



AMOS

A Prophet
for Today

You Only Have I Known

Amos 3:1-8

Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt: "You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities. "Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet? Does a lion roar in the forest, when he has no prey?

Does a young lion cry out from his den, if he has taken nothing? Does a bird fall in a snare on the earth, when there is no trap for it? Does a snare spring up from the ground, when it has taken nothing? Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it? "For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.

The lion has roared; who will not fear?
The Lord GOD has spoken; who can
but prophesy?”

Hear this word that the LORD has
spoken against you, **O people of
Israel**, against **the whole family** that
I brought up out of the land of Egypt

Deuteronomy 6:4-6

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

In Israel the prophets served as God's prosecuting attorneys. Armed with divine subpoenas, they were to file suit against Israel for breaking their covenant with God.

– R. C. Sproul



“You only have I known of all the families of the earth;

(what Israel likely would have expected...)

“So I will protect you from the judgment I’m bringing on the other nations”

Genesis 4:1

Now Adam **knew** Eve his wife, and she
conceived and bore Cain

Jeremiah 1:5

“Before I formed you in the womb I
knew you, and before you were born I
consecrated you; I appointed you a
prophet to the nations.”

Deuteronomy 10:15

Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day.

Deuteronomy 32:8-9

When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. But the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage.

“You only have I known of all the families of the earth;

therefore **I will punish you** for all your iniquities.

Amos 5:18-19

Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him.

Isaiah 16:18-19

Your holy people held possession for a little while; our adversaries have trampled down your sanctuary. We have become **like those over whom you have never ruled, like those who are not called by your name.**

It is not that the Lord chooses then reverses his choice, makes people his sons then unmakes them. Amos is declaring the vengeance which falls within the covenant.

Here vengeance purges, removing from the covenant people those who claim to be members but are not, and vengeance chastises, disciplining those who are true members but who as sons need the Father's loving correction.

– J. A. Motyer



Luke 12:48

But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

Examples of Cause and Effect

Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet? Does a lion roar in the forest, when he has no prey? Does a young lion cry out from his den, if he has taken nothing? Does a bird fall in a snare on the earth, when there is no trap for it? Does a snare spring up from the ground, when it has taken nothing? Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it?

Do two walk together, unless they have
agreed to meet?

Exodus 19:4-6

You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and **brought you to myself**. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

3:3 "Can two walk together..." Principle of relationship.

No force or judgment

3:4 "Does a lion...young lion...his prey..."

One animal overpowers another animal.

3:5 "Does a bird fall in a snare...snare spring up..."

Man overpowers animal.

3:6a "Is a trumpet blown... people afraid..."

Man overpowers man.

3:6b "Disaster come unless Lord has done it..."

The Lord overpowers man.

1 Peter 4:17

For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

“For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets. The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken; who can but prophesy?”

The God of the modern evangelical rarely astonishes anybody. He manages to stay pretty much with the constitution. Never break our by-laws. He's a very well-behaved God and very denominational and very much like one of us...we ask Him to help us when we're in trouble and look to Him to watch over us when we're asleep. The God of the modern evangelical isn't a God I could have much respect for.

– A. W. Tozer



Revelation 1:14-18

The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw him, **I fell at his feet as though dead.**