

# When God Calls The Common: Amos

## Amos 5:16-17

### **Jeremiah 9:17-24**

*Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Consider ye, and call for the mourning women, that they may come; and send for cunning women, that they may come: And let them make haste, and take up a wailing for us, that our eyes may run down with tears, and our eyelids gush out with waters. For a voice of wailing is heard out of Zion, How are we spoiled! we are greatly confounded, because we have forsaken the land, because our dwellings have cast us out. Yet hear the word of the LORD, O ye women, and let your ear receive the word of his mouth, and teach your daughters wailing, and every one her neighbour lamentation. For death is come up into our windows, and is entered into our palaces, to cut off the children from without, and the young men from the streets. Speak, Thus saith the LORD, Even the carcasses of men shall fall as dung upon the open field, and as the handful after the harvestman, and none shall gather them. Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty manglory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.*

Despite God's long suffering and mercy towards His children Israel—Jeremiah in this passage, and Amos in today's verses—are rounding up the professional mourners early. As prophets with eyes wide open, they see the futility of speaking prophetic warnings any longer—after all, no one is listening, no one is repenting. Enter God's awful judgment. So, their prophetic warnings have now been replaced by hundreds of thousands of funeral arrangements, replete with mourners at the ready. Tragic? Yes.

As a believer in 2022, living in this spiritually obstinate, apostate land—can you relate to this Biblical scenario?

### **Amos 5:16**

*(KJV) Therefore the LORD, the God of hosts, the Lord, saith thus; Wailing shall be in all streets; and they shall say in all the highways, Alas! alas! and they shall call the husbandman to mourning, and such as are skilful of lamentation to wailing.*

*(NIV) Therefore this is what the Lord, the LORD God Almighty, says: "There will be wailing in all the streets and cries of anguish in every public square. The farmers will be summoned to weep and the mourners to wail."*

tsâbâ' tsebâ'âh

tsaw-baw', tseb-aw-aw'

From H6633; a mass of persons (or figurative things), especially regularly organized for war (an army);

Make no mistake, for all of God's awesome attributes, He wants to be clearly identified in this verse as "God of hosts," a military commander of epic authority, gathering troops—

even enemy troops—for a campaign of destruction against the disobedient nation He still loves.

Beloved, please remember that, even when God is disciplining you through hardship, He still loves you—that never changes!

### **Hebrews 12:6**

*For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

Like a drive through of a city just decimated by an F5 tornado, passersby in the time of Amos would see how thoroughly God had punished his people. Amidst all the horror of dead bodies and piles of smoking rubble, our beloved professional mourners would wail and wail and wail in strange unison, their cries echoing across the converted cemetery of Israel proper—in anticipation of the myriad funerals predicted by the prophet. Farmers and vineyard workers, paralyzed by fear, would stop harvesting and would be called to add their sorrowful wailing to the chorus of mourners. Passersby would be aghast at all these horrific sights, uttering alas! or oh!

Today, we need only to turn on a news channel to see the outcome of our sin nature unchecked and unredeemed.

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Reflect on times you lamented at the condition of the world around you—even your neighbours. How did you reconcile what you saw—with hopeless sorrow or anticipation of the fulfillment of Scripture? How is your perspective affecting your here and now life?

\*STUDY POINT: List six Scriptures from the New Testament that point to the end times. How might each of these Scriptures parallel with the prophetic words of Amos in Chapter 5?

Folks, if we can't learn from this snapshot of God's awesome, fearful judgment—it may already be too late for us. Our hearts may already be too far gone.

### **Hebrews 3:7-11**

*Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)*

### **Amos 5:17**

*(KJV) And in all vineyards shall be wailing: for I will pass through thee, saith the LORD.  
(NIV) There will be wailing in all the vineyards, for I will pass through your midst," says the LORD.*

In our study of Scripture, we need to carefully mine each word of the text, as mining gold. The nuggets found here in this verse have to do with word distinctions: God passing through as opposed to God passing over:

**Exodus 12:23**

*For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.*

Big distinction, right? The workers in the vineyards would have caught the severity of Amos' prophetic judgment. Instead of singing songs of praise, they would be wailing in lament at God's passing through to cut down every fruitful tree. Workers would be left with nothing to harvest.

If you find all of this destruction in Amos hard to take, remember that God—at the turn of a humble heart—is ready to give us abundant life now and eternal life forever through His Son Jesus Christ.

We need only to turn to Him today.

And then seek Him early each day.

**Psalm 63:1-2**

*A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; to see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.*

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: What does seeking God early mean to you in the context of this verse? How might these verses be an inspiration to you and your relationship with God?

Amen.

~ Reverend Darren McClelland