

## Amos Part 8 – The Strong Shall Flee Away Naked

Key Verses: Amos 2:11 – 2:16

We pick up from Part 7 where the Lord is, was and will be contending with our rebellious and self-righteous ways. We like ancient Israel have seen so many miraculous works of the Lord in our whole journey (40 years in the wilderness - Amos 2:10) yet we are yet carnal and attributing our survival and victories to ourselves and our righteousness as our own.

Rom 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith (*trusting not of themselves*).

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven **against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness**;

We, are learning the right ways of the Lord by first doing it the wrong way and being corrected in judgment.

**Amo 2:11** And I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites. *Is it not even thus, O ye children of Israel? saith the LORD.*

**Amo 2:12** But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophecy not.

**Amo 2:13** Behold, I am pressed under you, as a cart is pressed *that is full of sheaves*.

**Amo 2:14** Therefore the flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not strengthen his force, neither shall the mighty deliver himself:

**Amo 2:15** Neither shall he stand that handleth the bow; and *he that is* swift of foot shall not deliver *himself*: neither shall he that rideth the horse deliver himself.

**Amo 2:16** And *he that is* courageous among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day, saith the LORD.

The Lord has no pleasure in the self-righteous. He is looking for the meek and the humble and that is what we are becoming as we abide in the fire. The light that shines on our pride and self-righteousness ways will accomplish what it is set forth to do at the appointed times. Coming to see our true spiritual nakedness will turn us back to the Lord in search of new clothing and a better set of spiritual eyes.

Rev 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

The Nazarite vow is symbolic of our immature, yet carnal and self-righteous period before we are given the ability to eat the strong meat of the word (Heb 5:13). A Nazarite and the specifics of the vow are detailed in Numbers chapter 6 and were the subject of a powerful two-part series by Mike Vinson three years ago. Mike's study on the Nazarite Vow can be found here: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#)

Being a Nazarite is symbolic of our immature and yet carnal ways yet we are zealous for the Lord. A Nazarite is seeking to be seen and have his zeal for God made known to all around them. This is nothing more than the pride manifesting itself in our self-righteous works.

1Sa 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice**, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

Mat 9:13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

The word Nazarite comes from a root that means to separate and that is what we as Nazarites seek to do in standing out as holy and righteous before the congregation. Here is the gist of the Nazarite vow incorporating Mike's corrected verse 2 as Part 1 of that study covers in depth.

Num 6:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall ~~separate themselves~~ [**work wondrously**] to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the LORD:

Num 6:3 He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried.

Num 6:4 All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk.

Num 6:5 All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth himself unto the LORD, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow.

Num 6:6 All the days that he separateth himself unto the LORD he shall come at no dead body.

The Lord raises us up to be prophets and Nazarites as verse 2:11 states. This period in our walk, like all matters of life (Eph 1:11), is the Lord's work in us. Becoming zealous for the Lord and doing many wonderful works in His name and having an outward appearance of righteousness is not enough to enter the kingdom of God.

Mat 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Mat 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The righteousness of a Nazarite is self-righteousness and is not enough to enter into the kingdom of God (Mat 5:20). What is needed is the righteousness that only comes by faith with NONE of it being of ourselves.

Php 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

We have to go through our day of the Lord and have our self-righteousness exposed before we will know Him in Spirit and in Truth. That is why we are first caused to err from His ways (Isa 63:17) so we can then be chastened of the Lord (Heb 12:6) and by the process be taught righteousness (Isa 26:9).

Like Samson one of the few Nazarites mentioned in Scripture (along with Nathan and John the Baptist), we slay many more giants in the land once that Nazarite spirit is dead within us and we have to call upon the Lord for our strength and wisdom.

Jdg 16:30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.

Living by every word the Lord spoke (Mat 4:4/Luk 4:4) includes living the experiences spiritually that even the Apostle Paul endured. Even the beloved Apostle, with all his knowledge and many good works had some immaturity the Lord exposed well into his ministry. Paul failed to grasp the significance of his own words that “the just shall live by faith” as his partaking of Nazarite vow purification rituals revealed (Act 21:22-27). This was covered in depth in Part 2 of the Nazarite Vow study.

Giving a Nazarite wine to drink and disobeying the vow is what we do when we put pursuit of knowledge ahead of doing the commandments. It the same old issue of being hearers of the word versus doers of the word. We are transformed from one to the other only through judgment.

Rom 2:13 For not the hearers of the law are just before God, **but the doers of the law shall be justified.**

Knowledge puffs us up in our immaturity. It’s why we are given warnings about having too much wine and losing focus on what is truly most important.

1Ti 3:8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double tongued, **not given to much wine**, not greedy of filthy lucre;

Tit 2:3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, **not given to much wine**, teachers of good things;

Lest we forget here is the most important thing, which is our obedience wherein is found true peace and joy.

1Co 13:13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; **but the greatest of these is love.**

1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, **that we keep his commandments**: and his commandments are not grievous.

We of course can also give wine to drink outside of ourselves and we are counseled not to grieve others by parading our food and wine around and it is also true that we have to correct false doctrines when needed.

Rom 14:15 Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.

Rom 14:16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;

Rom 14:17 for **the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking**, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

This Nazarite spirit will have us shun the voice of the prophets and those that speak words of fire (Jer 5:14) that judge us in the last days. We all think we have arrived long before we do and of course we never arrive while we are in these clay vessels. In our judgment, we are condemned for giving Nazarites wine to drink and stopping the voice of the prophets.

Isa 30:10 Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:

1Th 5:20 Despise not prophesyings.

2Ti 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

A self-righteous Nazarite is focused on the outside of the cup and on outward appearances, none of which change the heart. Christ says unto the Pharisees “woe unto you” (Mat 23:25), meaning more judgment is coming. When the time for the harvest of the new man draws near; we are loaded up with trials that brings the end of SELF and our outward focus of the Nazarite within us.

**Amo 2:13** Behold, I am pressed under you, as a cart is pressed that is full of sheaves.

A cart [H5699] is the vehicle or vessel that carries the ark or the word of God. A sheaf is a bundle of grain bound up or tied together (H485). When this vessel (that is us) is packed or pressed with sheaves, the time of harvest of the new man has come and judgment is upon the house of God which house we are (1Co 3:16, 1Pe 4:17). This time is the day of the Lord that will occupy the remainder of our lives in clay vessels being pressed from all sides.

2Co 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

2Co 4:8 We are **troubled on every side**, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

2Co 4:9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but measured not destroyed;

2Co 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

The Lord has to break the old man and all of our trust in our strength and initiative.

2Co 1:8 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

2Co 1:9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, **that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:**

Php 3:3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have **no confidence in the flesh.**

We lose our trust in flesh and our self-righteousness as the Lord raises up evil within our own spiritual houses and does it in the sight of Israel, while we are abiding in the Body of Christ (2Sa 12:11-13). This evil gives the Lord the occasion to bring judgment against us. The sending of the Lord's army against us to expose our nakedness will quickly destroy our

refuge and the false peace.

1Th 5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

**Amo 2:14** Therefore the flight [REFUGE] shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not strengthen his force, neither shall the mighty deliver himself:

**Amo 2:15** Neither shall he stand that handleth the bow; and *he that is* swift of foot shall not deliver *himself*: neither shall he that rideth the horse deliver himself.

Being swift of foot spiritually in the negative is our refusal to be patient and wait on the Lord. Flesh and the carnal mind always wants to help God out and run ahead of Him and advance ourselves much faster than the Lord has ordained.

Act 1:7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

And there are lots of seasons in our walk and a time and purpose for all of them in our becoming the mature man in Christ.

Ecc 3:1 To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Our own efforts do not strengthen us in Spirit or deliver us to bring salvation. It is the *un-swift ones*, the ones that wait on the Lord who will not be ashamed (of their nakedness anymore).

Isa 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Psa 37:9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

The bow is the Word of God but even possessing that while still strong in the flesh will not deliver us. The swift, the strong, the mighty, even those that handle the bow cannot save themselves or justify themselves. Salvation is of the Lord.

Isa 31:1 Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

By our own strength and deeds no flesh shall be justified. Such vanity will make us ashamed and expose our nakedness. We get our covering in the fire by enduring through judgment (Rev 3:18). Paul spoke some powerful words of losing all things, counting it as dung and coming to a place of faith where he trusted fully in the Lord's hand. This is where we truly know the Lord and the power of His resurrection.

Php 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Php 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

But we don't get there easily. The carnal mind is horribly impatient and does not trust in the

Lord. We want and believe we can deliver ourselves with knowledge and the Lord confounds the wisdom of the wise by making us wait on Him. We learn to be patient by failing at being swift.

Heb 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Heb 10:37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Heb 10:38 Now the **just shall live by faith**: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

The flesh has zero desire to go through much tribulation and endure torment. We have a better way than the narrow way the Lord has defined we are thinking. But all such unbelief and rebellion just prolongs our torment in the furnace of affliction. We are and will be judged abiding in the eternal fire of the Word of God that is living within His people, the Body of Christ. There is where we stop being swift and learn patience.

Rev 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Rev 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Solomon came to see the futility of his carnal reasoning's and that running this race is not for the swift, it is for those who return to God and rest from their own works.

Ecc 9:11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

Isa 30:15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

Knowing the Truth and the Lord's plans for judgment should give us more hope and allow us to say what Paul said and actually take pleasure in the trials. These trials are destroying the flesh and its stronghold over us and is what is working the righteousness of Christ within us.

2Co 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Our own sins are used to correct us and humble us. Coming to see our nakedness is needed for us to flee from our old way of life and thinking and go to the mountain to meet the Lord. Here is the last verse for the study and Chapter 2.

**Amo 2:16** And *he that is* courageous [H533] [H3820] among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day, saith the LORD.

The word for courageous is not a good translation. It comes from H533 meaning STRONG and H3820 meaning heart. This verse says what many other witnesses tells us. The strong, the rich, the mighty, the wise in the flesh shall not inherit the kingdom of God within us.

Mat 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

The shame of our nakedness will be exposed to us every time we betray Christ to avoid persecution. Our carnal instincts are to revert to our babe in Christ status and drop our Godly garments. We deny the Lord and flee from His righteousness when we don't make a stand and in doing so we are spiritually naked again.

Mar 14:51 And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body; and the young men laid hold on him:

Mar 14:52 And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.

The story of the seven sons of Sceva (you and me) also reveals the immature and yet carnal, not truly knowing the Lord time in our walk. We are easily overcome by lies and false doctrines and the shame of our nakedness is exposed once again.

Act 19:16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

This is all part of the falling down seven times (the perfect number to learn righteousness).

Pro 24:16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

All of this just reinforces our need to be in the safety of a multitude of counselors. The Christ is where we have ministers to hold us up when we are weak and it is by abiding there that we are given the true everlasting garments of salvation. To press onward towards the prize of the higher calling we cannot be disconnected from the Body. We are and will be making ourselves ready by enduring through our judgment and death to the old man now in this age. This is what yields the proper wedding garment which is the righteousness of Christ.

Rev 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

Rev 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

The shame of our nakedness is exposed in our immaturity and weakness of faith. This is done not to shame us but to bring us to maturity and increase our faith. This is the process we are reviewing and will continue Lord willing next week as we walk together with the Lord. We do our sins secretly in many cases yet our recompense will be done in the sight of Israel.

2Sa 12:11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

2Sa 12:12 For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

We will pick up next week with Amos 3 and will cover several well-known and often cited verses.

Amo 3:3 Can two walk together, except they MEET (be agreed)?