

Amos

Amos 2:9-13: "Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, though his height was like the height of cedars and he was strong as the oaks; I even destroyed his fruit above and his root below. 10 "It was I who brought you up from the land of Egypt, and I led you in the wilderness forty years that you might take possession of the land of the Amorite. 11 "Then I raised up some of your sons to be prophets and some of your young men to be Nazirites. Is this not so, O sons of Israel?" declares the LORD. 12 "But you made the Nazirites drink wine, and you commanded the prophets saying, "You shall not prophesy!" 13 "Behold, I am weighted down beneath you as a wagon is weighted down when filled with sheaves. NASU

The Amorites were descended from the fourth son of Canaan, the son of Ham. The Amorites were a mighty people as detailed by Moses, in Deuteronomy, and in the exploits of Joshua. They were known to be great in stature and might (*his height was like the height of cedars and he was strong as the oaks*); they were, by nature, invincible, as evidenced by the nations sin when they saw the people when they spied out the land.

God uses the metaphor of the Amorites being like cedars and oaks to demonstrate the impossibility of the small nation of Israel defeating them in their own strength. However, God swiftly cut them off, much like felling a tree - a destruction that is both rapid, cannot be defended (a tree cannot stop the lumberjack from doing their job), and irrevocable. This serves as a powerful warning to Israel and to all who reject His word. It reminds us that God's terrors can be seen as mercies by the repentant, while His mercies can be perceived as terrors by the impenitent. ***Numbers 13:28-29, 21:21-24; Deuteronomy 3:11***

Numbers 13:28-29: "Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there. 29 "Amalek is living in the land of the Negev and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites are living in the hill country, and the Canaanites are living by the sea and by the side of the Jordan."

Numbers 21:21-24: Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon, king of the Amorites, saying, 22 "Let me pass through your land. We will not turn off into field or vineyard; we will not drink water from wells. We will go by the king's highway until we have passed through your border." 23 But Sihon would not permit Israel to pass through his border. So Sihon gathered all his people and went out against Israel in the wilderness, and came to Jahaz and fought against Israel. 24 Then Israel struck him with the edge of the sword, and took possession of his land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, as far as the sons of Ammon; for the border of the sons of Ammon was Jazer.

Deuteronomy 3:11: For only Og king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim. Behold, his bedstead was an iron bedstead; it is in Rabbah of the sons of Ammon. Its length was nine cubits and its width four cubits by ordinary cubit.

10 "It was I who brought you up from the land of Egypt, and I led you in the wilderness forty years that you might take possession of the land of the Amorite.

In verse 10, God stirs up the Law in the memory of the Israelites, reminding them of the wonderful blessings and benefits that come from adhering to His commandments. He revisits the history of their origin in the land, emphasizing His pivotal role. God underscores that it was He, with great emphasis ('It was I'), who worked for their good. He reminds the people that it was through His mercies that He delivered them from Egypt. For forty years, He led them through the wilderness instead of destroying them for their rebellion, once again through His mercies. It was due to His mercies and love that He removed the Amorites from before them. ***Deuteronomy 29:4-6, 32:9-12***

Deuteronomy 29:4-6: "Yet to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear. 5 "I have led you forty years in the wilderness; your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandal has not worn out on your foot. 6 "You have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or strong drink, in order that you might know that I am the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 32:9-12: "For the LORD'S portion is His people; Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance. 10 "He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of a wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye. 11 "Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that hovers over its young, He spread His wings and caught them, He carried them on His pinions. 12 "The LORD alone guided him, and there was no foreign god with him.

11 "Then I raised up some of your sons to be prophets and some of your young men to be Nazirites. Is this not so, O sons of Israel?" declares the LORD. 12 "But you made the Nazirites drink wine, and you commanded the prophets saying, "You shall not prophesy!"

God further notes, how He moved to establish and ensure the Nation's survival in raising up prophets. Beginning with Moses and throughout their history, despite their rebellion and sinfulness, God had mercifully and graciously raised up and sent prophets to the people so that they might know and be reminded of what God required that He might bless them and avoid His judgment. God had raised up prophets and men of God to instruct and lead them back from their sins but they wanted nothing to do with God nor His Law – they wanted to sin. ***Isaiah 30:9-1***

Isaiah 30:9-11: For this is a rebellious people, false sons, sons who refuse to listen to the instruction of the LORD; 10 who say to the seers, "You must not see visions"; and to the prophets, "You must not prophesy to us what is right, speak to us pleasant words, prophesy illusions. 11 "Get out of the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel."

Additionally, God had mercifully created the institution of the Nazarites to be a visual and living example of the spiritual nature and holiness of God's people. The idea is that by providing a tangible, living example of godliness the people walk in holiness and not sin. Instead, and this is the charge, the people, who had rejected the verbal warnings, forcibly removed the living examples from their midst. This should sound familiar, this is Who Christ is; He is our living example of godliness and holiness and still today the people push back, resist, reject, and despise both godliness and holiness. ***Number 6:1-4; Matthew 27:22-23; John 6:46-47. 14:8-9, 15:18-21***

Numbers 6:1-4: Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, "When a man or woman makes a special vow, the vow of a Nazirite, to dedicate himself to the LORD, 3 he shall abstain from wine and strong drink; he shall drink no vinegar, whether made from wine or strong drink, nor shall he drink any grape juice nor eat fresh or dried grapes. 4 "All the days of his separation he shall not eat anything that is produced by the grape vine, from the seeds even to the skin.

Matthew 27:22-23: Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Crucify Him!" 23 And he said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they kept shouting all the more, saying, "Crucify Him!"

John 6:46-47: "Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father. 47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

John 14:8-9: Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, "Show us the Father'?

John 15:18-21: "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. 20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.

13 "Behold, I am weighted down beneath you as a wagon is weighted down when filled with sheaves.

Amos' announcement against Israel is that they were committing the same sins the Amorites had done, for which God had driven the Amorites out of the land. The gravity of Israel's sins caused destruction to come upon Israel before Judah; as with Judah, their special relationship with God did not provide special privileges but demanded greater accountability. The sins of the people have stretched God's mercy; it was time for God to move in holy righteous judgment. *1 Kings 21:25-26; Exodus 19:4-6; Isaiah 43:24*

Exodus 19:4-6: "You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. 5 "Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; 6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

1 Kings 21:25-26: Surely there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife incited him. 26 He acted very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the LORD cast out before the sons of Israel.

Isaiah 43:24: "You have bought Me not sweet cane with money, nor have you filled Me with the fat of your sacrifices; rather you have burdened Me with your sins, you have wearied Me with your iniquities.

Amos

In verses nine through twelve, Amos recounts the mercies of God, which He dispensed on the Nation out of His goodness and love, that He might bless them:

1. He delivered the Nation from the bondage of Egypt.

- *Has God provided deliverance to you from your bondage of sin? **Romans 6:17; Galatians 4:3***

Galatians 4:3: Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.

Romans 6:17: But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

2. God sustained the Nation as it wandered in the wilderness, for their sins, for forty years

- *How has God sustained you while you meandered in your world of sin? **Romans 5:8; 1 Timothy 5:6***

Romans 5:8: But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Timothy 5:6: But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.

3. By His power, He drove out the inhabitants of the land that He might graciously give the land to the Nation.

- *In removing the sin that so easily ensnares you has God graciously blessed you with all spiritual blessings in the heavens? **Ephesians 1:3, 4:7***

Ephesians 1:3: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

Ephesians 4:7: But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

4. God had mercifully and graciously raised up and sent prophets to the people so that they might know and be reminded of what God required that He might bless them and avoid His judgment.

- *Has the Lord mercifully and graciously raised up and sent His spokesmen that we might not sin and enjoy the blessings of the Lord? **Ephesians 4:11-16***

Ephesians 4:11-16: And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

5. God created the institution of the Nazarites to be a living example of the spiritual nature and holiness of God's people.

- *How and where has the Lord created an institution to demonstrate holiness and righteous living for His children? Micah 6:8; Matthew 4:19, 8:21-22, 16:24; Hebrews 12:1-2*

Micah 6:8: He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 4:19: Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

Matthew 8:21-22: Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 22 But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

Matthew 16:24: Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

Hebrews 12:1-2: Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.