

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>1</sup>The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

<sup>2</sup>And he said: "The Lord roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers."

<sup>3</sup>Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have threshed Gilead with threshing sledges of iron. <sup>4</sup>So I will send a fire upon the house of Hazael, and it shall devour the strongholds of Ben-hadad. <sup>5</sup>I will break the gate-bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitants from the Valley of Aven, and him who holds the scepter from Beth-eden; and the people of Syria shall go into exile to Kir," says the Lord.

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they carried into exile a whole people to deliver them up to Edom. <sup>7</sup>So I will send a fire upon the wall of Gaza, and it shall devour her strongholds. <sup>8</sup>I will cut off the inhabitants from Ashdod, and him who holds the scepter from Ashkelon; I will turn my hand against Ekron, and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish," says the Lord God.

<sup>9</sup>Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Tyre, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they delivered up a whole people to Edom, and did not remember the covenant of brotherhood. <sup>10</sup>So I will send a fire upon the wall of Tyre, and it shall devour her strongholds."

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because he pursued his brother with the sword and cast off all pity, and his anger tore perpetually, and he kept his wrath forever. <sup>12</sup>So I will send a fire upon Teman, and it shall devour the strongholds of Bozrah."

<sup>13</sup>Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of the Ammonites, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead, that they might enlarge their border. <sup>14</sup>So I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour her strongholds, with shouting on the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind; <sup>15</sup>and their king shall go into exile, he and his princes together," says the Lord.

<sup>2:1</sup>Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because he burned to lime the bones of the king of Edom. <sup>2</sup>So I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the strongholds of Kerioth, and Moab shall die amid uproar, amid shouting and the sound of the trumpet; <sup>3</sup>I will cut off the ruler from its midst, and will kill all its princes with him," says the Lord.

<sup>4</sup>Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have rejected the law of the Lord, and have not kept his statutes, but their lies have led them astray, those after which their fathers walked. <sup>5</sup>So I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem."

- Amos 1:1-2:5 (English Standard Version)

# Sermon Outline

**The Lord Roars for Justice**  
Amos 1:1-2:5

*Return With All Your Heart*  
Matt Esswein

*The Lord roars for justice among all his creation. Our response to his justice reveals our hearts.*

## How does the Lord reveal his justice?

The Lord reveals his justice through an unlikely source, Amos. (Amos 1:1-2)

The Lord reveals his justice amongst Israel's neighbors & Judah. (Amos 1:2-2:5)

- Damascus - trampling on people, treating less than human (Amos 1:3-5)
- Gaza - carried people into exile (Amos 1:6-8)
- Tyre - failure to keep their word (Amos 1:9-10)
- Edom - perpetual anger (Amos 1:11-12)
- Ammon - violent and vicious (Amos 1:13-15)
- Moab - mistreatment of Edom (Amos 2:1-3)
- Judah - rejected the law of the Lord (Amos 2:4-5)

The Lord's justice reveals the blind spots of Israel.

- How did Israel respond to seeing the judgment of their neighbors and rival Judah?

## Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- How do you respond when you see injustice going on around you? Why do you think we long for justice?
- Amos came as a shepherd, not a professional prophet, from the southern state of Judah speaking judgment to the northern state of Israel. How do you think the people of affluent Israel would have reacted?
- How do you respond when *friends* are criticized? *Enemies*? How do you respond when you are criticized?
- What do you think the people of Israel said among themselves as Amos spoke against their neighbors?
- Why can it be easier for us to see the injustices of nations or people around us than within ourselves?
- Why do you think Amos uses the language of the Lord, "for three sins of \_\_\_\_\_, even for four I will not turn back my wrath"? What does this show of God's mercy & justice?
- What particular areas of sin are mentioned for the nations? Which of these sins are prevalent today?
- How is the roaring of the Lord (1:2) a comfort for us? A challenge for us?
- What issue or issues could you roar against today?