

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

May 2014

## *Amos*

### **Lesson #1: The Roar Against the Gentile Nations**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This week, have the circumstances of your work been as gentle as a lamb or as fierce as a lion?

#### **OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION**

##### **Read Amos 1:1 - 2:3**

*Note: A prophet was not merely someone who foretold the future; he (or occasionally she) was someone who spoke the word of the Lord. The burden of the message was always to bring the people back to the law which God had given to Moses on Mount Sinai. God had made a covenant (agreement) at that time with the people. This means that all true prophets were required to speak the message of the Lord; they were not just to pass on their own thoughts. This is why so often they deliver a twofold message. They warned the people of the curses which would befall all those who disobeyed the covenant; and they spoke warmly of the blessings which would come to those who followed the ways of the Lord (i.e. lived their lives in obedience to God's law). No prophet spoke of any halfway house; everyone was either a covenant-keeper or a covenant-breaker. They were either in a covenant relationship with God because they were attempting to keep the Ten Commandments and the rest of the law—or they were at enmity with him because they refused to obey him and his laws.<sup>1</sup>*

1. How did Amos identify himself? Vs 1 Why would anyone listen to him?
2. Why does a lion roar? What was the significance of a lion roaring to Amos and other shepherds?  
Vs 2 Isa 31:4
3. What did the Lord have in mind for their neighbors?

*Note: "For three sins ... even for four" (1:3). This repeated refrain is found in wisdom literature (Prov. 6:16) and other prophets (Micah 5:5–6). It typically denotes an indefinite number. Here it underlines the existence of serious sins which God must and will judge.<sup>2</sup>*

4. Why was He upset?
5. Some people say that non-believers' sinning is just them fulfilling their job description. How might this apply to Israel and Judah's neighbors?
6. How have they been warned by God? (general revelation) Rom 1:18-31
7. Why should we bother to warn people of God's judgment? Eze 18:4, 20
8. How can people be freed from their sins? (special revelation) John 3:16; 1 John 1:7b

#### **APPLICATION**

Who do you know that needs to hear about God's roar and mercy?

<sup>1</sup> Bentley, M. (2006). *Opening up Amos* (pp. 11–12). Leominster: Day One Publications.

<sup>2</sup> Richards, L. O. (1991). *The Bible reader's companion* (electronic ed., p. 539). Wheaton: Victor Books.