**THE LION ROARS**

**A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF AMOS**

**(Certain Judgment is Coming)**

Main Idea: Though some may be numb to the voice of God, His judgments, once spoken, will be performed.

Amos 3:1 - 15 Lesson 6

Introduction:

* Our previous lessons have consisted of eight *prophecies* to the surrounding nations including Israel itself. The next method God uses to speak to *Israel* is to give them a series of three *messages*. The message is not a popular one. It is a message of judgment. People and politicians don’t like a message of judgment. Their approval ratings go down if you paint a picture of God’s judgment. People like to whitewash things and live on fluff. Unfortunately, people, including Israel, are not living by principle but by emotion and favorable circumstances in their life. Today’s lesson is the *first* of the three messages.

1. **THE VOICE OF THE PROPHET,** Verses 1 – 8

(VERSES 1, 2) –

* 1. Nearness to God is a priceless gift. The nearer we are to God the more intense is our judgment when we stray. The greater the privilege the greater the judgment. Angels who had God’s perfect light yet rebelled and were cast to hell and became devils without any hope. To whom much is given... much is required... Luke 12:48
  2. None had been so gifted by God, so intimate as Israel. Because of that, God says He will punish them.
  3. I hope we understand and never forget the intimacy America has had with God. The *only* reason we have been so blessed with the food and the crops and the power and influence we have in the world is because we built our nation on God’s principles and His Word. And God will judge us accordingly.

(VERSE 3) –

1. Some believe that the *two* spoken of here are God and Amos the prophet. The Israelites just can’t believe that God is actually speaking through Amos and that he is making these things up, that he is delusional. And Amos is posing the rhetorical question, “*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*” As if he were saying, “*Could I be out of fellowship with God and at the same time be giving His message to you?*”
2. The other belief is that Amos is referring to God and Israel. Can God and Israel walk together except they be agreed? And it’s painfully obvious that they *are not* in agreement!

(VERSES 4 – 6)

1. It’s absurd that Israel is hearing these prophecies against themselves and still don’t think that judgment is coming! So, God gives a series of absurd things to compare their absurdities to.
2. First… in verse four… a lion *does* roar when it has prey. It’s like a cry of war to him. And God would not threaten judgment if Israel were not ripe before Him! The young lion which has remained in the den now smells the scent of the prey its mother is bringing and roars. And God can easily smell in His nostrils the scent of a nation He has roared against and about to take them prey.
3. Then he asks in (Verse Five) if a bird can be taken in a trap where there was not one set for him. The snare, as far as Israel is concerned, is the pronouncement of God’s judgment. And He definitely has caught His prey! God’s not going to take up His trap without catching anything at all!
4. (Verse Six) – When the trumpet was sounded in a city warning everyone that an enemy was attacking, it sent intense fear throughout the city. Everybody would scurry to their posts. The women would gather the children to the safety of their houses and the men would go into action gathering their weapons and assuming their positions around the walls of the city. Israel is not responding even though the trumpet has been sounded!
5. America has been warned many times, the trumpet has sounded for years from the pulpits of America, the lion has roared many times across our country. America needs to wake up! Individual Christians need to hear the voice of God and give heed to his warnings as well! **1Pe 4:17**  For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God:

(VERSES 7, 8)

1. In other words, ... God does nothing in judgment to His people that He hasn’t already revealed to His prophets. So, if the prophets are speaking… you better be listening!
2. What an awesome responsibility for the preachers and teachers and parents today who have been given the Bible and are to warn the people of the judgment of sin. Paul gave us the responsibility of every Christian in **Act 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you *all the counsel of God***.
3. **THE VISIT OF THE HEATHEN NEIGHBORS.** Verses 9, 10
4. God tells them to call the heathen to come and look at the nation of Israel and see all the violence and wickedness taking place in “*the City of God.”*
5. He tells them to inform the heathen…. that these people who have been given the law of God *now* don’t even know to do right! It’s as if God is calling the heathen to view how much more wicked His own people are!
6. Step by step and inch by inch people become blinded to the ways of God and forget the very principles that made them such a blessed people! Oh, if that isn’t so true in America! Step by step we have been blinded to what we knew to be right. We once knew that unborn babies were precious in His sight. We once *knew* Jesus is the sweetest name I know. We once *knew* that God condemns same sex marriage. We once *knew* that adultery and pornography and promiscuity of all kinds were wrong and marriage is honorable in all! We once knew that the church house was greater than the White House. But sadly, America has lost sight of what is right, even in many Christian homes!
7. **THE VERDICT OF THE LORD**, Verses 11 – 15
   1. God gives the sad results of such willing blindness. In (Verse Eleven) He foretells about their Babylonian captivity that would last for 70 years.
   2. In (Verse Twelve) he tells them that those who live in luxury now, will just be a small remnant... like the ear of a lamb taken from the mouth of a lion.
   3. In verses (Thirteen and Fourteen) God tells them He will tear out the altars of their false gods! These were the golden calves and the altar erected for them.
   4. Finally, (Verse Fifteen) God is clear that even the finest of places would be ruined, none would escape.
   5. Sometimes, people facing judgment have a tendency to lighten it and try to believe that *it won’t be that bad!* But God has done everything necessary to convince them. Now it’s up to them to believe Him or to face His dreadful consequences.

**Discuss –**

1. Is there any more responsibility to our country than many others because of the freedom of the gospel?
2. How does America parallel the condition of Israel both spiritually and physically?
3. How does God speak to His people today? Has God’s mind about ongoing sin changed from the OT to today?
4. Is America on your prayer list on a regular basis... Our President... National and State leaders?