**THE LION ROARS**

**A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF AMOS**

**(THE PROPHECY AGAINST ISRAEL )**

Main Idea: God is no respecter of persons and He will judge any country that violates His Word, even the apple of His eye.

Amos 2:6 – 16 Lesson 5

Introduction:

* As we have worked our way through Amos, we find God telling us in 1:2 that “***THE LORD WILL ROAR FROM ZION***.” He would use his messenger from Judah, Amos, to deliver his message of judgment on the surrounding nations. Remember, Amos’ name means *burden bearer*.
* God works in a circular way around Israel dealing with the heathen nations first. Then he deals with those nations who are distant relatives to Israel. Then he gets to Judah, the Southern Kingdom who Israel was divided from... working His way to the heart of the circle... Israel.
* Today… the lion roars against Israel, the Northern Kingdom itself. This is the longest and the loudest roar of the lion, the center of His target. Again, God is dealing with His own people and to whom much is given much is required. God listed only a few of the sins of the previous nations. But with Israel, the apple of His eye, He goes into great detail.
* As always, God begins with the sins they have committed. And it’s quite a laundry list:

1. **HE DEALS WITH THEIR INJUSTICE**, vs. 6
   1. This can be taken one of two ways: One, it possibly means that a judge would take a bribe from a wicked man so that the judge would rule in his favor even if the other man was innocent or “*righteous.”* If the men being tried were poor he would even take the bribe of a pair of shoes to rule against the other, even if he were the innocent one.
   2. Secondly… it can be a reference to men selling a fellow Israelite who was in debt to the seller, to be able to get payment from them. They would even sell *men* for a pair of shoes. That shows what little value Israel had for another human soul in that day.
   3. A day of judgment is coming that will not regard the money of men. God cannot be bribed or coerced into anything. God operates solely on righteous principles and *every* ungodly case won by bribery will be retried before the Bench in heaven! *Nobody gets by with ANY* *injustice* ***EVER!!*** Isaiah 59:12 – 15
2. **HE DEALS WITH THEIR MISTREATMENT OF THE POOR**, vs. 7
   1. More than likely this is simply a reference to how far a man will go in his covetousness to gain from *anybody,* even the poor. People covet things in proportion, not to their personal worth, but to their worthlessness. Those who covet the most seem to be… not those who don’t have much... but those who have much. Covetousness doesn’t feed on need but on greed. (Heb. 13:5)
   2. *Turning aside the way of the meek* (vs. 7) *…* has the same idea behind it. The meek man… *being meek… was the easier to take advantage of…and this they did willingly*... a warning to the Christian today.
3. **HE DEALS WITH THEIR IMMORALITY**, vs. 7
   1. Prostitution was a sin in and of itself. But for a son and father to have the same woman was next to an abomination in God’s eyes. There is a huge study on this subject that we don’t have the time to go in to here. But please know, God is condemning this as gross immorality and cites it as another reason for Him sending them into captivity.
   2. The American Christian must get back to understanding that fornication and adultery of any kind is a sin that God will judge. Just because everybody else is doing it is no excuse or reason for a Christian to indulge in those same sins. **1Co 6:18**  Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.
4. **GOD COMDEMNS THEM FOR THEIR INSENSITIVITY**, vs. 8
   1. Look first at Exodus 22:25–27 - So what these men of Israel were doing was… they would take a man’s garment as a pledge for a loan. But you were supposed to return it to him by that evening because it was his bed clothes, and more than likely the only garment he owned in that day.
   2. But rather than returning the garment to the poor man they would go to one of the many idols they were worshipping in that day and lay the garment down in front of their altar and sleep on it. They slept in front of their altars hoping to dream and learn something about their future. They wouldn’t turn to the Word of God so they broke His Word and kept the garments of the poor. And if you kept his bed clothes God said He would hear his cry because HE (God) is gracious.
   3. On top of that they took the money of the poor to provide wine for their tables… vs. 8.
   4. What we are seeing here is a *lawless* people. They have rejected God’s Word and His ways and have conformed to the world around them. God is left with nothing to do but judge them.
5. **THEY MIGHTILY PROVOKED HIM WITH THEIR INGRATITUDE** Vs 9 - 12
   1. God had promised Israel that they would inherit Canaan land but Israel balked because of the size of the giants in the land. God groups all the Canaanites into one name and called them the Amorites, the largest of all the enemies that Israel would have to defeat. So, God basically wiped them out for them. They are described as being tall as the cedars and strong as the oaks.
   2. Israel was able to defeat them soundly and with very little if any casualties. It was an amazing feat and one that would have been utterly impossible without a miracle. So, God picked them up out of Egypt and carried them on eagle’s wings for forty years and routed a people much more adapted to war and skilled in battle.
   3. After they were settled in Israel God made their sons to be prophets and their young men became Nazarites... very special tools in the hand of God. But they began living like the Amorites that God drove out. They caused the Nazarites to defile their holy vows to God by giving them wine to drink and told the prophets to “*BE QUIET... stop preaching to us!”*
6. **FINALLY, GOD PRONOUNCES HIS SENTENCE**, vs. 13 – 16
   1. On June 16, 2015, in Berkeley, California, shortly after midnight, six students died and seven others were injured after a balcony on which they were standing **collapsed**. ... the balcony could not support the weight of the students. That’s what God is telling Israel, “*I am pressed under you, the weight of your sin is more than I can bear*!”
   2. **Psalm 86:15 But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth**. Even a longsuffering God has His limits and will eventually pull the plug.
   3. He tells them the fast runner will not be able to outrun Him or the strong be able to deliver himself. The rider of the horse won’t outrun God; the archer won’t be able to stand and the valiant and courageous man will strip himself of his outer garments to be able to run faster from God’s judgment.

**Discuss:**

1. Name as many of the sins that God was judging Israel for.
2. America parallels so many of the sins of Israel. Can you cite any examples that stand out as proof.
3. If God would judge Israel, the apple of His eye, what would that say to you and me or any other country on earth?
4. Stop and think about the things we personally, and as a country, have to be grateful for.