



Sunday, September 13, 2009: The Lion of Judah

Scripture: Amos 1:1,2 (Psalm 76) Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. Amos is sent by God from the southern kingdom of Judah to speak against the sins of the northern kingdom of Israel.
2. The historical/political context helps us to see the relevance of God's instruction to Israel and to apply it to our own lives.
3. This was a time of relative peace and leisure, since neighbouring political enemies had been subdued.
4. In their peace and comfort, Israel committed a variety of breeches of God's covenant.
5. Worship rituals became a pagan form of manipulating God.
6. Amos' life shows that the gifting and calling of God is primarily what qualifies us for ministry, not formal training.
7. Amos insists that the church loses the centrality of the Word of God to its eternal peril.
8. Without genuine obedience and relationship with God, religious rites actually separate us from God.
9. Amos applied God's covenant, crying out against sins of oppression, violence and pagan idolatry. Cf. Deut 4:21-31.
10. Similarly, the mission of the church today is to remind the world of the salvation and justice of God.
11. Israel had all the blessings but they despised and rejected them.
12. Idolatry had taken root because God's law was abandoned.
13. The words of Amos primarily apply to us, as we study God's dealings with His covenant people.
14. In Mark 7:6-13 Jesus Himself was concerned about replacing God's word with pragmatic traditions.
15. In our own day, trivial human traditions become the focus of religious purity, replacing the will of God found in His Law.

16. There's a moral foundation behind history; nations will be punished by God for moral decline.
17. According to Amos, Israel's God has a covenant relationship with Gentile nations, requiring obedience to His law.
18. God's sovereignty must govern our view of economics and politics, inheritance and marriage, violence and oppression.
19. The root causes of our problems are in idolatry, contradicting the law of God, and syncretism with pagan ideas.
20. Because the church has lost the doctrine of justice, our society has lost the concept of justice.
21. So we must remain humble, remembering that judgment begins with the household of God. 1 Peter 4:17.

Application Questions:

1. Describe the background and mission of Amos.
2. How is Amos' message relevant to the church and society today?
3. Culture and law are a manifestation of our religion. What are the religious beliefs behind the lawlessness in our culture?
4. What is the definition of sin according to 1 John 3:4?
5. How must we show our love for God according to 1 John 2:1-5 ?
6. A culture steeped in violence and rebellion loses its ability to discern good from evil. How can we regain moral clarity?
7. The doctrine of God is not emerging, it's revealed. How should this influence our method of doing theology?
8. Do I recognize that salvation and judgment are equally aspects of God's holiness?
9. Some aspects of Amos' message may be painful and difficult for us to hear. How should we respond when our sins are confronted?