

THE LION HAS ROARED; GOD HAS SPOKEN



(Amos 3:3-7)

How much do we know about the king of the beast- the lion? Unless, we are involved in their lives, we do know very little. It is a well-muscled cat; when it roars, its prey becomes paralyzed with fear, for it is loud and intimidating to all who hears it. Its roar can be heard five miles away. The roar of a lion is like a warning, and an announcement. With the exception of its prey, those who hear him, run for shelter. It is a powerful cat and no one can escape its claws when he attacks. Peter compared the devil persistence in attacking the Christians, in a figure of speech, to that of a roaring lion when roaming around, looking for someone to devour (I Peter 5:8). On the final moments of its prey, the lion announces his victory over it with a loud and intimidating voice for all to hear. The roaring of a lion has a spiritual meaning for all to consider. There is in it a warning for judgement we must heed to. The Prophet Amos asked the question,

Will a lion roar in the forest when he has no prey? Will a young lion cry out of his den if he has taken nothing? ... The Lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken; who can but prophesy? (Amos 3:4,8)

In the Bible, the concept of the verb to roar is employed to show judgment in several occasions and means other than through Lion's roar. Here are some examples: in Psalm 93:3 when the Lord roars through the water: The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lifted up the roaring of their waves; and in Joel 3:16: The Lord will thunder and roar from Zion and utter His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth shall shake; but the Lord will be a refuge for His people and a stronghold to the children of Israel; and in that day they shall roar against [the Jews] like the roaring of the sea. And if one looks to the land, behold, there is darkness and distress; and the light will be darkened by the clouds of it (Is. 5:30). The Lord has warned us through the prophets of old and new alike. The Bible says in Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord God will do nothing without revealing His secret to His servants the prophets; In Psalms 25: 14: The secret of the Lord have they who fear Him, and He will reveal to them its meaning, and in Revelation 10:7: But that when the days come when the trumpet call of the seventh angel is about to be sounded, then God's mystery, as He had announced the glad tidings to His servants the prophets, should be fulfilled. So the Prophet Amos' questions stand today also as we face the turmoil of the end times: Will a lion roar in the forest when he has no prey? Will a young lion cry out of his den if he has taken nothing?... shall a trumpet be blown in the city and the people not be alarmed and afraid? Shall misfortune or evil occur and the Lord has not caused it? Then he said, the lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken; who can but prophesy? (3:8).

To the Apostle John, YAHSHUA revealed the coming future of the end of the world in symbols. The book of Revelation scares many Christians for a lack of understanding of the book. It is a summary in its order of events that will take place during the time of Jacob's trouble, or the tribulation. It is also the fulfillment of YAHSHUA'S promise to His church- His bride. The Lion of Judah is about to roar judgement upon the earth; He has spoken through His Prophets and they have registered all in the Word of God. In his vision, John saw creatures with the likeness of animals, bird and man. One of them had the likeness of a lion, which is associated with divine judgement. They were beings much like that of what Isaiah saw called Seraphim and Cherubim. He related his vision in the time when King

Uzziah died. He said, I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and the skirts of His train filled the temple; above Him stood the seraphim; each had six wings; with two covered his face, and with two covered his feet, and with two flew. And one cried to another and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory! And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone and ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips and dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts! (Isaiah 6)

“Woe is me” was the reaction of Isaiah when He saw the Lord. He well understood the meaning of what was happening. The Lord had come to him to bring judgment to his nation. The lion is about to roar in fulfillment of the words from the Lord today. Many are not listening, many are just ignoring, and many are not understanding the signs of the time for not having believed. However, that does not change things. We have been warned. To Jeremiah the Lord gave these words: ...The Lord shall roar from on high and utter His voice from His holy habitation; He shall roar mightily against His fold and pasture, He shall give a shout like those who tread grapes, but His shout will be against all the inhabitants of the earth. A noise will come even to the ends of the earth, for the Lord has a controversy and an indictment against the nations; He will enter into judgment with all mankind; as for the wicked, He will give them to the sword, says the Lord (25:30-33); and to the prophet Amos, the Lord roars out of Zion and utters His voice from Jerusalem; then the pastures of the shepherd mourn and the top of [Mount] Carmel dries up (Amos 1:2). The Lord roar will be worse than the lion’s, although powerful and intimidating, for it will affect many at the same time with judgment.

As were in the days of Noah, so will be today. Warnings are out everywhere, but few are taking to heart. The business of the day distracts many and robs them of focus. Who then will believe and heed to the message in order to be found ready? At the roar of the waters covering the earth, it was too late for those people in Noah’s day. No salvation was available for them; for the five virgins who didn’t heed to the call of readiness, when the time came, it was too late for them and the door was shut. Not being able to recognize the signs of time is a dangerous place to be. When Sodom and Gomorra were about to be destroyed, the Lord revealed to His servant Abraham. The Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham what I

am going to do... for I have known him. So that he may teach and command his children and the sons of his house after him to keep the way of the Lord and to do what is just and righteous, so that the Lord may bring Abraham what He has promised him (Gen.18: 17,19). Only Lot- Abraham's nephew and his family were saved from it. Likewise, there will be a few who will escape the tribulation to come. The Lord is about to roar, the trumpet is about to be sound, and judgement is about to fall on this earth.

To those who are His people, He says, Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no one else, I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end the result from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure and purpose (Isa. 47: 8-10). The news of today brings fear and confusion of mind to those who do not know the word of God. But for those of us who are following His word, these news are just confirmation, they are warnings of what is about to happen; they are about to bring God's trumpet calling His bride home. Woe will be for those who reject Him and His word, just as they were for those on Noah's and Lot's days. My friend, if you know Him, lift up your eyes for our redemption is very near; but if you do not know Him, consider the position you have taken, for destruction is a sure thing that will follow. Don't be found entrapped in it.