

Chapter 3

**Amos 3: [1] Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, [2] You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities. [3] Can two walk together, except they be agreed?**

**1. The Place of Privilege**

**1-3**

Israel is God's chosen people.

*Isaiah 41:8 But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.*

God proved His love and care for Israel when He delivered them from the 400 years of bondage in Egypt. Yet, great privileges imply great responsibility.

*Luke 12:48 For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.*

Great responsibility demands obedience to God's Word.

If there is no obedience, and no repentance, judgment for disobedience will follow.

Israel believed that their special place of privilege made them less responsible.

Israel believed that God will allow Israel's special position to exempt them from judgment.

But in actuality, God's love and care for Israel, makes judgment for sin and disobedience unavoidable.

We, the church, like Israel have been chosen.

Jesus said in *John 15:16 "ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you."*

*Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world*

*1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people*

Great privileges imply great responsibility, which demands obedience to the Lord.

If there is no obedience, judgment will follow.

*1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God.*

**Amos 3: [4] Will a lion roar in the forest, when he hath no prey? will a young lion cry out of his den, if he have taken nothing? [5] Can a bird fall in a snare upon the earth, where no gin is for him? shall one take up a snare from the earth, and have taken nothing at all? [6] Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it? [7] Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. [8] The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?**

**2. The Points of His Purpose**

**4-8**

God has Amos to ask some questions that are answered by obvious observations to prove God's point. These points are made in progression, from non-threatening to the sure warning.

Amos wants us to reason and believe observed results will bring an assumed result.

There are six observations which reinforce God's final point.

#1 -Can two walk together, except they be agreed? NO!

This question implies that the two had joined together in keeping their appointment and continuance. Israel began walking with the Lord, but disobedience caused Israel to turn back.

#2- Will a lion roar, when he has no prey? NO!

God warned them, of their potential to disobey.

#3- Will a young lion growl in his den when has caught nothing? NO!

God know has caught them in unrepentant sin.

#4- Will a bird fall in a snare, when there is no trap? NO!

Israel was taken captive by the snare of the devil at his will, 2Timothy 2:26.

#5- Will a trap spring up, where there is nothing to catch? NO!

This trap of the devil, ensnared Israel as they became disobedient to the Lord God.

#6- Shall a trumpet sound an alarm and the people not fear? NO!

God has been sounding the alarm to warn of judgment and Israel is unconcerned.

#7- Then conclusively, when disaster comes, can you say the Lord has not done it? NO!

Disaster comes, because the Lord sent it. Whatever happens must first go through God's hands.

*Isaiah 45:7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.*

In verse 7, Amos says that God will not bring judgment without first giving warning by His prophets. No one would ever stand and say that Israel did not have an opportunity to repent.

God has warned us "for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God", Romans 3:23

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord", Rom. 6:23.

In verse 8, Amos asks "Who will not fear, when a lion roars?"

Then Amos asks "Who will not preach, when God has warned?"

Friend war, drought, famine, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, terrorists do not come by accident.

They are sent as snares for the destruction of the disobedient.

Knowing this to be true, why do we not believe and warn others?

*Acts 4:20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.*

Understand, Amos is not making a future prediction, but he is declaring the intentions of God's purpose. God will bring about the events that He declares.

Amos wants others to HEAR what God says and herald the message of judgment throughout the land.

**Amos 3: [9] Publish in the palaces at Ashdod, and in the palaces in the land of Egypt, and say, Assemble yourselves upon the mountains of Samaria, and behold the great tumults in the midst thereof, and the oppressed in the midst thereof. [10] For they know not to do right, saith the LORD, who store up violence and robbery in their palaces. [11] Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; An adversary there shall be even round about the land; and he shall bring down thy strength from thee, and thy palaces shall be spoiled. [12] Thus saith the LORD; As the shepherd taketh out of the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear; so shall the children of Israel be taken out that dwell in Samaria in the corner of a bed, and in Damascus in a couch.**

### 3. Publishing the Proclamation 9-12

God has Amos to say "Publish in the palaces of Ashdod and Egypt to come to Samaria." Samaria is the capital city of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

God wants these two enemy nations to come and observe the oppressive sins of Israel. God is not gathering them to be used as an instrument of judgment, but as witnesses. God is gathering witnesses against Israel and is gathering evidence.

By these two nations, Israel would be insulted for Israel considers herself morally superior to these two wicked nations.

Herein is the world bearing witness to the sin of the modern church!

*Deut 17:6 At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death*

*Deut 19:15 at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.*

Have you ever wondered why these strange things seem to happen to you?  
Have you ever considered that maybe God is using your life, to gather evidence?

*1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: [13] But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings*

*Mark 13:9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.*

In verse 10, God says that the leadership of Israel in Samaria is filled with theft and oppression. People who do not know how to do right will often condemn those who do.

In verse 11, God says that He will send a great adversary to lay siege upon Israel. This enemy would come 30 years later. The Assyrians invaded Israel and brought Israel into subjection. The Assyrians destroyed the defenses and plundered the treasures of Israel. For 10 years, Israel would pay tribute to Assyria.

In verse 12, God states that He will not protect the disobedient nation of Israel. God will allow the enemy to devastate and ruin Israel. Notice the comparison of a shepherd taking out of the mouth of the lion, two legs or a piece of an ear. Thus there is evidence of sheep, but now they are taken away. This shows the former existence of the sheep, but now they are destroyed.

This sheep illustration is given in comparison to Israel being dragged away from their luxuries. Israel believed they should not be concerned with God's warnings when they were so prosperous. Though Israel reclining in spiritual laziness, God will bring judgment.

**Amos 3: [13] Hear ye, and testify in the house of Jacob, saith the Lord GOD, the God of hosts, [14] That in the day that I shall visit the transgressions of Israel upon him I will also visit the altars of Bethel: and the horns of the altar shall be cut off, and fall to the ground. [15] And I will smite the winter house with the summer house; and the houses of ivory shall perish, and the great houses shall have an end, saith the LORD.**

#### 4. The Perils of Punishment

13-15

God says "Amos you hear and testify to all of Israel, not just the N. Kingdom or the S. Kingdom."

In verse 14, when God brings this judgment on Israel, it will also fall on the false altars at Bethel. Israel was practicing religious ceremonies and offering sacrifices to golden calves. Israel was also worshipping other false gods and was using prostitutes and calling it religious rights. God will destroy the very "horns of the altar", which represents strength.

1Kings 2:28-34, Joab died at the horns of the altar.

In verse 15, God's judgment would extensively damage Israel. Both the poor and the rich will experience the judgment of God. The luxurious winter houses and the opulent expensive summer houses would cease to exist. The houses of ivory and all the great houses will be destroyed.

**Concl:** The only anyone can stand in judgment is through Jesus Christ. Jesus bore the wrath of God in our place as He took our sin upon Himself that we might be forgiven. Only in Jesus, will anyone be sheltered from inevitable judgment.