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11am Bible Study: Pastor Will Lloyd, IV, MTS

Topic: Respond to God
Series Title: Alert
Chapters: Amos 1 **Jan. 8th, 2025**

Central Text: Amos 1:1-2, NLT, 1 This message was given to Amos, a shepherd from the town of Tekoa **in Judah**. He received this message in visions two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam II, the son of Jehoash, was king of Israel. 2 This is what he saw and heard: “**The Lord’s voice will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem!** The lush pastures of the shepherds will dry up; the grass on Mount Carmel will wither and die.”

Introduction

In today’s lesson, we’ll discover how to respond to God. The conditions of our world should serve as an alert that God is trying to get our attention. We have experienced a global pandemic, a divided political climate, and terrorism close to home that should all serve as examples of God’s desire for us to turn to him. Assyria, the dominant military power during Amos’s life, saw a temporary decline after the death of the Assyrian King Shalmaneser III in 824 B.C., which lasted until 745 B.C., opening the door to a period of prosperity and peace during the reigns of Jeroboam II, King of Israel, and Azariah, King of Judah (The Holman Bible Atlas, pg. 134). Instead of loving God, ***Israel dishonored God by continuing pagan practices handed down from prior sinful kings and withheld justice from the poor among them.*** As a result, ***God sends Amos***, whose name means “***burden bearer,***” ***to prophecy to Israel about pending judgment and the need to repent.*** Similar to Amos’ day, many of today’s Christians are not responding to God’s warning of punishment and are suffering consequences because of it.

How do we respond to God?

1. Realize that God Saves & Uses Ordinary People – Amos 1:1, Amos 7:12-15

Question for Dialogue: What is one undeniable conviction you’ve felt that God is **URGING** you to do?

2. Realize that God Aggressively Alerts – Amos 1:2a

Question for Dialogue: When have you sensed a **SEVERE** warning from God regarding a sinful habit?

3. Realize that God Issues Consequences – Amos 1:2b

Question for Dialogue: Recall the last consequence God allowed in your life as **discipline for disobedience**, how did that consequence spark a change in your behavior?

Conclusion

Israel failed to respond to God. They loved idols instead of God. *They loved themselves instead of others. Their lack of concern and abuse of the poor and their reliance on their wealth and prosperity subjected them to God's judgment.* If they had responded to God's warning, *they could have prevented being overrun by the Assyrians.* *Christians must respond to God's warnings so that we can receive his favor instead of his discipline.*