



**A Call for
Compassion**
Amos 5

God's Passion for Justice

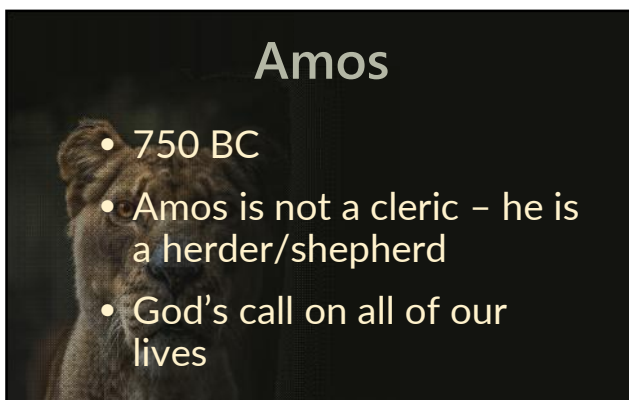


The Roar of the Lion
God's Passion for Justice

The lion has roared;
who will not fear?

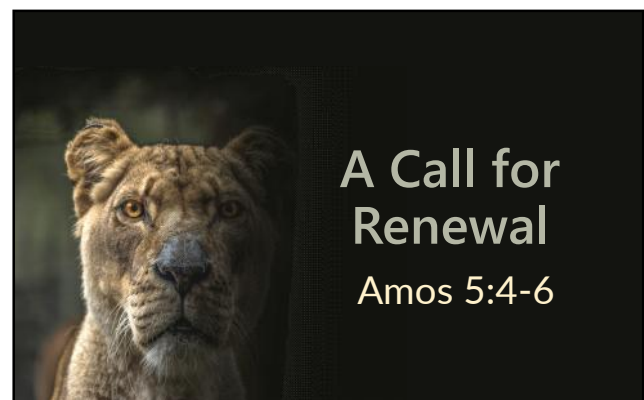
The Lord God has
spoken; who can
but prophesy?

Amos 3:8

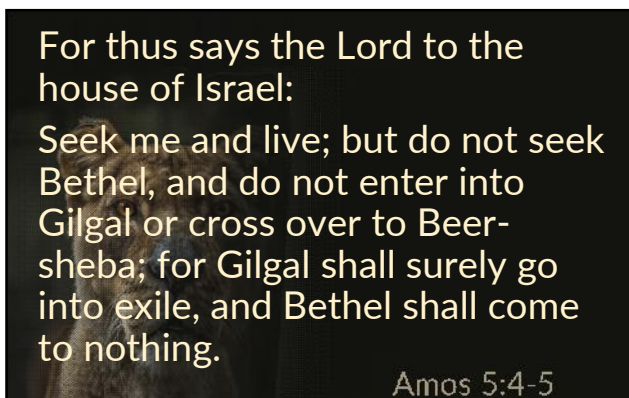


Amos

- 750 BC
- Amos is not a cleric – he is a herder/shepherd
- God's call on all of our lives

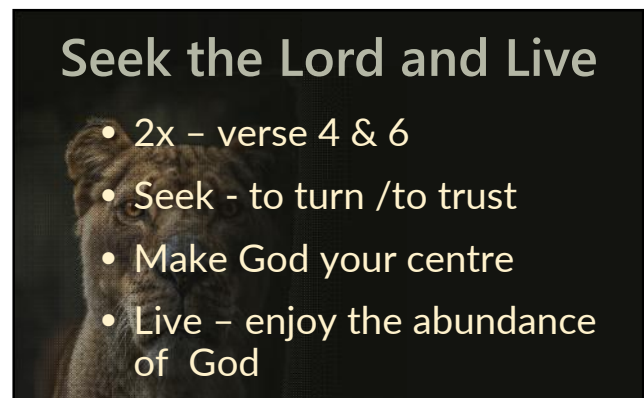


**A Call for
Renewal**
Amos 5:4-6



For thus says the Lord to the house of Israel:
Seek me and live; but do not seek Bethel, and do not enter into Gilgal or cross over to Beer-sheba; for Gilgal shall surely go into exile, and Bethel shall come to nothing.

Amos 5:4-5



Seek the Lord and Live

- 2x – verse 4 & 6
- Seek - to turn /to trust
- Make God your centre
- Live – enjoy the abundance of God

The Problem

- A form of religiosity
- Bethel, Gilgal, Beersheba were all religious sites
- Places of pilgrimage

All Important Places

- But without true relationship with God they are meaningless
- Our need to hunger after God

We do not grow bored with eating and sleeping every day, for we soon feel hungry or sleepy again, otherwise we should grow bored with it.

Likewise if we do not hunger for spiritual things we find them boring: "hunger after righteousness,' (eighth beatitude).

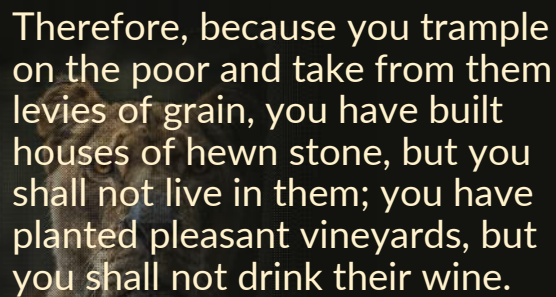
Pascal

A Call for Reflection

Amos 5:7,11

Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! (v7)

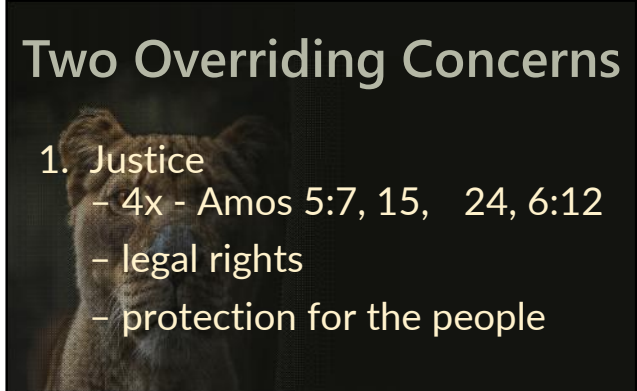
They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.



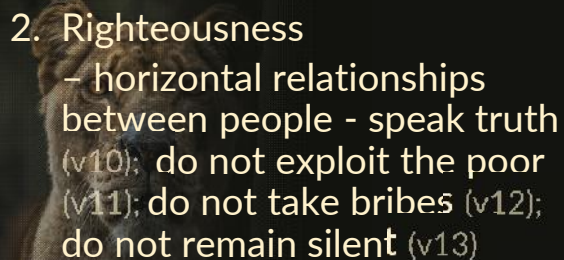
Therefore, because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.

Amos 5:7;10-13

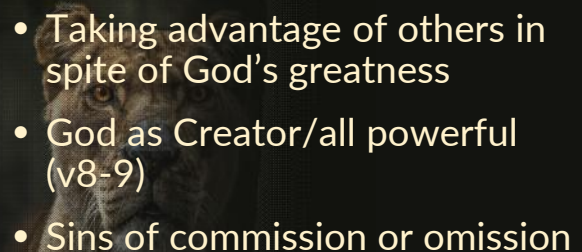
Two Overriding Concerns

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1. Justice
 - 4x - Amos 5:7, 15, 24, 6:12
 - legal rights
 - protection for the people

Two Overriding Concerns

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2. Righteousness
 - horizontal relationships between people - speak truth (v10); do not exploit the poor (v11); do not take bribes (v12); do not remain silent (v13)

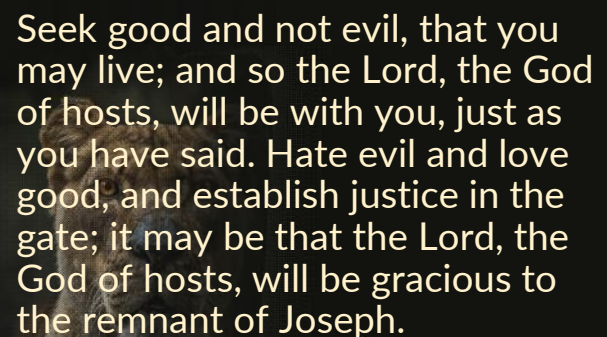
Consider Our Ways

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- Taking advantage of others in spite of God's greatness
 - God as Creator/all powerful (v8-9)
 - Sins of commission or omission



A Call for Repentance and Action

Amos 5:14-15



Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Amos 5:14-15

Seek Good, Love Good

- Establish justice so that you may live (v15)
- A call for action
- Turn away from past actions

Make Choices for Good

- Do not pervert justice – hate evil (v15)
- Let justice roll on (v24) like a river

God's Concern

- God is concerned for everyone but has a special concern for the poor

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

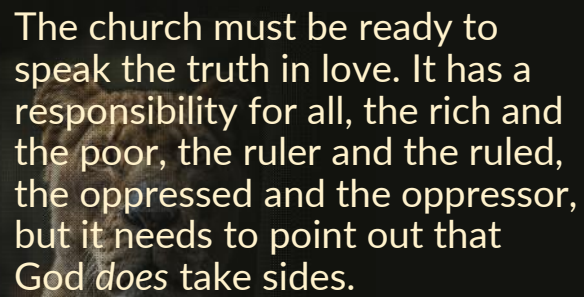
James 1:27

Against Evil Social Structures

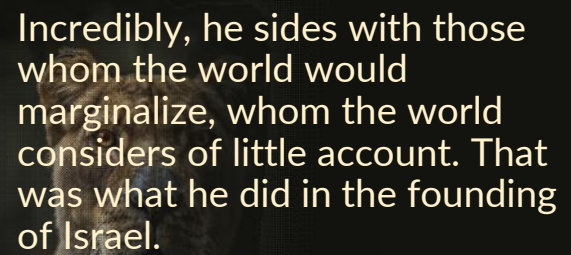
- Slavery
- Equal rights
- Oppression of minorities
- Exploitation of people groups

Become Citizen Participants

- Some evils can only be confronted by addressing structures
- “we wrestle against principalities and powers” (Ephesians 6:12)
- Engage the fight for justice on specific issues



The church must be ready to speak the truth in love. It has a responsibility for all, the rich and the poor, the ruler and the ruled, the oppressed and the oppressor, but it needs to point out that God *does* take sides.



Incredibly, he sides with those whom the world would marginalize, whom the world considers of little account. That was what he did in the founding of Israel.

Desmond Tutu