

# Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

## Amos: The Radical Justice of God

### Message 2: Privilege and Responsibility

#### Review:

The Lion of Zion roars his judgements against the nations ...

They are accountable to God because of what they have \_\_\_\_\_ ... not knowing God was/is no \_\_\_\_\_.

The Lion roars against \_\_\_\_\_ also, not sparing them simply because they are "His people".

#### Amos 2:13-16 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> "Behold, I will press you down in your place, as a cart full of sheaves presses down. <sup>14</sup> Flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not retain his strength, nor shall the mighty save his life; <sup>15</sup> he who handles the bow shall not stand, and he who is swift of foot shall not save himself, nor shall he who rides the horse save his life; <sup>16</sup> and he who is stout of heart among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day," declares the LORD.

In fact, they are judged more harshly \_\_\_\_\_ they know God and have His \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Amos 3:1-2 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> 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: <sup>2</sup> "You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

This proclamation likely shocked the Israelites ...

3 truths about God's people:

1) God \_\_\_\_\_ them.

#### Genesis 35:10-12 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he called his name Israel. <sup>11</sup> And God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. <sup>12</sup> The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you."

Why did God choose them?

*Abraham ...*

*Isaac ...*

*Jacob ...*

2) God \_\_\_\_\_ them.

**Deuteronomy 4:20 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup>But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.

3) Their relationship with God was \_\_\_\_\_ among all the people of earth.

**Deuteronomy 4:32-40 (ESV)**

<sup>32</sup>“For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of. <sup>33</sup>Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and still live? <sup>34</sup>Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great deeds of terror, all of which the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? <sup>35</sup>To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD is God; there is no other besides him. <sup>36</sup>Out of heaven he let you hear his voice, that he might discipline you. And on earth he let you see his great fire, and you heard his words out of the midst of the fire. <sup>37</sup>And because he loved your fathers and chose their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt with his own presence, by his great power, <sup>38</sup>driving out before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is this day, <sup>39</sup>know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. <sup>40</sup>Therefore you shall keep his statutes and his commandments, which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for all time.”

**SEE: Deuteronomy 7**

What can we learn about God from this passage?

**Ominous message of pending judgment:**

**Amos 3:3-8 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup>“Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet? <sup>4</sup>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? <sup>5</sup>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? <sup>6</sup>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? <sup>7</sup>“For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets. <sup>8</sup>The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken; who can but prophesy?”

Each of these rhetorical questions speaks to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ...

**Timeless Lessons:**

Like O.T. Israel, we are chosen and redeemed by \_\_\_\_\_.

Like Israel in the O.T., that grace brings unique \_\_\_\_\_ in honoring/obeying Him.

As in the Old Testament, the grace that God gives His people is to be \_\_\_\_\_, not merely \_\_\_\_\_.

God hold His own people to the \_\_\_\_\_ of standards.

God will judge \_\_\_\_\_ first.

**Amos 3:9-15 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> Proclaim to the strongholds in Ashdod and to the strongholds in the land of Egypt, and say, "Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria, and see the great tumults within her, and the oppressed in her midst." <sup>10</sup> "They do not know how to do right," declares the LORD, "those who store up violence and robbery in their strongholds." <sup>11</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "An adversary shall surround the land and bring down your defenses from you, and your strongholds shall be plundered." <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> "Hear, and testify against the house of Jacob," declares the Lord GOD, the God of hosts, <sup>14</sup> "that on the day I punish Israel for his transgressions, I will punish the altars of Bethel, and the horns of the altar shall be cut off and fall to the ground. <sup>15</sup> I will strike the winter house along with the summer house, and the houses of ivory shall perish, and the great houses shall come to an end," declares the LORD.

**And regarding judgment:**

He warns \_\_\_\_\_ at first, then \_\_\_\_\_.

**Hosea 5:12a (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> But I am like a moth to Ephraim ...

**Hosea 5:14a (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> For I will be like a lion to Ephraim ...

If disaster comes, \_\_\_\_\_ sends it.

**Isaiah 45:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the LORD, who does all these things.

**Isaiah 45:7 (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup> I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things.

The only antidote to judgment is genuine \_\_\_\_\_.

(See ch. 4 "...yet you did not return to me ...")

*Next week: A Stubborn People*