

Emmanuel Online Service
6.9.2020

Sermon Notes:

Amos 1:1-2

There is something in us that likes to be a little scared - so long as we are safe.

- Maybe that's partly why we like seeing Lions in the zoo at feeding time.
- But take away the safety glass and the experience would be very different!
- That is the image at the start of Amos - the Lord as a roaring Lion (v2)

We might be tempted to say this isn't the way we like to think of God

- We like to think of God as 'only loving and kind'.

But Amos 1:2 is the real God

- not a god of our imaginations

What does Proverbs 1:7 tell us?

- 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge'
- It is the very first baby step in knowledge to fear God
- So is there any fear of the Lord in your worship of Him?
- Or has your relationship with Him become mundane or just matey?

Below are some verses to help us fear the Lord - how about using one each day this week at the start of your personal Bible and prayer times.

- Isaiah 6:3
- Revelation 4:8
- Proverbs 1:7
- Exodus 15:11
- Luke 5:8
- Psalm 96:6

There are 3 things to notice about the Lion's roar from verses 1-2 of Amos 1...

1. The roar has been a long time coming.

Have a look at verse 1 to see when Amos prophesied...

- We don't know exactly when the earthquake was
- But we do know when the Kings reigned - in the 8th century BC.

We need to remember this isn't the first thing the Lord said to Israel.

- The Lord has been speaking to them for hundreds of years.
- The Lord chose them, provided for them generously, rescued them over and over again and forgiven them many times.
- To see how God has revealed himself see Exodus 34:6-7
- Given who God is and how he has dealt with the Israelites, we should ask at the beginning of Amos: What did the Israelites do to make a loving, compassionate God into a roaring Lion? We will see the answer over the coming weeks.
- But for now we just need to see the patience of the Lord.

The Lord is still patient with us – but we mustn't mistake His patience for indifference.

- If we rebel against the Lord we may well find...life is OK.
- But that doesn't mean the Lord approves – he is being patient.
- Lord's patience will, at some point, end – we need to be warned.

2. You can't run from the Lion's roar

- In verse 2 Amos uses the extremes to convey the idea that the whole of Israel will feel the blast of the Lord's roar
- The pastures in the South to the Mountains in the North
- All will feel its force

We too need to remember that when the Lord judges we can't run from Him.

- We won't escape
- If you are living in rebellion against God – running from Him, be aware you can't escape by running away from God

So what are we to do?

3. The only escape is to run towards the Lion

- This isn't a tip if you were to meet a Lion in the wilds of Africa!
- But in Amos the only escape from the Lord's roar is to run to Him.
- Chapter 5:6 'Seek the Lord and live'
- We get a hint of this in verse 2. Did you see where the Lion roars from?

He roars from Jerusalem. This is significant...

- Jerusalem was in the Southern Kingdom – Judah.
- Israel (Northern Kingdom) had set up their own places of worship – the Lord is saying that Jerusalem is still the place He has chosen.
- But also, remember what is in Jerusalem...the temple.
- And the temple was a place of wrath and mercy
- If you were an Israelite and you had sinned you were to take an animal to the temple to be sacrificed.
- The animal dies in your place, taking wrath, so you can receive mercy
- So, where should an Israelite in Amos' day go to be forgiven – Jerusalem! Right into the Lion's den.
- What about us? We don't go to the temple, but to the cross of Jesus. The ultimate place where wrath and mercy meet.
- Don't run from the Lord because of your sin, run to Him with your sin.
- His promise is that all who confess their sins will be forgiven (see 1 John 1:9)
- So don't run away from the Lord – run to Him. It is the only escape.

So we have started into Amos and have heard the Lion roar. How will you respond?