cards and memorize them so that you will have them ready to wield as your offensive weapon.

Thus saith the Lord. Judgments prefaced by these four words indicate an irreversible, formidable, coming judgment from God. Because God is merciful and long suffering (2 Peter 3:9), He never exacts justice in a petulant manner in response to our every sinful act. When we confess our sins to Him—keeping short accounts with Him—He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). So, the punishment meted out by God in Amos 2:1-3 is the result of continual, unrepentant, extreme sin—for *three transgressions of Moab, and for four*—against a leader. God's justice demands that He act!

Unrepentant rage comes from the hardening of one's heart. A gradual moving away from the grace of God.

Hebrews 3:12-13

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

How can we know the wickedness that lurks in our hearts?

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

In context, God will not turn away his punishment over Moab because of He knows what is being plotted in their wicked, unrepentant hearts.

Proverbs 6:18-19

A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

As has been said, evil or good is conceived in the heart, rehearsed in the mind, and lived out in the life.

Amos 2:2

(KJV) But I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth: and Moab shall die with tumult, with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet:

(NIV) I will send fire on Moab that will consume the fortresses of Kerioth. Moab will go down in great tumult amid war cries and the blast of the trumpet.

This is God's perfect justice—His consuming fire—prophesied by Amos as a sure thing. No escape from God's consuming, devouring fire! Any and all of Moab's military battalions will be reduced to rubble by God's fierce vengeance. This is why, in our world of corruption, injustice, and evil, we must pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:16) that *God's will be done* and that All injustice—personal, corporate, or global—is His to avenge:

Romans 12:19

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Have there been instances in your own life when you have taken hold of the reins of revenge, acting ahead of God, and later regretting your carnal attempt at vengeance? What have you learned thus far from the book of Amos regarding God's place in making wrongs right?

*STUDY POINT: Identify one other minor prophet in the Old Testament who delivered a prophetic judgement message over Israel. See if you can draw parallels between the two regarding crimes committed and the ways God exacted justice.

Moab shall die with tumult, with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet:

Make no mistake, this is a battle cry—the deafening roar of the lion of justice!

Amos 2:3

(KJV) And I will cut off the judge from the midst thereof, and will slay all the princes thereof with him, saith the LORD.

(NIV) I will destroy her ruler and kill all her officials with him," says the LORD.

In Amos' day, judges were second in line of command. If there was no king to rule in the land, the judges would assume full command. God here is taking out the judge in power, in addition to the whole government that is responsible for the atrocities over Edom. Consequences? You bet!

Galatians 6:7-8

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

It is worth noting that the Moabites descended from the incestuous act between Lot and his eldest daughter (see Genesis 19:30-38) and their lineage as a people was generally characterized by usury and maliciousness. Their crimes against Edom, then, are in line with their wicked heritage. They will spend eternity paying for their crimes against God.

Beloved, when we stand before God to be judged (Hebrews 9:27), we will stand on our own righteousness—which is as filthy rags before God (Isaiah 64:6)—or we will stand on the righteousness of Jesus (Matthew 3:15; 1 John 2:1).

Choose Jesus!

~ Reverend Darren McClelland