



The Authority

He who made the Pleiades and Orion and changes deep darkness into morning, who also darkens day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the Lord is His name.

Amos 5:8

Something that has stood out to me in my study of the book of Amos is the reminder of who God is: Creator and Judge. There are two warning commands that are followed by verses that remind the reader that the One who is speaking is the Authority over all the earth. The feature verse is the second of these.

Complacency and compromise had led to outright apostasy in the nation of Israel, a perversion of sacred places and acts of service and worship, the adultery of idolatry. Smug and self-satisfied, the chosen people of God ignored Him and went on about their lives as if He didn't exist. They devolved into abhorrent practices, and the stench of their sins rose before the face of the Almighty. Amos, at the instruction of the Lord of Hosts, lays out the truth before them, and warns them of what is coming.

He tells them, "prepare to meet your God, O Israel," (4:12) and follows that with a reminder of who He really is. He formed the mountains and created the wind, He reveals to man His thoughts; He makes down into darkness and treads on the high places of the earth, and He is the Lord of Hosts (4:13).

Amos tells them to "seek the Lord that you may live," (5:4, 6). This warning is also followed by another reminder of who God is, the feature verse above. The stars shine, the world revolves and changes darkness to light and light to darkness. The sea gives up its water to the sky; the sky returns it to the earth. The One who breathed all this into existence is Jehovah, the Self-Existent One (5:8). He is Creator and Judge, Authority over all.

The world as it is today shuts God out. As the centuries have passed, these creatures that God formed in His own image have disavowed His authority, His authorship of this planet and all it contains. The voices of those who prefer to live without Him have overtaken those who hold true to His ownership of all He has made. But He is still God. He is still the Authority. It is still true that He made the stars, the sun and moon, the planet and all that lives upon it, whether that truth is recognized or not.

The whole of Scripture is God's letter to us. It is filled with warnings to "seek the Lord that you may live." It is filled with reminders of who He is. He is the Authority, and His word is final, whether we agree with it or not. Seek the Lord that you may live.

Father, we thank You for Your enduring word. We thank You that You have revealed Yourself to us that we may know You, love You, and follow You. We ask You to help us remember who You are and hold fast to the truth, regardless of what the world says. You are our Authority.