**THE LION ROARS**

**A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF AMOS**

**(THE FIFTH VISION - THE VISION OF GOD)**

Amos 9:1 - 10 Lesson 14

Main Idea: Though evil men connive and scheme, God sees all and will let nothing pass His judgment.

Introduction - Tell about the hunter tracking a grizzly. First he finds a dead cow… then he sees the tracks… you can even see claw marks on trees as you’re tracking a “griz.” But then you look up after your dogs have been barking and chasing and there’s the big grizzly against a tree. All along the way was the *evidence* of a grizzly bear but at the end of the trail is not the evidence… it’s the actual grizzly himself.

That’s in essence what has been happening with Israel here today

and in the previous chapters…

1. **THE DESCRIPTION OF GOD’S VISION,**  vs. 1.
   1. I like what commentator Albert Barnes says about this verse… **“I saw the Lord”** - *He saw God in a vision; yet God no more, as before, asked Amos what he saw. God no longer shows him emblems of the destruction, but rather the destruction itself.*
   2. Before… God showed Amos a vision of locusts, then the plumbline, and the vision of the basket of fruit. Each of these was a *vision* of what God was *going* to do to Israel. But NOW God shows them HIMSELF, not a *symbol* of the destruction... but the very destruction Himself.
   3. The altar God is standing on would seem to be the one in Bethel. Remember, when the kingdom of Israel was divided into the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom, Jeroboam ruled the Northern Kingdom. But Israel in the Northern Kingdom would still travel down to Jerusalem in the Southern Kingdom to worship God in the temple. Jeroboam was afraid that the people would defect to the Southern Kingdom and eventually kill him so… he sets up an altar with a golden calf and tells them that this was the god that brought them out of Egypt. This is the god that they were now to worship. This way he could ensure loyalty to him. But it comes at a high price for Israel!
2. **THE INESCAPABLE EYE OF GOD,** vs. 2 – 4
   1. Men, when trying to convince themselves that they can escape the eye of God, conjure up all kinds of human reasoning as to how they will escape His recognition of them. We become very resourceful at imagining how we cannot be seen. But God takes away literally every possibility of Him missing our hiding place.
   2. **2 Chronicles 16:9**  For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth... **Proverbs 15:3**  The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good.
   3. Let’s walk through each of these three verses in our text and consider them... (Read and discuss verses 2 – 4)
   4. Mt. Carmel is 1,800 ft. high and is said to have a 1,000 caves one could hide in… and yet God, whose eyes are *everywhere,* could easily see the hiding Israelite.
   5. What would that say about the backslidden Christian who thinks their ways are hidden from a near sighted God? God never needs a telescope or binoculars to help His vision. His eyes are already everywhere watching our every move.
   6. **Job 34:21**  For his eyes *are* upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings. **Job 34:22**  *There is* no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.
3. **GOD MAKES IT CLEAR WHO WILL EXECUTE THESE ACTIONS,**  vs. 5, 6
   1. All through the prophecy of this book, Amos has been the one giving the words and telling the Israelites what would happen if they didn’t turn back to God.
   2. But Amos was easy to put off. They had already told him to go back home. They told him that this was the land where the golden calf was worshiped and he was treading on foreign soil. They told him that his message couldn’t be tolerated... that it was *too much* for the people to bear. After all, he was just a man like them and they had no problem belittling this intruding outsider.
   3. But now, a new Character shows up in town and it’s no commoner like them. This is their Creator. This is the One Who is sovereign over the whole earth! This is Almighty God Himself!
   4. When Amos spoke, it could go in one ear and out the other. But when God touches the land *it shall melt,* every person will mourn... even those who were Amos’ worse critics and detractors.
   5. Every person will be affected just like every Egyptian in the Red Sea was drowned, not one of them escaped then and not one will escape the hand of God now.
   6. It’s one thing for a preacher today to preach the truth and for men to scoff at what he has said. But every man needs to know that there is a God in heaven who will absolutely judge the hearts of men. **Romans 14:12**  So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Not one person will be exempt; God is a righteous Judge and every mocker, every atheist, every critic of God will have to look a holy God in the eye one day and give an account for their lives! And as they say, “*You can take that to the bank!*”
   7. After all, God is the One who made the heavens that He abides in and set up the foundations of the earth. And if God has the power to do those mighty things, be sure He will have no problem finding every man in Israel and bring him to judgment.
   8. Amos told them the **LORD** is the name of the One who would do this (vs. 6). That name is the name for “*the covenant keeping God.”* In other words, God, who keeps His promises, will without doubt judge them.
4. **GOD STRIPS AWAY FROM ISRAEL THEIR LOFTY VIEW OF THEMSELVES,** vs. 7 – 10
   1. Verse 10 shows the delusion Israel had about their safety with God. They felt like they were the “Apple of God’s eye” and that the blessings of having Abraham as their father was a blanket of protection for them.
   2. But God shows them starting in verse 7, that they are no different than the Ethiopians. **Jeremiah 13:23**  Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? *then* may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.
   3. God tells them that He had brought Israel, the Philistines and the Syrians to different lands and Israel was now no more beloved than the Syrians or Philistines were to Him.
   4. In verse 8 God tells them that His eyes are upon them. **Revelation 2:18**  And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass; These eyes of God are eyes of judgment and as a righteous Judge, they miss not one detail or guilty person!
   5. Though God is going to destroy Israel, He has promised that there will always be a remnant of His people to propagate God’s chosen people again. **Isaiah 10:22**  For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, *yet* a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness.
   6. According to verse 9, God was going to shake all the surrounding nations like a sieve and any Israelites that might be hidden in their societies will be carefully winnowed out and not one will be missed!

**Discuss**

1. Who is doing the speaking in this chapter? What is the platform He is using to speak from?
2. How effective are the maneuvers men use to escape the eye of God?
3. What name does God use of Himself to describe who will be doing these judgments? What is the significance of that name to the people He is addressing?
4. How were the Israelites viewing themselves concerning any evil that could come to them?