

*Dear Ones,*

*For this month's article I feel from the Lord to simply share an outline from a class I taught years ago on the book of Amos. Although these notes may lack the organization and polish of a "finished article", they do come directly from a broken-hearted person (me) sitting before the Lord, being dealt with and beholding His beautiful heart in the Word...*

*I pray you too will be blessed.*

## **Amos – “From Among the Sheep”**

*1:1a “The words of Amos, who was among the herdsmen of Tekoa which he saw concerning Israel...”*

God **SHOWED** something to Amos, partially due to the vantage point Amos had dwelling among the sheep as a shepherd. God could show Amos “sheep things” because he dwelt among them. Amos daily would have observed the **WAY** the sheep treated one another in small things... seemingly “unimportant” things. Things that may have seemed to go unnoticed by the great King. But the Lord of all dwells among and within His sheep, and how they treat one another is the very seal of His Kingdom. He notices how we treat one another, and it deeply affects His heart and His kingdom.

*1:1b “...which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah, king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam, the son of Joash...”*

Amos specifically saw the way the sheep treated one another during a time of ease and economic abundance, as both Uzziah and Jeroboam reigned during a season of prosperity and ease in both Judah and Israel. A note of interest in this: even though both Judah and Israel looked and felt as if they were prospering, in actuality they were living in a state of wounded separation. In God's eyes, neither Judah nor Israel was prospering. In reality they were in a state of brokenness, but only to those who have eyes to see from God's view.

*1:1b “...which he saw concerning Israel...”*

Even though **BOTH** Judah and Israel were in horrible condition, God was **DEALING WITH ISRAEL**. How easy it is to shift the blame to my brother's problems when God is dealing with me.

This becomes a major theme in the beginning chapters of Amos as God goes through **7 different judgments to all of Israel's neighbors and Judah** before dealing with Israel for over 4 chapters. God makes sure to prove to Israel that His judgments, discipline and correction are impartial by dealing with all of Israel's neighbors before addressing Israel's sins. There are to be no excuses or shifting the blame and focus off of ourselves onto others. We are to let the Cross come and deal with our flesh when the Lord chooses to address certain areas.

Our pride, self-righteousness, critical spirit, pushing the blame onto others, making of excuses, etc... makes it difficult for God to deal with US. “*Not my brother, not my sister, but it is ME Oh Lord, standing in the need of the CROSS!*” The Spirit of God took the time to deal with this by laying out the book of Amos in the manner it was written. God does not begin to deal with Israel without first

showing that He was dealing with everyone else also. To me, more important than investigating with critical eyes every rebuke laid upon Judah and the neighboring nations, is to receive the great awakening that God is not being partial or unjust in bringing the judgment of the cross upon my flesh in a very marked and exacting way. For Israel of old, and for me today, it is time to let the Cross come to me. It is not time to judge others but to let God judge me and reveal where the Spirit of His Son is not formed and self is reigning instead.

**1:1c “...two years before the earthquake...”**

Even though Israel may have felt completely ok, even great, due to the outward prosperity and lack of problems, the reality was that **DEEP INSIDE THE EARTH** there was great pressure, poison, and unformed darkness that was churning and burning under the surface. In only **TWO YEARS** the earth would begin to manifest its true condition, leading eventually to Assyrian captivity and the scattering of Israel. Amos **SAW** what was really going on. God showed him. Amos was not deceived by the outward appearance of things looking prosperous and judged based on what was really going on beneath the surface, the true spiritual state of things and people.

**1:2a “And he said, The Lord will ROAR from Zion...”**

Who can even begin to fathom the depths of this statement? God is **ROARING** concerning the state of Zion, which is meant to be His habitation and bride. The very depths of God are moved at her condition. He is not weeping or pleading, but speaking from the depths of His being. It is time to hear what the Spirit is trying to communicate. God Himself is ready to move, to pounce, to burst into motion concerning that which has His name but is not HIM in nature. This type of passion comes to those He deeply cares for, for the scriptures share that whom the Lord loves He disciplines (Hebrews 12:6). The Father wants His Son to be formed in us, and His passion for His Son is beyond all our comprehension.

**1:2b “...and utter His voice from Jerusalem...”**

God is speaking from the place of oneness with His people. God dwelt in Jerusalem. He inhabited the Holy of Holies by His Presence. God is not speaking as one who is distant, like a faraway judge. God is speaking from the place of intimate oneness.

**1:2c “...and the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn...”**

What a powerful statement to make at this point. The Shepherds who dwell with the sheep are mourning. They see the true state of God’s people because they observe how they treat one another.

**Home Work:**

- How does God want to speak to my heart through the book of Amos?
- In what ways does Amos help me to hear the Lord’s heart more clearly?
- How can I be more aware of my need for Christ to be formed in me by the way I treat others?
- How can I learn from the book of Amos not to point the finger at others, but to see where I need the Cross to deal with my flesh and Christ to be formed in me?