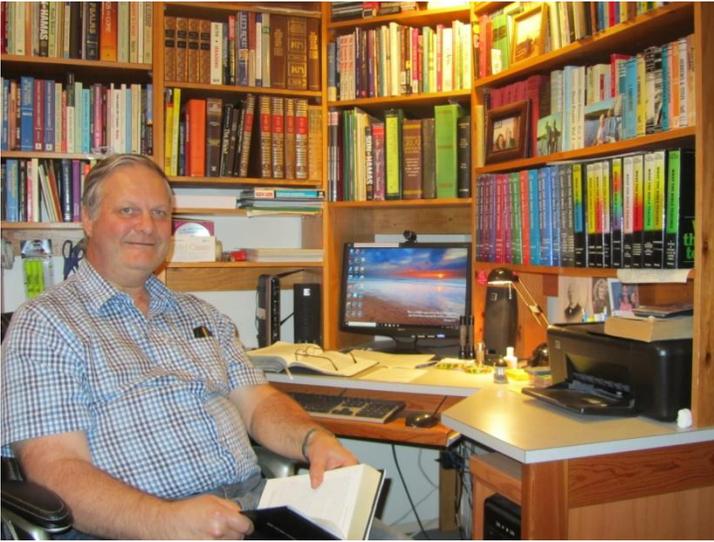


Correspondent's Corner

Five Things from Amos

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Amos was an Old Testament prophet from around 787 BC. Israel had seen the height of their kingdom under Solomon's forty year reign starting around 1015 BC. So now some 230 years later we find the kingdom of Israel in serious decline when Amos comes on the

scene. Amos was among the herdsmen of Tekoa when he was called of God to declare his prophecy. The message of Amos was focused mainly on the ten Northern Tribes of Israel. There are warnings given to six other nations and also the two Southern Tribes of Israel but the major part of the prophecy of Amos is to the ten Northern Tribes.

There are five lessons in chapter three I would like to look at and bring it down to our day. The first point God makes is in 3:1-2. God reminds Israel of their great privilege they had in being brought out of slavery in Egypt. This great privilege also brought with it a responsibility before God but the Israelites failed to obey God and were in danger of judgement. God warns them "I will punish you for all your iniquities."

The second point God makes is in 3:3 where he asks Israel "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" Isaiah says in 59:1-2 that he was able to bless Israel but their sins had separated them from God. God has in love to us given His son to die for our sins but still we reject his offer of forgiveness.

The third point God makes is in 3:4-6 where he gives three examples of things that give warnings that need to be hearkened to. He speaks of a lion that roars, a bird becoming ensnared in a snare and a trumpet sounding a warning to a city. Judgement was coming to Israel and God is giving a warning. A person who disregards the warning of the lion may end up being supper for the powerful lion. A bird that is not careful may be caught by the snare and a city that takes no heed to a trumpet warning may be caught off guard. The lesson is simple warnings are given for our blessing but like Israel if we do not heed the warnings of God and seek his forgiveness we will be subject to the consequence of our rejection of God's mercy.

The fourth point God makes is in 3:7 where he tells of his revelation of his thoughts toward us. We read in verse seven "he reveals his secret to his servants the prophets". That's where Amos and a number of others come in. The making known of the thoughts of God in his word is complete now in the sixty six books of the Bible. Do we read it? Are we seeking the truths found in the scriptures for ourselves? It is wonderful to read the Bible for our own blessing and

help. Psalm 119 is the longest psalm of all the psalms and it is all about God's word. Psalm 119:162 says "I rejoice at thy word, as one that finds great spoil."

The fifth point God makes is in 3:8 where it says "The lion has roared, who will not fear? The Lord God hath spoken, who can but prophesy?" At least one point he is making is that those who know of the blessing of God's goodness and forgiveness cannot keep it to themselves. It is good news that God so loved us that he sent his only son that whosoever trusts in him for salvation is given everlasting life at that moment. Praise be unto God for his great gift.

Sincerely, *John Eggers*

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