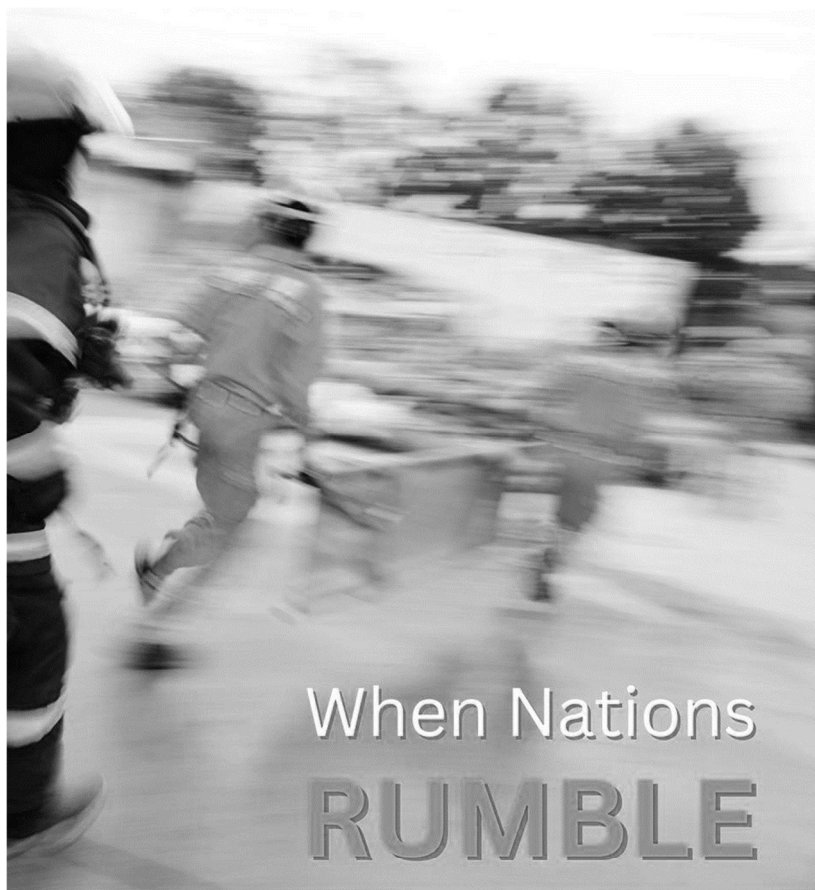




When Nations
RUMBLE

A Study in the Book of Amos

JEANNE METCALF

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SCRIPTURE MATTERS

All scripture quotes originate from KJV², public domain. However, the name of God appears as YeHoVaH, not LORD and Jesus and Yeshua. See appendix for more information.

¹To contact author, see Contact Page in Appendix.

²KJV, which is public domain, refers to all humankind as "man". Unless the passage itself refers to a particular male person, please do not take offence but apply the message to all humankind, regardless of gender.



DEDICATION



This book is dedicated to every person who follows the commands of the God of the Bible, and therefore, loves their God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength and loves their neighbour as themselves. Such dedication to scripture brings forth positive fruit in individuals and in nations. Thus, each can stand for righteousness amid the gathering storms.

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INTRODUCTION



“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose”. (Romans 8:28)



Today, due to instant, worldwide communications, events occurring in every nation in the world come alive. Television, internet, and social media make available, instantly, what took days, weeks or even months to reveal in former generations. For this generation, twenty-four seven, at the press of a button, news media streams international happenings to keep the information highway current.

As this book birthed, news media flooded the public with many articles regarding North Korea. This nation’s leader, Kim Jong-un, according to news media sources, had a score to settle with the United States of America, and

soon would have nuclear missiles which could hit America's shores. Working towards his goal to target USA, Kim Jong-un promised to proceed with his testing of ballistic missiles, regardless of objections. Nothing would deter him from settling that score with the USA.

In the United States of America, as the president negotiated with North Korea, the national scene was anything but quiet. On March 13th, 2017, Donald Trump ordered a bomb, known as MOAB,³ to hit a targeted area in Afghanistan. America's intentions as reported, aimed to stop ISIS in their terrorist attacks on innocent children in Afghanistan. Nations responded to Trump's use of MOAB with diverse reaction. Some applauded Mr. Trump's actions, while others, such as North Korea, considered America a bully, which must soon be put in its place.

Mr. Trump's intentions with MOAB, media reported, was a deliberate and exact action on America's part to make inroads to stop the many ISIS sponsored terrorist events, sourced from strongholds in Afghanistan, with tentacles reaching into other nations of the world. In

³ MOAB is a short form for Mother of all Bombs.

dropping MOAB, Trump hoped to cut off any heroics either by intent or influence in Afghanistan. By cleaning out the stronghold in Afghanistan, Trump aimed to crush the main leaders of ISIS terrorist groups which resided and trained followers in Afghanistan. At the same time, Trump hoped this severe action would end the inspiration of ISIS. Then, similar groups in other nations, including his own, might stop using ISIS tactics.

MOAB, in Trump's eyes, was a blow for the nations of the world, for at that time, Britain, France, Germany, Canada and other nations experienced violent attacks from terrorist groups often inspired by ISIS or their tactics. These groups aimed to kill or injure as many people as possible, regardless of age or gender.

Nations suffering violence, including the European nations named earlier, experienced bombs which detonated in buses and subways, in cars by the side of the road, some parked, and some travelling. Explosions from those bomb blasts managed to kill and injure a fair number of people.

Terrorists, according to news correspondents' reports, aimed to create the most violence possible, with one group upstaging another. Recently, terrorists' ideas included the use of a truck with 18 wheels, adding it to their weaponry. With these 18 wheelers (as well as other heavy-duty trucks) they ploughed their way through the crowded streets of a city, mowing people down like kingpins in a bowling alley.

This total disregard for life produced a bloodbath of horror and required immediate response to end the violence. In response to such cruel attacks on humankind, governments, on every level in any given nation, strove to bring law and order. While their efforts produce some success, various forms of terror continue to go on functioning and thus, producing surprise attacks.

Angry citizens within nations experiencing terrorist attacks responded with anguish, pain, disgust and often retaliation, for the violence close to their own nation, as well as abroad. With violence out of control, Trump, some media reported, dropped MOAB to deter the developing crisis of terrorists' attacks

worldwide to help end the violence. Violence, with constant attacks from terrorists must not be the new norm to which the world adjusts!

However, in 2019, two years after the first edition of this book, another incident hit the world scene which changed the norm of the nations of the world! In late October 2019, Covid 19, an uncontrollable infectious disease arose in China. It spread like wildfire, internationally, producing a world pandemic. As the pandemic edged to the four corners of the earth and touched nations with its fingers of death, life for earth's inhabitants shifted from what they once knew to what they must now do. Thus began the change from the established norm of 21st century society.

Governments, attempting to get things under control, legalized new social behaviours designed to give them greater control of their people. Restrictions came to social communication, introducing social distancing. Boundaries invaded the world of travellers for either business or pleasure, demanding they stay at home. Limits of function affected hospitals, churches, shopping centre, business

centres, schools, and any gathering place of any kind.

Soon, objections to these changes and introduction of new social agendas arose only to meet with a heavy hand to pull citizens in line with government control. To the surprise of most people, even media reports met with governmental control measures affecting freedom of speech, as some leaders tried to restrict what information the public received. In short, slowly but surely, the normality of life for most of the world shifted into a new norm.

AFTER COVID 19

At the time of this second edition of “When Nations Rumble”, Covid 19 remains, however, nations no longer stand on red alert. Subsequently, nations moved towards declaring the pandemic’s end. People expect Covid 19’s sponsored new norm to shrink away. However, two questions remain, “will it?” and “will the old norm return?”.

In thinking on this, remember, the earlier plague of violence threatened to change that old norm, prior to the Covid 19 pandemic. When it comes to violence, that evil giant still holds its

grip on nations for it never loosened its grip throughout Covid 19. Violence continues with its insidious tentacles of fear reaching out to sting every nation under heaven.

Today, as this second revision of “When Nations Rumble” gets underway, Iran boasts of hypersonic, intercontinental ballistic missile capabilities with armed nuclear war heads. Her target, Israel, hears promises of its extinction from Iran constantly, as well as from Iran’s proxy nations which surround Israel. These verbally join in the promise to invade the land and annihilate the people.

China threatens to move its military into Taiwan. Russia continues to bombard the Ukraine with war tools intended to possess her. Tornado winds and torrents of water stand ready over the horizon in the approaching hurricane season to bombard the East Coast of the North American continent. Thus, Canada and the United States of America fight the water and wind weather battles, as well as forest fires which rage in their season.

While the world attempts to exit the norm spawned during Covid 19, its expression, while

dwindling, still holds many fears associated with the old norm. In other words, to live in our world today, we must release pandemic trained thinking while still enduring *expressions of violence* erupting, continuously.

While most of humanity strive to see the goal of living in a much calmer world realized, thoughts of the good old days without much violence and bloodshed, a former norm for earlier generations, seems problematic to retrieve, at least for the present.

NATIONS RUMBLING

Nevertheless, as we look at world events past Covid 19, at happenings such as terrorist attacks, hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes, we see their effect on nations. As they strike nations, they cause the nation to shake, or rumble. In other words, these events, whether caused by the environment or by man's hand, carry concern for nations, bringing the leadership to a place of heightened awareness to resolve the urgent matters at hand. Thus, the effects of these events which shake nations, explains the reason for the title of the book, "When Nations Rumble".

To explain further the book's focus, bear with me as we look at a short illustration. Think about a car driver travelling for endless miles on



a highway. Such drivers ride the black turf of highways, hour after hour, even day after day. As they do, weariness

often takes its toll in ways that weaken the driver's alertness. Many a tired traveller has drifted off to sleep, veered off the main road, and in doing so, either injured themselves or others, or worse, ended up dying and killing others as well. Thus, the need for rumble strips!

Fortunately, many highways, today, have well-placed rumble strips along the side of the road, or even laid on the road to warn of approaching intersections.



Immediately, as a driver veers off course or approaches an intersection, a wakeup call arises from the noise and the shaking of the car as the rumble strips do their job. Drivers become on high alert. Assessing the situation, they either

steer the vehicle back to a safe part of the roadway, or in the case of an intersection, come to a grinding halt.

Bringing this comparison to nations, *figuratively speaking*, rumble strips equate to warnings of tumultuous events about to shake nations⁴. These *rumble strips warn of* unexpected happenings to avert the problem. Rumble strips first come as verbal warnings, some from scientific data and the like, some from prophetic voices. When these warnings take voice, it presents an opportunity for leaders of nations and the people within, to respond, hopefully, soon enough to avert the tragic event.

However, when verbal warnings fail and more drastic measures seem needed, rumble strips arise which serve to impact the nation enough to awaken sleeping leadership at the helm. Rumble strips, when recognized, present opportunities to look at what lay behind that which necessitated the warning or look forward

⁴ Please note, God does not send the catastrophe, however, such events function as warnings. Remember, Romans 8:28. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

to a needed direction change. Rumble strips open the door to *choice* change!

THE BOOK OF AMOS

As the book of Amos opens, you meet the man, Amos, an everyday entrepreneur. After his encounter with the Living God, Amos leaves his family business to walk as a prophet before God. God sent him to Northern Israel, with powerful messages of repentance. Later, through the lips of Amos, God spoke of coming incidents upon Northern Israel, as well as coming judgments arising on other nations which surrounded Israel and who coveted their land.

Put in the context of this book's title, "When Nations Rumble", God summoned Amos to speak through the lips of Amos to a people regarding coming disasters. In other words, Amos came on the scene as a warning, like a rumble strip but when the people did not respond, more wake-up calls came to Northern Israel. Unfortunately, every response given fell short of the righteousness response God required. In short, Amos met with stiff-neck, hard hearted people in leadership and amongst the people, who refused to change their ways.

In examining the book of Amos⁵, looking past the message to the man, you will see a humble man, called to speak Heaven's Message. As you read of his encounters with Northern Israel and its leaders, you will discover a man experiencing the indignation of a people who strongly resisted the prophetic Word of God that Amos delivered to their generation.

WHAT TO EXPECT

If learning is your major goal and you wish to live out your faith in the real world, then take up your listening ear to the message in the book of Amos. As you do, allow yourself to enter the story. Listen to Amos speak the messages which the people rejected.

Let courage arise within by his example as he spoke the Word of God, in season and out of season. Determine to understand the brokenness of Amos, too, as he reaches out to a nation of people who absolutely refused to get right with God. Let your heart melt or even weep with Amos as he speaks to those who

⁵If you do not use the workbook, we suggest you open your Bible and read the book of Amos, one chapter at a time, whenever possible. This facilitates learning!

chose to defend their own viewpoint and keep on going their own way, only to experience unbearable torture as ancient Assyria conquered and then, scattered Northern Israel.

Indeed, invaluable lessons from the book of Amos await, including the amazing love which empowered the prophet to stand for God's righteousness in an ungodly society. As you read (and hopefully, study) the book of Amos, allow your spiritual eyes to perceive the prophet's bravery and endurance. Let your heart move within you as Amos speaks loudly in the face of a rebellious people who strove to make their own laws and ignore those of the Almighty.

Peering by faith through the window of the Word, looking back into this dark and troublesome time in Israel, let the stamina of Amos urge you to follow his example. As the words of Amos form a warning, sparking reactions of every spectrum, on every front, may you become inspired to do the same!

Let Amos, the prophet, remind you that through it all, God's strength enables His servants to speak His Word, without faltering.

Acquire faith from this powerful example of a prophet called to a rebellious and stubborn generation, and then, learn from him applicable lessons to do the same in your generation!

So, now dear reader, come along, as together, we roll up our sleeves and get to work learning how to identify and respond to that which forms the rumble strips of nations. Retrieving valuable treasures from the example of Amos, tuck them close to your heart so you, too, can deliver today's messages from heaven clearly, distinctly, and righteously to those who need to hear it

Surely, if this is your approach, dear reader, you will emerge from this book *and the time you put into it in the line of prayer*, with an understanding of the heartbeat of God regarding rumble strips, set in the pathway of nations. Additionally, *if you press into God*, you should discover an open door to recognize that which He brings to your mind regarding your nation. Your eye of faith should open, too, to perceive that which God purposes for other nations, including that of Israel, today.

So many personal lessons await as you learn to unravel the prophetic words and teaching within the book of Amos, learning how to identify, declare and respond to the season in your generation

“WHEN NATIONS RUMBLE”!

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