



WHEN THE LORD ROARS: AT EASE IN ZION

Pastor Chad Stuart

October 14, 2023

“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria, the notable men of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel comes!”

—Amos 6:1 (ESV)

TWO DANGEROUS IDEOLOGIES

1. Lack of assurance in Jesus Christ
2. A false sense of security not recognizing the lack of Jesus in our lives.

SCRIPTURES OF ASSURANCE

“Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

—Exodus 14:13-14 (ESV)

“Be still, and know that I am God.”

—Psalm 46:10 (ESV)

“History doesn’t repeat itself, but it often rhymes.”

—Mark Twain

Amos is addressing a people that are at ease—they have become complacent, and this is reflected in heart of their worship.

“Complacency is an insidious sin, because it’s based on lies, motivated by pride, and leads to trusting something other than God.”

–Warren Wiersbe

“Come to Bethel, and transgress; to Gilgal, and multiply transgression; bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes every three days; offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened, and proclaim freewill offerings, publish them; for so you love to do, O people of Israel!” declares the Lord God.”

–Amos 4:5-6 (ESV)

The _____ in worship, done for the _____ is _____!

“...but do not seek Bethel, and do not enter into Gilgal or cross over to Beersheba;”

–Amos 5:5 (ESV)

HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF BETHEL, GILGAL, AND BEERSHEBA

1. Bethel = The dream of Jacob’s ladder (Genesis 28:10-17)
 - a. A reminder of God’s mercy even in our fear, guilt, and struggle with sin.

“Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

–Genesis 28:15 (ESV)

2. Gilgal = God never forgets His promise; a place of rededication. (Joshua 4:19-5:12)

“Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.”

–Joshua 5:9 (ESV)

3. Beersheba = our existence is based on God’s mercy and love.

“Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham’s sake.”

–Genesis 26:54 (ESV)

EVIDENCE OUR WORSHIP IS SIN

1. Worship is compartmentalized while widespread corruption comfortably remains in our lives. (Amos 2:7-8)
2. No sense of our own sin when we worship. (Amos 4:4-5)
3. Our resources are directed primarily at our own wants and desires rather than caring for those with less than us and the work of God. (Amos 4:1)
4. We distort truth so we don’t have to adjust our lifestyle or life choices. (Amos 5:10; Amos 5:18-20)

HISTORY RHYMES

“At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, ‘The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill.’”

–Zephaniah 1:12 (ESV)

Continued, next page...

“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.”

–Revelation 3:15-17 (ESV)

HOW DO WE MOVE FROM COMPLACENCY TO ZEALOUS REPENTANCE?

JESUS!

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

–Revelation 3:20-22 (ESV)

