

FAMISHED



Prophetic Word of Amos

January - March 2010

This Book Belongs to _____



JANUARY 24

Parade of Nations

Amos 1:3 – 2:3

Introduction

The Olympic Stadium is an amazing site. It doesn't matter where the stadium is or who hosts the event, the stadium is state of the art. When the "Parade of Nations" begins excitement fills the air. People wait to see their nation represented. The flags have more meaning as their national heroes hoist them. One moment stands above the rest; the entrance of athletes representing the host country. Cheers, shouts and thunderous applause resound from the crowd as they welcome their arrival and what it means. The games can now begin.

For every athlete celebrating victory, there is another saddened by defeat. In a game, no big deal. In a war...well, that's another story.

The opening scene of Amos takes us to a stadium where another “Parade of Nations” is taking place. One by one every enemy of Israel is paraded before them in defeat. The crowd anticipates the victory only to discover that of all nations left in despair, none stands more decimated than Israel.

Sermon Notes

- A _____ can be guilty of _____.
whether or not they believe in God.
- Damascus _____ others and was
_____ by God.
- Gaza – along with all nations – committed the sin of
_____ for _____.
- Tyre sold out _____ & _____;
they broke a _____.
- Edom showed no _____ when a _____
had been ordered.
- Ammon _____ the babies from the womb
for the purpose of _____.
- Moab _____ graves by burning _____
and brought _____ upon themselves.
- The _____ of Israel are condemned one by one
and Israel _____.

Word of Thought

The first time a person stands in a large stadium or arena it can be breathtaking. My first experience was at the age of 19 as a band member performing at Texas Stadium for the Dallas Cowboys. What was your first experience and how did it affect you?

Word of Study

Read Amos 1:3 – 2:3. In this section, every nation mentioned is an enemy of Israel. You can imagine the excitement this part of Amos' sermon must have created in the streets of Jerusalem; he was pouring judgment on all of Israel's enemies. List here the sins of each nation in your own words:

Damascus	_____
Gaza	_____
Tyre	_____
Edom	_____
Ammon	_____
Moab	_____

What is the meaning of the phrase, "For three sins, even for four...?"

Word of Discussion

1) Every nation has collective sins. A nation's leaders, military and citizens can commit these sins. When you think about our nation, what sins would you say have been committed by our political leaders? Our military? Our citizenry?

2) As humans we have a tendency to wish destruction on others. This isn't very "constructive" thinking. We also tend to think of others as worse than ourselves. What nations do you automatically think of with a negative tone?

3) Do you think that our nation values profit over people or people over profit? Why?

4) The secular kingdom we live in has been considered a place for human freedom, human rights, etc. What good do you see our nation doing that is based on the teachings or values of God?

5) The spiritual kingdom we belong to is a place for human rights based on spiritual freedoms and guidelines given to us by God. Why can't people be free to do whatever they want? Why shouldn't this be the goal of all people in all places (including the Kingdom of God)?

Word of Action

Amos challenged the nations to be aware of their sins and why God would punish them. Paul encouraged Christians to examine their hearts on a regular basis and to remember that the one who thinks he stands can easily fall. In other words, humility is one key to being like Christ. We also know that living through the power of the Holy Spirit is another key to being like Christ, and can take us places we don't expect (John 3:8) Loving people does not mean acceptance of their sinful behavior; but it does mean a constructive relationship rather than a destructive attitude. What area of your life needs more humility and more Spirit in order for you to be more effective as a Christ-follower?

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