

The Roar of the Lion

When Grace is no Longer Amazing

Amos 2:4-16

What happens when God's people stop thinking that His grace is an amazing, gracious gift freely given and start thinking it is a given or something that is owed?

1. They Rejected the Word of God (vv. 4-5)

“...they have rejected the Law of the Lord and have not kept His statutes, but their lies have led them astray...”

There is both a mental and a moral rejection of the Lord spoken of here. The mental rejection begot the moral rejection of the Lord and His Law. The Law of the Lord reflects God's character, which is why the Law had been given to the Jews and not to those who the Lord had not chosen to be His people.

The Jews rejected the Lord, but they followed their own lies. They followed idols. An idol is anything for which you will sin to get or sin to stay away from it. It can be a physical item, or it can be an idea or thought or mood or lifestyle.

2. They Lived as Though God had Done Nothing for Them (vv. 6-12)

The people of Israel treated their fellow men like they were utterly worthless, despite being made in the image of God. They valued their fellow man less than silver and sandals, and they ignored or even persecuted and wronged the poor and the needy.

They practiced sexual immorality and violated the designed relationship that God had made for one man and one woman. This violation directly insulted and profaned the name of the Lord.

The outer garments of a person were to be returned to a man before sunset after it had been taken in pledge, but the unfaithful people took them, did not return them, and charged the one who they took it from for wine.

In these verses, the Lord reminds the people of Israel of just some of the things that He had done for them. He delivered them out of Egypt, raised up prophets to deliver His will to them, and gave them a homeland to call their own.

The corrupted people also corrupted the ones who strove to be pure and holy. The Nazirites were not to drink wine or eat the fruit of the vine, but some were led into doing so. They also told the prophets not to speak the Word of the Lord.

3. They Became the Target of God's Judgement (vv. 13-16)

For all these things, the Lord will bring punishment.