

# When God Calls The Common: Amos

## Amos 2:4-5

Consider Psalm 94. Consider Who God is on our behalf—those of us walking in right relationship with Him—and Who God is against His enemies.

### **Amos 2:4**

*(KJV) Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked:*

*(NIV) This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Judah, even for four, I will not relent. Because they have rejected the law of the LORD and have not kept his decrees, because they have been led astray by false gods, the gods their ancestors followed,*

Judah despised the Word passed along to them by direct revelation—a Word for them to delight in, possess, obey, and through this Word be a witness to the nations. This is what God does for His own—He gives personal revelation of Himself to demonstrate His love in relationship. Judah rejected God's personal revelation of love through His Word in favour of dead idols, long worshipped by their ancestors. For this reason, God had to act in discipline and judgment. Judah was still His child. Their disobedience did not negate their accountability to God.

### **Amos 2:5**

*(KJV) But I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem.*

*(NIV) I will send fire on Judah that will consume the fortresses of Jerusalem."*

More fire of judgment from God, the devouring lion of justice!

Psalm 94 will provide for us a powerful background about the motivations of evil men, the motivations of our great God. As we sojourn through this psalm verse-by-verse, be thankful that you are under God's grace, walking in right relationship with Him, keeping short accounts with Him, and being washed and cleansed in the forgiveness of Jesus in every moment.

### **Psalm 94:1**

*O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, shew thyself.*

We are reminded not to ever avenge ourselves in situations where we have been hurt or wronged. Let us learn from the book of Amos that—because we are God's own—that He will not only protect us but avenge! Notice the double saying here, "to whom vengeance belongeth" which provides needed emphasis for us. This is a heart cry for God to act against injustice.

**Psalm 94:2** *Lift up thyself, thou judge of the earth: render a reward to the proud.*

The Bible proclaims that each of us will be judged according to every good and every evil thing we have ever done (2 Corinthians 5:10). The psalmist here is prophesying for a more immediate uprising of God against the proud. God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6).

**Psalm 94:3** *LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph?*

The minor prophet Habakkuk had this same question of complaint:

**Habakkuk 1:2-4**

*O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save! Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention. Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.*

In our human impatience, we do question when God is going to come through and deal with the mounting injustices closing in on our world. But remember, beloved, that God is not slow to act:

**2Peter 3:8-10**

*But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Have you ever questioned when and if God was going to come through for you in the heat of battle? How did you navigate your walk through the waiting time? What was the ultimate outcome?

\*STUDY POINT: Find one Old Testament account in which the main character was tested in the wilderness of waiting. How did it play out? What could you learn about God through this narrative?

**Psalm 94:4**

*How long shall they utter and speak hard things? and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves?*

Is there arrogant boasting in our world? Yes, everywhere! But those those who oppose God with their tongues shall be one day silenced.

**Psalm 12:2-4**

*They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak. The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh*

*proud things: Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?*

**Psalm 94:5** *They break in pieces thy people, O LORD, and afflict thine heritage.*

Calling to mind Psalm 2, the nations afflict God's anointed foolishly, for Jesus is installed on Zion, the Rock of Ages—a cornerstone to either cling to, or be shattered by.

**Psalm 2:9**

*Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*

**Psalm 94:6** *They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless.*

Unrepentant sin hardens the human heart (Hebrews 3:10-13) and ultimately leads to spiritual death (James 1:15). The fruit of a dead heart is deadly acts of atrocity, as we see in Amos (Amos 1:13). Slaying and murdering widows, strangers, and the fatherless would enliven God's heart of justice.

**Psalm 94:7** *Yet they say, The LORD shall not see, neither shall the God of Jacob regard it.*

To utter such a thing to oneself is to be deceived, and in imminent danger of God's judgment. He does see.

**Psalm 14:1**

*To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.*

**Proverbs 15:3** *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*

**Psalm 94:8** *Understand, ye brutish among the people: and ye fools, when will ye be wise?*

Brutish. Think destitute of reason, carnal thinking. Man's wisdom is foolish but the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:7). Ultimately, our righteousness is as filthy rags before the Lord (Isaiah 64:6), and by sinful extension our wisdom is hypocritical. Jesus said it best:

**Luke 7:33-35**

*For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil.*

*The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners! But wisdom is justified of all her children.*

**Psalm 94:9**

*He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?*

As fallen men and women walk through life apart from God, deception blinds their eyes and mutes their ears to the One who created their physical and spiritual eyes and ears. Only Jesus makes the blind to see and the deaf to hear (John 9:1-41; Mark 7:31-37).

**Psalm 94:10**

*He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? he that teacheth man knowledge, shall not he know?*

People who reject God and His Word will still nonetheless be judged by God Himself and His Word. And—hallelujah—those of us in right relationship with God can rejoice when He disciplines each of us whom He loves.

**Psalm 94:11**    *The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity.*

We as God's creation are each aware of His supernatural ability to know our thoughts and to examine our thought lives. In fact, God sees right into our very hearts. Therefore, to try and bypass accountability to our Creator, human beings shut God out partially or completely—hardening their hearts and deceiving themselves.

**Ecclesiastes 3:11**

*He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*

**Romans 1:25**

*They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.*

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Who could you pray for today who has never tasted and seen that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8)? Or perhaps you grieve over one precious soul who has distanced themselves from the grace and goodness of God? In either instance, pray!

**Psalm 94:12**

*Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;*

What good father does not discipline his children? And yes, discipline hurts at the time it is administered, but later yields a harvest of righteousness.

**Hebrews 12:5-11**

*And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but*

*he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

So, the context in this Hebrews passage is father/son parental discipline rooted in relationship. Father God is faithful to raise his children. As we read, study and meditate on His Word, God speaks to us—He encourages, He instructs, He corrects, and He trains those He calls His own. Hallelujah!

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

The context we see in Amos is totally different. God becomes a lion of justice administering punishment to His enemy—one who has decided to reject His grace and mercy and goodness, and to harm Him and His people.

**Acts 9:1-5**

*And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.*

**Psalms 94:13**

*That thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit be digged for the wicked.*

This verse is clear: as long as we draw breath on this earth, God will be faithful to instruct us in His ways through His Word. And as we respond in obedience to His Word, we will be saved from much trouble.

**Job 5:7** *Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.*

**Psalms 34:19**

*Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.*

**Psalms 94:14-15**

*For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance. But judgment shall return unto righteousness: and all the upright in heart shall follow it.*

Those who are truly His will never be forsaken (Hebrews 13:5)—contrast this truth with what we see in Amos as God exacts devastating punishment upon the hard-hearted. Beloved, blessed are we when we remain in Him!

**John 15:7**

*If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

**Psalm 94:16**

*Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?*

Don't we cry in these turbulent times for God to arise and act on behalf of the oppressed and murdered under Satan's merciless regime? We wonder —when oh when will God make things right?

**2Peter 3:8-10**

*But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

When? Suddenly is what God's Word teaches us—His justice will come on the earth when we least expect it! He is long suffering but once the cup of iniquity has overflowed and spilled all over His grace, He will act and exact perfect justice with perfect timing. In Amos, we need to remember that these prophetic warnings speak of coming punishment from God over an idolatrous, violent nation that will not turn from their wickedness. Therefore, God will not turn from His justice!

**Psalm 94:17-18**

*Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence. When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up.*

God really needs to come through for us, beloved. Cry out to Him, Help! Back in 1999, this is how I was saved. Help me, Lord. And God heard, and here I am today saved forever in Christ Jesus! Trials and temptations are on the way, and God loves to hear His children cry out to Him. We are changed in the storms as we learn to make our little declarations of dependence. What we are doing is deepening our trust in our God. What He is doing is shaping us for eternity with Him!

**James 1:2-5**

*My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

**Psalm 94:19** *In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul.*

Oh, the comforts of the Word of God! This is why we meditate upon it day and night (Psalm 1:2). This is why we allow Holy Scripture to transform us through the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2). His Word is our new vocabulary—inspired, illuminated, and spoken to us through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Psalm 94:20-21**

*Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law? They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood.*

These verses call to mind Psalm 2. God has installed Jesus upon the holy mount of Zion—unmovable, unshakeable—and His enemies, be they persons or nations, will either repent and cling to the Rock of Ages and His unchanging Word, or be shattered upon the Cornerstone of our faith. It's a choice that must be made by all, beloved.

**Psalm 94:22** *But the LORD is my defence; and my God is the rock of my refuge.*

In the Book of Amos, we may wait for Israel to repent and return to their God—once again submitting to The Word passed on to them personally—or we may witness God's punishment upon their nation in response to their hardness of heart. So, what will it be? Those of us who have humbled our hearts before Father God will experience Him as a Defense, a rock-solid refuge throughout time and eternity. Hallelujah!

**Psalm 94:23**

*And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; yea, the LORD our God shall cut them off.*

And those who harden their hearts to God continually will be cut off from His grace and mercy forever. In the Book of Amos, we are witnessing the grave consequences of a nation that has served the iniquity of idolatry rather than the true and living God.

**1Thessalonians 1:9-10**

*For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

So, what can we learn?

~ Reverend Darren McClelland