

# Scripture

## Amos 3:1-15 (NLT)

- 1 Listen to this message that the Lord has spoken against you, O people of Israel—against the entire family I rescued from Egypt:
- 2 *“From among all the families on the earth, I have been intimate with you alone. That is why I must punish you for all your sins.”*

### **Witnesses against Guilty Israel**

- 3 Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?

4 Does a lion ever roar in a thicket  
without first finding a victim?

Does a young lion growl in its den  
without first catching its prey?

5 Does a bird ever get caught in a trap  
that has no bait?

Does a trap spring shut  
when there's nothing to catch?

6 When the ram's horn blows a warning,  
shouldn't the people be alarmed?

Does disaster come to a city  
unless the Lord has planned it?

- 7 Indeed, the Sovereign Lord never does anything until he reveals his plans to his servants the prophets.
- 8 The lion has roared—  
so who isn't frightened?  
The Sovereign Lord has spoken—  
so who can refuse to proclaim  
his message?
- 9 Announce this to the leaders of Philistia  
and to the great ones of Egypt:  
*“Take your seats now on the hills around  
Samaria, and witness the chaos and  
oppression in Israel.”*

**10** *“My people have forgotten how to do right,”*  
says the Lord.

*“Their fortresses are filled with wealth  
taken by theft and violence.*

**11** *“Therefore,”* says the Sovereign Lord,  
*“an enemy is coming!*

*He will surround them and shatter their defenses.  
Then he will plunder all their fortresses.”*

**12** This is what the Lord says:

*“A shepherd who tries to rescue a sheep from  
a lion’s mouth will recover only two legs or  
a piece of an ear.*

*“So it will be for the Israelites in Samaria lying on luxurious beds, and for the people of Damascus reclining on couches.”*

**13** *“Now listen to this, and announce it throughout all Israel,”* says the Lord, the Lord God of Heaven’s Armies.

**14** *“On the very day I punish Israel for its sins, I will destroy the pagan altars at Bethel. The horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground.*

**15** *And I will destroy the beautiful homes of the Wealthy— their winter mansions and their summer houses, too-- all their palaces filled with ivory,”* says the Lord.