

The Roar of the Lion
God's Passion for Justice



A Word of Good News
Amos 9:11-15

Amos's Call

- For the last 3 weeks we have been hearing Amos's call for justice & concern for the poor
- Judgement upon Israel for being indifferent to the oppressed
- A famine of God's word upon Israel

Amos 9

- We have a contrasting word from the prophet
- Ultimately God's word is one of good news



The Context of the Good News
Amos 9:5-8

The Lord, God of hosts, he who touches the earth and it melts, and all who live 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.

Amos 9:5-6

The Creator & Builder

- 'God touches the earth' (v5)
- 'who builds/founds' (v6)
- The universe flows from God's handiwork

The Maintainer

- 'Calls for the waters of the sea'; 'Pours them out upon the surface of the earth' (v6)
- Imagery of rain/of God's ongoing provision & providence – not a remote Deist God

Are you not like the Ethiopians to me, O people of Israel? says the Lord. Did I not bring Israel up from the land of Egypt, and the Philistines from Caphtor and the Arameans from Kir?

The eyes of the Lord God are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth –except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, says the Lord.

Amos 9:7-8

Lord of History

- God is concerned for all the nations: Ethiopia (Africa), the Philistines, the Arameans (Syrians) – even as he is concerned for Israel
- He is concerned even for Israel's enemies

Judgement & Blessing

- How do they practice justice & righteousness? (v8)
- A call for goodness/justice (v9-10)
- Both vertical & horizontal dimensions



On 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; in order that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name, says the Lord who does this.

Amos 9:11-12

i. God Restores

- 'Booth' of David (v11) - sukah, a shelter
- Speaks to a restoration of the Davidic kingdom
- A restoration of the land - all the territories of David/Solomon

i. God Restores

- The restoration happens through the coming of the Messiah
- The Messiah enables the rebirth of God's kingdom – the birth of Jesus and his ministry

ii. God Blesses

- Blessings upon nature (v13)
- Abundant harvests
- Scenes of fertility and fecundity
- Nature reborn

ii. God Blesses

- Socio-economic renewal (v14)
- 'restore the fortunes of Israel'
- Cities rebuilt/vineyards planted again
- Stability & security in the land

ii. God Blesses

- God will replant Israel – God is your God (v15b)
- All metaphors of renewal & blessing in the new kingdom



God's Promises

- The Booth of David imagery finds its roots with Abraham and his calling - all the peoples of the earth are blessed (Genesis 12:3)
- Repeated to David where his kingdom will last forever (2 Samuel 7:16)

God's Promises

- The Apostle James connects the birth of the church to the prophecy of Amos – Acts 15:16-17
- The inclusion of the Gentiles into the church reveals the Amos prophecy

God's Promises

- We can hold onto God's promises for us

There's Hope

- God will save his people and the earth
- "...that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God." (Romans 8:21)

There's Hope

- God is your God (v15) - God knows your name
- The Father of every family upon the earth (Ephesians 3:14-15)
- We have a personal relationship with Abba

Brokenness Restored

- God knows our fragility & woundedness
- God puts us back together
- God leads us into a path of transformation (2 Corinthians 3:18)

I still believe that one day humanity will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive goodwill will proclaim the rule of the land.

'And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together and every person shall sit under their own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid.' I still believe that we shall overcome.

Martin Luther King, Jr.