**THE LION ROARS**

**A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF AMOS**

**(THE PROPHECY AGAINST TYRE, EDOM AND AMMON)**

Main Idea: God places a high premium on the relationship between brothers and the covenant between friends. Whole nations are judged for the lack of honor placed on these relationships.

Amos 1:9 – 15 Lesson 3

Introduction –

Amos is prophesying to the Israelites of the Northern Kingdom concerning things that have happened to the Northern Kingdom about the year 760 BC. He is pronouncing judgment on the nations surrounding Israel. Remember, there are eight prophecies, three messages and five visions. The first two prophecies were against Damascus and Gaza. Today we will look at the judgments against Tyre, Edom and Ammon. In verse two of chapter one, God is described as “*roaring”* His message to these nations... notice...

**I. THE LION ROARS AGAINST TYRE –** vs. 9, 10

1. Somebody has said, “*Friends are like good health; you don't realize what a gift they are until you lose them*.” That is never more true than our example of Tyre and Israel.
2. Now, Amos moves up the Mediterranean coast to Tyre which was the capital of Phoenicia. With these three nations Amos has dealt with he has made a circle around Israel.
3. The Phoenicians sin was the same as that of the Philistines of Gaza. They sold Israelite prisoners of war to the wicked Edomites as well. Remember, the Edomites are the descendants of Esau who held a grudge against his brother Jacob for selling his birthright to him for a bowl of soup. Every chance they had down through the centuries to persecute or slaughter some Israelites, they gloried in it. So, to get these Israelites as captives from the Phoenicians was like the cat being delivered the mice that have tormented them.
4. But Tyre’s sin was greater than that of Gaza.
   1. Tyre had a covenant with Israel. God called it a *brotherly covenant,* vs. 9. Look at 2 Samuel 5:11, 12 and then 1 Kings 5:1 – 12. Hiram, King of Tyre, had a brother-like relationship between both Kings David and Solomon.
   2. These things were well pleasing to God. **Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity**! God was certainly *blessing those who blessed Israel*.
5. But now, Tyre has broken that league. These Phoenicians were known for their treachery and total lack of commitment to faithfulness and truthfulness or any regard to religion or morality. And they have certainly lived up to their reputation. What an ugly reversal from the tender heart they had toward Israel during David and Solomon’s days.
6. God judged Tyre because of their betrayal. In the 6th century B.C. the walls and palaces were burnt with fire. Nebuchadnezzar and Alexander the Great, 250 yrs. later, were used by God to accomplish this.

**Discuss:**

What kind of a premium do you think God places on brotherly kindness?

What would you say happened to the attitude of the kings after King Hiram? Could the actions of Israel have played into this.

What can we do to safeguard the kind of brotherly kindness God expects of His children?

**II. THE LION ROARS AGAINS EDOM** – 11, 12

1. Today we move to the wicked nation of Edom. As we begin with Edom… God deals with the entire nation as opposed to just the capitals of the nations. He does the same with the next three. This is because the previous three nations were simply heathen neighbors to Israel. But these next four are relatives, to one degree or another, kindred neighbors to Israel.
2. With today’s prophecy against Edom, remember, Jacob and Esau were twin brothers who were as different in personality as you could get. Jacob was a home body and Esau was a hunter and a woodsman. Esau, if you remember, sold his birthright for a bowl of soup. Rebecca, Jacob’s mother, helped Jacob devise a plan to ensure he would get the birthright. This infuriated Esau so much that he vowed he would kill him. So, Jacob ran to his mother’s home land and married Rachel and Leah. Well, through Jacob we get the nation of Israel and through Esau we get the nation of the Edomites. These are the people we are dealing with today.
3. Numbers 20:14-21 and 2 Chron. 28:17 with Psalm 137:7 will give good insight to Edom’s attitude toward Israel. The Edomites did not so much attack Israel single handedly, but would quickly jump on the band wagon if another nation was assaulting Israel. They heartily joined Babylon as they attacked God’s people. During battle, they loved to watch the stragglers of Israel’s faint hearted and feeble at the back of the line and would slaughter them. Anything to inflict pain on Israel made them happy.
4. Then God deals with “***the judgment****”* of Edom. Read verse 11 again and notice the description of God’s reasons for judging Edom.
   1. God holds the actions against a brother to be even more grievous than that of an enemy. Brothers have the same parents; they both were to defend the family name and their bond is unlike any other men on earth. That same thought is true of Christians who all have the same Father and have the same family name to defend.
   2. Edom had no problem killing the mother’s with child or the elderly. The nation that is merciless will be judged mercilessly by a holy God!
   3. Then... they just couldn’t let go of their anger. It started in their father Esau and was perpetuated down to every generation. And God has tolerated it long enough. God sends fire on Teman and Bozrah, two of Edom’s principal cities.

**III. THE LION ROARS AGAINST AMMON,** vs. 13-15

1. This nation along with Moab are the result of the incestuous relationship between Lot and his two daughters. (Gen. 19:37, 38)
2. When Israel was returning from their 70-yr. captivity and were attempting to rebuild Jerusalem, you’ll remember that Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the **AMMONITE** were the two main persecutors of the work. They fought tenaciously to keep them from being successful.
3. God had commanded Israel not to possess the land of the Ammonites because of the relation of Lot to Abraham, so Israel had always tried to be civil and brotherly to them.
4. The god they chose to worship was Molech. If you’ll remember, the way he was appeased was to take the life of infants. They had little regard for innocent little lives.
5. God pointed this out in verse thirteen where they would rip open the women with child all so they could enlarge their borders... or accommodate their circumstances better.
6. So… God pronounces His judgment on Ammon in verses 14, 15. Remember *fire* is frequently used in the Bible by God to bring or to represent judgment. The palaces or their luxurious living quarters will be destroyed. God actually calls it the day of the whirlwind. You can’t do *ANYTHING* to stop a tornado or a hurricane. All you can do is take shelter and pray for mercy.

**Discuss:**

1. Why would God expect more from blood brothers than the rest of the world. How would he look upon brothers in Christ and the kind of spirit we should have toward one another?
2. How did the Edomites even feign passive aggression to their advantage?
3. Are there any similarities between the Ammonites and America today? Any examples...