

**Minor League Announcers  
Let Justice Roll Down  
Amos 5:18-27**

Intro: Prophets are people who predict the future. At least, that is what many people think.

But prophets do more than forecast events. All of the prophets were engaged in their world, speaking to God's people, and wrestling with the issues that grieved the heart of God.

Many of the prophets talked about "the day of the Lord," including Jesus. It was a term used to refer to the climactic moment in human history when God would intervene from above and set the world aright.

Oh, many people longed for the Day of the Lord.

If you think about it, you know it is true—the Day of the Lord is a day of judgment as well as deliverance. That's the only way it can work. If justice happens when God breaks in, then some people are going to suffer for the wrong they have done. It will not be a happy day for everyone.

Amos declared God's truth to people who really thought they had the inside track with God. He told them that the day they spoke of so glibly would be a day of disaster for them. They were in for a rude awakening.

Many surprises are waiting for us when God's final act closes out the drama of human history. The prophets are sent to unsettle us. Their job is to comfort the troubled and trouble the comfortable.

Maybe you have sighed for the Day of the Lord, wishing it would come sooner. Take another look through the eyes of Amos, God's servant.

This is what the Sovereign Lord Says:

**I. The Name of the Lord is GOD ALMIGHTY**—*I will send you into exile beyond Damascus, says the Lord, whose name is God Almighty (Amos 5:27).*

**A. God is Sovereign.** This means he is ultimately in control of this world. Amos is writing to people who know about God. He is reminding them of truths they already have heard, as I am doing.

**B. God is Active.** God is not sitting on the sidelines. He is active in the world in many ways. Amos is reminding them that they serve the God who acts. He is involved in his world.

**C. God is Providential.** Not only is he Sovereign, but he loves people, including you. Providence means that he watches over his world with tender care. God is interested in the world. He is watching his people in the world. He cares about what happens.

**D. God is Redemptive.** His activity in the world is always an effort to call people to himself. "You Have Not Returned to Me," he laments as he recounts the trouble they have been through. Faith in God is at the heart of the message. Amos is calling for a return to faith and the lifestyle that faith demands.

\*\*\*The blockbuster movie, The Dark Night, explores the tragic theme of good people who seek

to follow the rules in the fight against evil when evil people tolerate no restrictions on their behavior. Good seems to prevail in one instance while evil prevails in another.

The problem with the world of The Dark Knight is that there is no God in it. It does not assume either the presence or the power of God. Therefore, it is almost unmitigated darkness. Even the caped crusader is wrapped in black.

A world without God is a dark, black world no matter how you cut it. Ultimately, it is a world without purpose and a world without compelling moral guidance.

## II. The Word of the Lord is “Seek me and live” (Amos 5:4).

There is a plumb line in this world. You can measure behavior with a higher standard than the next man’s opinion or your own.

A. God speaks to people. He made us. He loves us. And he speaks to us. You have heard him during your lifetime. You need to listen up. He is the God who speaks. This is a consistent truth. God interrupts the shepherding career of Amos so that he will speak God’s message to the powerful people of his day (Amos 7:15).

B. God speaks to people who are sinners. We all start out as villains in the economy of God. We are all broken, and we ought to know it. The Dark Knight did not become dark because of the Joker. He was dark inside to begin with. \*\*\*Fighting evil does not eventually turn one into a villain. Refusing to fight evil is what reveals the villain in you. Batman lies in the movie, “If you fight the villain long enough, you will live to become what you are fighting.” That is a lie. Fighting evil is not what changes the heart of a man. Failing to fight both the evil within and the evil without is our true downfall.

C. God speaks the message of repentance. It is his consistent message is “Return to me.” All of Amos 4 is God reciting the troubles that have come together with the refrain, “Yet you have not returned to me” (Amos 4:11). What does this mean?

1. Orient your life toward the One True God, rejecting all false gods and the manner in which they influence behavior.
2. Orient your life and behavior toward that Day of Judgment. Allow the END to work its way into your present.
3. Orient your life toward people without money and position. The widows and orphans in every society are precious to God. He will judge us on the basis of our treatment of them.
4. Discover the scope of your influence over others. The powerful are the ones who will be judged first and most harshly, according to Amos. The powerful are people with money and position in any society.
5. Examine Your Behavior. Change your heart. Change your behavior.

D. The greatest protection against evil is not will power or knowledge or accountability to other humans. The greatest protection against evil in your life is the presence and power of God himself—your allegiance to him and your devotion to him. This is why you must return to him. He is the only true source of power that overcomes evil. “This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4).

## III. The Day of the Lord is Judgment Day—*That day will be darkness, not light* (Amos 5:18). It is the

day of reckoning. Pay day some day.

\*\*\*Harvey Dent, the fine and upstanding District Attorney who embodies all the hopes of Gotham, loses the one he loves and ends up spiritually lost, believing that the only fair thing in life is chance—the flip of a coin.

A. [You are not simply dealing with TROUBLE](#). The Sovereign Lord reigns in your time of trouble. This is the name Amos prefers for God—Sovereign Lord. God is speaking to a people who are on the brink of extinction as a nation. They are about to be swept away never to return. He wants them to know his name—God Almighty.

The Sovereignty of God is your greatest comfort when trouble comes. You will find solace and healing for your heart when you embrace this truth that Amos repeats over and over.

B. [You are not simply dealing with CHANCE](#).

\*\*\*The Dark Knight has no eternal perspective as far as we can tell in the movie. Everything is time bound and earthbound. The only justice we can hope for is a justice here and now. So life is unfair, and the scales can never be fixed. Amos is reminding them that their life is not in the cards but in the Lord.

C. [You are not simply dealing with PEOPLE](#). Sometimes you think that you wrestle against flesh and blood and that is it. But you are fighting a SPIRITUAL battle, and the Day of Lord reminds you of this eternal truth.

D. [You are not simply dealing with NATURE](#), a disintegrating universe that had its grand beginning and is now winding down to its inevitable destruction.

Amos has seen the order in nature. Amos tended sheep and sycamore trees. He dealt every day with plants and animals—an enviable lifestyle.

God called him out of that peaceful occupation to bring God's word to his generation. It was a difficult, thankless task. The chief priest and the King asked him to leave the country.

CHAOS is not the final word nor the final condition of the world. The world is not running out of control. The chaos will not close in around you. God is on his throne.

E. The Day of Judgment is coming when every person's work will be tried by the fire of God.

\*\*\*The Joker is powerful in part because he is not motivated by the normal greed or pride. He just wants to "watch the world burn," as Michael Caine's character observes. In fact, the Joker wants to die. He hopes that Batman will kill him. He knows that he deserves to die. He asks for Batman to run over him. Not only would it end the Joker's misery, but it would confirm what he believes about the world—that there is no good in it, that evil always wins.

**CONCLUSION:** "Prepare to meet your God" (Amos 4:12). They refused to meet him in worship and service. So they will meet him in judgment.

You can LONG FOR the Day of the Lord without being ready for it. How do you prepare to meet your God? You will check out of this life one day. You want to meet him before you do so. How do you prepare to meet him?