

# When God Calls The Common: Amos

## Amos 8:1-3

### **Psalm 33:4-5**

*For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth. He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.*

In a world where truth is relative to each individual, God—as He has throughout human history—continues to work in, around, and over the shifting sands of culture. He does so according to His unchanging, eternal Word, unshaken by the foolish whims and rampant sin of humankind. His goodness flows unabated through our land, through His redeemed people of biblical Truth—you and I!

### **Isaiah 55:8-11**

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

For Israel in today's passage, and for us reading Scripture today, God's Word can either inspire joy in us that heed it, or horror in the hearts of those who reject it—especially as it relates to His divine punishment. No longer is truth relative. The judgment of God is coming on this world in perfect time, *according to His Word*.

### **1Thessalonians 5:1-3**

*But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

Today in the Teaching Room we experience in the Book of Amos a foretaste of the awesome justice of Yahweh.

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: How would you answer an unbeliever who says that all truth is relative to the individual? How might this argument play out in Christian community? What problems might arise if a brother or sister states that *that is just your interpretation of Scripture*?

### **Amos 8:1**

*(KJV) Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me: and behold a basket of summer fruit.  
(NIV) This is what the Sovereign LORD showed me: a basket of ripe fruit.*

Vision #4 given to Amos from God pictures the end. Not a Plan B because the Israelites wouldn't listen; no, this is the divine, righteous, perfect end of God's people. God acts according to His justice and mercy in perfect balance. Israel has exhausted God's mercy and time has come for His justice to be exacted. Imagine then a basket of ripe, perfect summer fruit. The time to eat it is now—to consume it too early or late would be to miss out on earth-borne flavourful ecstasy. God-ordained delights! Similarly, God's perfect time for punishment is coming. God is showing Amos what His justice demands, with no escape clause this time:

### **Amos 8:2**

*(KJV) And he said, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A basket of summer fruit. Then said the LORD unto me, The end is come upon my people of Israel; I will not again pass by them any more.*

*(NIV) "What do you see, Amos?" he asked. "A basket of ripe fruit," I answered. Then the LORD said to me, "The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.*

### **Amos 8:3**

*(KJV) And the songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord GOD: there shall be many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast them forth with silence.*

*(NIV) "In that day," declares the Sovereign LORD, "the songs in the temple will turn to wailing. Many, many bodies—flung everywhere! Silence!"*

The carnage will be unspeakable when God erases Israel from the face of the earth. Even while the congregants are singing songs to God in the Bethel temple, the screams of bloodshed will be deafening as body upon body falls to the ground with tragic finality.

Amos was ignored.

\*STUDY POINT: Find and list three other major prophetic voices that God used and were ignored. Take note of the consequences of this turning a deaf ear to God's message. What can we as a nation learn about God through these true historical narratives? Give supporting Scriptures to further illustrate your answer.

God's justice must prevail.

Folks, we have God's Word.

We need only heed that Word today to escape God's coming wrath and judgment.

And according to the Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20, and like Amos, we must warn those we love who are living in rebellion against God, as God gives us opportunity.

To that end, let's conclude with these verses:

**Proverbs 11:30**

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*

**2Timothy 4:2**

*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: What steps might you take to *preach the word*? What different ways might you preach that reflect how God wired you? Why are the words *longsuffering* and *doctrine* so important? Provide other Scriptures to prove your answer.

Amen.

~ Reverend Darren McClelland