

**Series:** Minor Prophets

**Sermon:** Amos

**Scripture reading:** Amos 5:18-24

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Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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What's the most terrifying sound you've ever heard?

Maybe the sound of a rattlesnake? A cobra hissing?

The sound of a bee near your head?

Maybe a mosquito in your ear at night?

Well, have you ever heard a lion roar before?

It's terrifying! It shakes your body.

And that's when I heard it in a zoo!

Can you imagine hearing it in the wild as you're setting up camp?

Last week, in the book of Hosea, we saw God as a loving husband who is speaking tenderly to his adulteress wife, wooing her, pleading with her to come home.

Well today, we come to the book of the prophet Amos. And God is not speaking as a loving forgiving husband. He's roaring like a lion. And that's not a good thing.

Open your Bible to chapter 1 of Amos and we will read the first 2 verses. [\[Read Amos 1:1-2\]](#)

**“The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Josh, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. And he said: ‘The LORD roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers.’”**

We also see this again in chapter 3:8 where it says, **“The lion has roared; who will not fear?”** And we see a several other places in Amos God portrayed as a lion.

Why a lion roaring? I thought God was a lamb!  
I thought God was love; a loving husband; a loving Father.

Well, in chapter 1 of Amos we see God as a lion who is circling his prey. If you look in your Bible you will see he goes in verse 3 to the northeast to Damascus. And then he goes to the southwest to Gaza. Then northwest to Tyre and down to to Edom, Ammon, Moab and Judah in the southeast. And he will judge those nations. They are accountable to him. All nations are accountable to him.

But X marks the spot!!

The northern kingdom of Israel is right in the center and she has a target on her back. The lion has his prey in his sights. His prey is his own people.

Why is the lion roaring?  
Why this grievance against Israel?  
Because Israel has sinned.  
Well, what have they done?

### **I. God's grievance (against Israel)**

2:6 they sell the righteous for silver.  
2:6 they sell the needy for a pair of sandals  
2:7 they trample the poor  
2:7 they commit gross sexual immorality  
2:8 their drunkenness  
2:12 they're against the holy and godly  
3:10 they commit violence, robbery  
4:1 they oppress the poor and crush the needy  
4:4-5 their worship is twisted  
4:6-12 after much discipline...they're unrepentant.  
5:10 they hate the truth  
5:11 they tax the poor  
5:12 they afflict the righteous  
5:12 they take bribes  
5:12 they turn aside the needy.

And on and on it goes, but the most common indictment is how they treat the poor. Israel is guilty as charged. Judgment is coming.  
The lion is going to attack.

Hosea and Amos are 2 sides of the same coin.  
They were both called to speak out against Northern Israel and about the same time period. But they are different.

Whereas Hosea focused on their idolatry, Amos focuses on the natural outcome of their idolatry, which was how they treated their fellow man. Israel is guilty of both.

**We can say it like this:**

*Hosea* focuses on the breaking of the greatest commandment: Love God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength.

*Amos* is focusing more on the second....loving your neighbor as yourself.

God has been shouting at them to repent but they won't. Look in [chapter 4](#) starting in [verse 6](#).

- He sent a famine, 'Yet you did not return to me.'
- He sent a drought (v 7-8), 'Yet you did not return to me.'
- He sent pests on the plants (v 9), 'Yet you did not return to me.'
- He sent death and war (v10), 'Yet you did not return to me.'
- He sent fire (v 11), 'Yet you did not return to me.'

So, judgment is coming. Because of Israel's idolatry and taking advantage of the poor and because they won't return to God, God has a grievance against them and says to them in [4:12](#), **"Prepare to meet your God, O Israel."**

We should pause here for a second and not fly by those words too quickly.

We should not think God is to be played with.

Are you prepared to meet God?

**Do we take God seriously?**

Do we take our sin seriously?

Has God been trying to get your attention?

What has God been saying to you over and over?

Has God been roaring at you?

Does God have any grievance against you?

Have you been listening?

Are we treating others around us fairly and justly?

Are we taking advantage of the poor?

Are there any idols in our hearts?

If so, God will have a grievance with us.

**4:12, “Prepare to meet your God, O Israel.”**

Now, that’s a fearful thing because of who God is.

And Amos breaks out 3 times in proclaiming God’s glory.

**II. God’s glory.**

**4:13 "For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth—the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name."**

**5:8 “He who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the LORD is his name.**

**9:5-6 “The Lord GOD of hosts, he who touches the earth and it melts, and all who dwell in it mourn, and all of it rises like the Nile, and sinks again, like the Nile of Egypt; who builds his upper chambers in the heavens and founds his vault upon the earth; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth—the LORD is his name.”**

Do you see what Amos is doing?

He’s proclaiming the covenant name of God and displaying all of his magnificence before them as if to say, “Don’t be stupid.

Don’t worship your wealth.

Don’t worship your little baby golden cow.

Don’t ignore the one who made Orion!

Don’t ignore the one who makes oceans and mountains and wind and controls the solar system.

Don’t think his judgment is a slap on the wrist or a little timeout.

Don’t play with a lion!

Seeing His glory will change you.

How can we worship idols if we are continuously basking in the glory of god?  
How can we trample on the poor if we are beholding God daily? We won't!  
We will be changed as we gaze on His magnificence.

You want to be changed? It starts by Beholding God.  
Do you know how God displays his glory most magnificently?  
More brilliant than Orion and more amazing than his creative handiwork?  
By his grace.

### **III. God's grace.**

Look in chapter 5 verse 4. It says, **“Seek me and live”**  
Again in verse 6, **“Seek the LORD and live.”**

Verse 14, **“Seek good and not evil, that you may live.”**

Verse 15, **“Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph (Israel).”**

Verse 24, **“Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”**

Here, in the midst of all of these grievances that God has against them....even then...as he is circling the camp, growling and warning them...he is still giving them one last chance to turn toward him and change their ways.

But they don't.

And so his judgment comes. And what God promised he would do, he did. **3:11-12** “**An adversary shall surround the land and bring down your defenses from you, and your strongholds shall be plundered. Thus says the LORD: ‘As the shepherd rescues from the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear, so shall the people of Israel who dwell in Samaria be rescued, with the corner of a couch and part of a bed.’**”

So, that generation faced his wrath because they wouldn't respond to his warnings and pleadings.

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[PAUSE]

But, he didn't forget his promise to Israel as a nation. Though they forgot the covenant he didn't forget. He kept his end of the bargain, though they did not.

Look in **chapter 9:8**. He says, “**except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob.**” This is a theme in all of the minor prophets. Judgement now, but hope of deliverance ultimately through the Messiah. The minor prophets are pointing to the Messiah, Jesus.

**Verse 11, “In that day, I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old, that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all of the nations who are called by my name, declares the LORD who does this.”**



And then he tells of this great harvest that is coming in verses 13-15.

What does all of this mean?

Well, we could do a whole sermon on just these verses but let me give you the short story.

Where it says, “I will raise up the booth of David”, that refers to the rebuilding of David’s kingdom and a great harvest from the nations- cause the feast of booths was a harvest festival and sometimes called the Festival of the Nations.

In **Acts 15**, when the nations start to believe in Jesus, when the harvest from the nations begins, they think of this verse and quote it.

And who is the King who will come through the line of David and raise up the new kingdom, repair it, and rebuild it and save people from every nation?

**Jesus Christ.**

So, Amos is showing them **God’s Grievances** against them for their sin.

And Amos declares **God’s Glory** and says, ‘God is magnificent, wonderful and powerful and is to be taken seriously.’

But he’s also pointing them (and us) to **God’s Grace**, to “seek the LORD and live.”

He’s pointing to God’s grace in Jesus Christ.

The Bible says this about God's grace in Jesus Christ...  
**“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23**

That's really good news.

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**Are you prepared to meet God?**

If not, today is the day to 'Seek the LORD and live.'  
Christian, are taking God seriously?  
Are you taking advantage of his grace?  
Need we be reminded today that in Amos God was speaking to HIS people?