

Raise up the Tabernacle of David - Amos 9:11-12

Introduction:

1. ***"On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, And repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old; That they may possess the remnant of Edom, And all the Gentiles who are called by My name," Says the Lord who does this thing.***
2. ***Proverbs 29:18 "Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law"***
3. Our vision has been and is going forward is **Be Jesus to the World**
4. I am going to offer a biblical foundation that we can stand on
5. Even in an anti-authoritarian, institutionally suspicious, spiritually dismissive, emotionally cold city like Seattle, the very people laughing off and condemning the church as harmful or problematic still can't help but talk to God when no one else is listening.
6. The story of prayer that David lived, and Amos prophesied and Jesus fulfilled, the story that lives in the heart of every person, of every religious persuasion and every historical era, and which lives in your heart right now, even if you don't know it yet that's what I want to offer you today.
7. So, this story begins all the way back in **Genesis 1** then conflict then enters with sin, creating separation in that union.
8. But redemption begins on Mount Sinai - union again - beginning with the tent that was constructed under the direction of Moses, where God will dwell with his people.
9. ***2 Samuel 6 "Wearing a linen ephod David was dancing before the Lord with all his mind while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the Lord entering the city of David, Michal, the daughter of Saul, watched from the window, and when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she despised him in her heart. They brought the Ark of the Lord and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the Lord"***.

His Entrance:

1. So first, there's no doubt that people would have heard him coming long before they actually saw the parade
2. ***"Lift up your heads, you gates. Lift them up. You mentioned doors that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty he is the king of Glory"***
3. What they actually see? Their new king was at the front of the parade wearing a linen ephod and he's dancing
4. I'm not a king who's coming to sit on the throne. I'm a priest who's coming to lead you into God's presence
5. David hunted down the Arc and brings it back to Jerusalem and he is the dancing priest celebrating the return of God's presence.
6. When he gets to the town square, though, he doesn't enter the palace.
7. David instead had a tent set up right at the city center.
8. In the New Testament, the mish-kan (dwelling) of the Lord is amid the believers: ***"Don't you know that you are a temple of God, and that God's Spirit lives in you?" 1 Corinthians 3:16***
9. David's very first act of his very first day as Israel's king was to reconstruct Moses tent of meeting in the city center.

10. It was a more than assembly point - it was a statement of value - a challenge to the status quo?
11. He hired 292 worship leaders, prophets and elders to pray and worship in that tent
12. He's a king leading a military during an era of tribal warfare, and he just emptied the National Savings account on prayer.
13. We grind on with the stuff from yesterday instead of praying and seeking His face to know what God is doing today
14. David's Tabernacle was a New Testament reality of access to God in an Old Testament world.
15. It was a picture for us – we have that same access to God but today we don't need a tent or a sanctuary – you are that sanctuary – that tent – that house for God the Holy Spirit to dwell in

Comfort and Ease:

1. Amos has this revelation that during a time of peace and comfort, Israel has praised God but forgotten truly who He was.
2. Mother Teresa described her ministry this way - *our mission is only an entirely to minister to Jesus, which we do primarily through prayer and worship*
3. What If it actually was the channel between heaven and earth and the Kingdom of God was able to be poured out among the common people
4. The modern church's best kept secret is this one that we believe in - productivity not prayer
5. We have a formula for success because we have adopted the management principles from the secular world
6. The hidden atheism of our time is that we will busy ourselves with almost anything except prayer and time with God and yet we expect God to move in our midst.
7. We live in a time when the church which use to be at the center of society is now laughed at and ridiculed and called irrelevant
8. ***Ezekiel 22:30 "I looked for someone to stand up for me against all this, to repair the defenses of the city, to take a stand for me and stand in the gap to protect this land so I wouldn't have to destroy it. I couldn't find anyone. Not one."***

Chapter 2:

1. ***2 Samuel 7:16*** where God makes a promise to David. ***"Your house and your Kingdom will endure forever before me. Your throne will be established forever"***
2. In both ***Exodus 40 and 1 Kings 8***, God's presence is depicted as a cloud filling first the Tabernacle and then later the temple,
3. ***Ezekiel 40:10*** says in a cloud filled the inner court, then the glory of the Lord rose from above the Cherubim and moved to the threshold of the temple.
4. ***Verse 18 "Then the glory of the Lord departed from over the threshold of the temple"***
5. This longing for another king, one in the line of David, one who will come back into the same city as foolishly as David did to reestablish all that's been discarded.
6. ***John 1 "The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We've seen his glory, the glory of the one and only saw that came from the father, full of grace and truth"***
7. The glory of God that filled the Tabernacle in ancient times is now filled the very body of Jesus - He is the living, breathing, walking, talking Tabernacle
8. Seven days before his death, Jesus came into Jerusalem as king, just like David did

9. **Matthew 21** *“Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling them. He overturned the tables of the money changers, the benches of those selling doves and says It is written, My house will be called a House of prayer, but you're making it a den of robbers”*

10. They saw Jesus’ entrance to the city – they saw His restoration of the temple and they connected the dots and remembered David's Tabernacle

The Ongoing Story:

1. The Mount of Transfiguration story

2. *“The Jews then responded to him. What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this? Jesus answered them. Destroy this temple and I'll raise it again in three days”*

3. **1 Corinthians 3** includes this *“don't you know that you now this is the plural you”*
“Don't you know that you yourselves (communally) are God's temple and that God's spirit dwells in your midst?”

My House will be called a House of Prayer:

1. Prayer is the ultimate expression of intimacy with God.

2. What I find is that I quickly become spiritually exhausted and overwhelmed when I take the fruit of the Kingdom and I confuse it with the King himself and when that happens, I turn a relationship into a duty

3. Fruitfulness is just the product of that intimacy

4. We must become people of prayer in our everyday lives.

5. This is a plea – a petition – an imploring – a challenge for us as the church here at Bellevue to both privately and publicly with early morning walks and gathered together Sunday experiences to allow God to tabernacle once again with us saturating our lives in any and every aspect of our lives – inviting the Trinitarian life to so take hold of us that we affect those around us

6. Prayer was at the center of God's people, and then the kingdom spilled out from those little places into the streets of the city outside in a way that the world has never recovered from.

7. Here is our cutting edge, innovative plan for reaching a spiritually suspicious, emotionally cold city and nation and a world who distrust institutions and dismisses churches.

Close:

1. Let me close with this - God hears ordinary people in an ordinary place like this - God is offering the same invitation to any ordinary people foolish enough to take him up on His invitation.

2. One last moment about David – we all know the story of David defeated Goliath.

3. Israel was on one hillside and the Philistines were on the other hillside, and there was this valley in the middle. All eyes were down on the valley. David, unarmed and unarmored, picks up five smooth stones from the stream

4. Eugene Peterson says the scripture never tells us directly that David knelt, but he had to have knelt because there's a certain quality of rock that you have to get to fit a sling.

5. This is my dream for us – *“that we might be foolish enough to kneel down, unarmed and unarmored, and say God, make us a sign to the world and the church and anyone else who cares to notice of the way you still get your work done. The way that you still secure victory”*

6. And so, I pray a prayer I've never stopped praying. *God, raise up David's Tabernacle* - let this not be a story but a call to our knees – a call to action – a call to submission – a call to a new hunger for Him