

# WEEK 1 — THE LION IS ROARING

**Text:** Amos 1:1–2

**Big Idea:** When God sees injustice, He doesn't stay silent—He roars, and we must respond.

## INTRODUCTION | WELCOME TO THE 8TH CENTURY BC

Tonight, we start a new series from the Book of Amos, one of my favorite Old Testament books. We are going to be taking a deep dive into God's heart for justice.

Before we even read the words of Amos... I want you to hear the moment he lived in. Welcome to the 8th Century B.C.

This wasn't just another season in Israel's story.

It was a century when God raised up not just one prophet—but a chorus, He was roaring through prophetic voices.

Not one voice crying out.

A generation of voices.

All saying, in different ways, the same thing:

***Something is wrong... and God is speaking.***

You had:

### 8th Century BC

**Amos** — saying, "Justice has collapsed."

**Hosea** — saying, "Love has been betrayed."

**Isaiah** — saying, "God is holy—and not done yet."

**Micah** — saying, "What God wants is justice, mercy, humility."

**Jonah** — saying, "God's mercy reaches even your enemies."

Different men.

Different locations.

Different backgrounds.

Same moment.

**I find it interesting that during times of great injustice, we tend to think that God is silent on the matter. Yet, when we pick up the scrolls of the ancient prophets, we come to see that God is never silent on injustice; in fact, He's roaring.**

God wasn't whispering—He was surrounding His people with truth.

**And here's what makes this moment so powerful:**

Israel wasn't struggling on the surface.

They were thriving.

- Economy strong
- Borders secure
- Religion active

But underneath it all...

- The poor were being crushed
- Worship had become empty
- Justice had collapsed

So God raises up prophets—not to inform them...but to interrupt them.

So after all those voices...after all that warning...

God gives us one voice to listen to closely. Not a king. Not a priest. A shepherd and a fig farmer.

Let's hear what God says through him.

*1 The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa—the vision he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel.*

*2 He said:*

*“The LORD roars from Zion  
and thunders from Jerusalem;  
the pastures of the shepherds dry up,  
and the top of Carmel withers.”*

**“The Lord roars from Zion...”**

**You ever heard a lion roar?** I've been in a vehicle without a roof before, somewhere in Africa, just feet from wild lions munching on an impala. I was scared out of my mind. And in the night, you could hear the lions roaring in the distance. Let me tell you, lions

don't demand attention; they take it. And this is exactly the image that God chooses to describe himself in the midst of injustice...a roaring lion.

### **1. God chooses unexpected voices (Amos 1:1; 7:14–15)**

Shepherd, not prophet  
Fig farmer, not a professional speaker

*I remember a moment when God used someone I didn't expect...*

*God speaks through whom He chooses. Because it's his message they carry, they are just a vessel.*

- *I am just a vessel. We are not impressive. We are not who you should come seeking. Stop looking for human leaders, we are just humans!*
- *But this also teaches us that God can use you to speak! Do not dismiss yourself. Well...I'm just a barista...a teacher...a poor man from a poor family...he can still speak through you! Those outward things have no bearing on God.*

**Application: Don't dismiss the voice—God may be speaking through it!**

### **2. God speaks with disruptive authority (Amos 1:2)**

- Not a suggestion
- Not background noise
- A roar interrupts false peace

Application: Where have I muted God's voice because life feels "fine"?

### **3. God roars because judgment is coming (Joel 3:16 / Hebrews 12:25)**

The roar is mercy before movement

Warning is grace. *What warnings has God given you already that you have ignored?*

- Survived a car accident while doing something that doesn't please God?
- Recovery from an illness caused by drug use, abusing your body, using it improperly?
- Etc.

**Application: Ignoring God's voice doesn't stop what's coming**

### **ALTAR MOMENT/RESPONSE**

"Where have I heard God—and chosen not to respond?"

Am I hearing the voice of God at all? Jesus said his sheep hear his voice and follow him.

## **Sermon Spine**

1. God raises unexpected voices (Amos 7:14–15)
2. God speaks with authority (Joel 3:16)
3. God warns before He moves (Hebrews 12:25)

## **Carry Line**

**“God is not silent [on injustice] —He is roaring.”**

## **Altar → Streets**

God speaks in the room—but His voice calls us to respond outside of it.

## **Altar Moment**

- Surrender to God’s voice
- “Where have I ignored what God is saying?”