

# When God Calls The Common: Amos

## Amos 9:5-6

### **Psalm 121:1-8**

*A Song of degrees. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.*

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah when God is your help.

Consider the storm chasers we often see on television, pursuing destructive tornadoes—getting as close as they can to the eye of the storm without being consumed by it. After the victory of capturing the awesome funnel from within on video, these same storm chasers survey the flattened farmland and towns for those needing help. The devastation is real. And unescapable.

Don't listen to the media explain away such awesome natural forces. Don't entertain the voices that deny God's creation of and involvement with such great displays of His power:

### **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.*

How foolish then to attribute natural disasters—tornadoes, hurricanes, tsunamis—to fate or happenstance. God speaks through His creation—*I am in charge!* Human beings become painfully aware in these storms and storms of life that they are rendered helpless. Why wouldn't anyone want God on their side, especially in the throes of terror?

### **Psalm 124:1-8 A Song of degrees of David.**

*If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, now may Israel say; if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us: Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us: Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul: Then the proud waters had gone over our soul. Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped. Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.*

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.*

The psalmist understands that Creator God (Genesis 1:1) is above, that He is sovereign over all. There is no escaping God anyway, so reaching out to Him as our Helper is wise indeed. And when we do surrender and call out to Him, we learn that He is good. Hallelujah!

*My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.*

Boast in Creator God! Genesis 1:1 really is the pillar of God's Word.

*He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.*

Beloved, we need to understand and exploit the fact that we have 24/7 access to the throne of grace! Our flesh is notoriously unreliable along with our feelings. We can fall asleep so readily—physically and spiritually.

**Matthew 26:40-41**

*And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

*Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.*

In case we didn't get it the first time. Repetition is Biblical, saints!

*The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.*

We immediately think of Jonah, and God's provision of shade under the merciless noonday sun:

**Jonah 4:6**

*Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant.*

*The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.*

God, Creator of the elements—and everything that is gloriously His idea—also protects us, His masterwork from those same elements. Amazing! Be assured then that He will protect us from the storms of life.

*The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.*

We are surrounded by every kind of evil in this world. Only God can ultimately protect our physical frames—and our souls for all eternity. If we choose Him. Only if we choose Him.

*The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.*

Every move—from morning to night—God is with you. Forever!

I lead off with this Psalm today to emphasize that there is another option when the storms of life are staring us down, en route to levelling our lives. The other option is to not look to God for help but look around us for anyone and anything other than God.

Enter the Israelites. They don't want relationship with and accountability to God anymore. They have moved from the solid rock of God's Word (see 1 Corinthians 15:1). They have become corrupt, disobedient, and idolatrous and God must now exact punishment. This is what happens when God's own no longer call on Him for truth and help.

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Have you known anyone who turned their back on the Lord. What does their life look like now. What could you learn from this?

\*STUDY POINT: Conduct a private study of famous backsliders in the Bible.

### **Amos 9:5**

*(KJV) And the Lord GOD of hosts is he that toucheth the land, and it shall melt, and all that dwell therein shall mourn: and it shall rise up wholly like a flood; and shall be drowned, as by the flood of Egypt.*

*(NIV) The Lord, the LORD Almighty— he touches the earth and it melts, and all who live in it mourn; the whole land rises like the Nile, then sinks like the river of Egypt;*

He is God of all we see and of all we can't see. Look around at creation and be amazed, oh beloved saint. And He is so powerful that with His fingertip He could melt the earth, and cause all of humankind to mourn and lament their disobedience and rejection of His Son Jesus.

*And it shall rise up wholly like a flood; and shall be drowned, as by the flood of Egypt.*

This terrifying rippling up and down motion of formerly flat ground recalls the great earthquake mentioned in Amos 1:1. It also causes us to grieve over all the earthquakes happening in our day. One more reason we need God as our help!

Amos is singing a hymn here! He is praising His God and His might to his fellow countrymen who have become spiritually deaf. I would imagine he is trying to get their attention through his praise and proclamation. And to warn the Israelites of the irreversible punishment about to fall upon them.

Amos acknowledges through this hymn that we must praise our God in good times, and in bad times.

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: How do you reconcile God's goodness with the seasons of pain He allows sometimes in your life?

\*STUDY POINT: Find three passages in the New Testament where a Biblical figure wrestled with pain, having known also God's bountiful favour?

### **Amos 9:6**

*(KJV) It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name.*

*(NIV) he builds his lofty palace in the heavens and sets its foundation on the earth; he calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the land— the LORD is his name.*

God inhabits His universe. While He is set apart in glory in heaven, His footstool is the earth. He is all-consuming. The water He commands to irrigate crops and destroy civilizations. Here Amos continues his praise of Almighty God before the Israelites who once knew and obeyed their holy and awesome Father. Amos proclaims this:

*The Lord is His name.*

Amen.

~ Reverend Darren McClelland