

What meaning, what importance do we place on our Memories, our Dreams and Visions?

Sigmund Freud claimed that the UNCONSCIOUS, the realm of Memories, Visions and Dreams was where our minds work out the problems we do not or cannot face in regular life. Carl Jung took this a stage further by recognizing there is SYMBOLISM in the unconscious, which connects Memories and thoughts to Archetypes all Creation has struggled with. In this way, our REMEMBRANCES are no longer confined to our personal unconscious but belong to the Universe, and rather than being a matter of the MIND are connected to the SOUL.

The Prophet Amos, we do not read of often, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel are much longer books, connected to longer ministries, where Jonah, Micah, Malachi, Haggi and Amos are very brief. AMOS is one of my favorites. Amos came from the Southern Kingdom of Judah, which the Northern Kingdom of Israel discounted. Amos gets into trouble, by sharing Memory of his Visions at the Temple of Bethel in a Capital of Israel, described as The KING's Temple. That description ought to tip us off, because as we affirm at every Communion, this is not our House, this is not a Presbyterian Sanctuary, no Temple belongs to a KING the TEMPLE belongs to GOD. The Temple High Priest AMAZIAH dismisses Amos as a delusional crackpot.

Throughout the New Testament, the players are PHARISEES, SADUCEES, SCRIBES, DISCIPLES & JESUS. Throughout the Old Testament there are PROPHETS, PRIESTS and KINGS, often times SHEPHERDS. This is why I love AMOS, because KINGS rule from their Palaces or over their Generals and ARMIES.

SHEPHERDS, sit up on a hillside watching over their flocks, to lead them to green pastures, or spot wolves. AMOS is a HERDSMAN/DRESSER of SYCAMORE TREES. Rather than watching from a distance a HERDSMAN walks along beside their Flock of Sheep, Goats and Cattle; experiencing whatever they experience of life. In Michigan and Wisconsin we had SYCAMORE TREES, while growing to enormous heights over centuries, Sycamores are known for having branches which cross and conflict. In a wind, the trees own branches can cause the tree great harm. So a DRESSER of SYCAMORES helps to cut-off the conflict before it can do harm.

SECOND, Amos shares a series of REMEMBRANCES of 3 VISIONS, that seem so very appropriate to today. The first is of SEEING GOD creating swarms of insects. After the King has taken the first fruits, these locusts are to strip the ground bare of any vegetation to eat. Sounds a great deal like the two hatchings of Cicada this year! In response to the Vision, Amos recalls to memory he cried out to the Lord FORGIVE! So often, we think of praying to God, as if writing to Santa, or rubbing Aladin's Lamp for our WISHES & DESIRES. Instead, AMOS stands toe to toe with God, begging God: FORGIVE. Have any of our Leaders, Presidents, Politicians, Pollsters, Pope or Priests, begged FORGIVENESS OF OUR SINS? And God Repents!!!

Next Amos remembers seeing GOD at the bottom of the Ocean, creating a great FIRE of JUDGMENT to burn up and consume all life, from the depths and throughout the lands.

After the heat of the last two months, this REMEMBRANCE seems all too real. Again AMOS cries "SOVEREIGN LORD, I BEG YOU: STOP!" Miraculously, GOD listens! HOWEVER, the Prophet has begged God and GOD has repented, but have people changed in any way? Did the people even take notice of GOD?

So, Amos Remembers GOD showing him a PLUMBLINE held up against the Temple, to objectively determine if the TEMPLE of all places in the Kingdom is straight, true, ethical and moral; and GOD Stating: I WILL SPARE THEM NO LONGER.

The Plumblineline is a wonderful ARCHETYPE known to nearly every culture throughout the world combined with a LEVEL, to determine what is straight, level and what is TRUE. Except, the Hebrew Language never had the word PLUMBLINE! Like our English acceptance of the word SUSHI, FAÇADE or CHORIZO, "Plumblineline" is a Syrophenician word, which in Hebrew was translated as "ANAK" A-N-A-K. Curiously,

Hebrew did have a word "ANAH" A-N-A-H which is identical in writing except that when you place a dot in the yielding letter H, like dotting an I or a J, it become a hard K. However, ANAH with an H does not mean PLUMBLINE, instead ANAH means a SIGH. Without Infestation or Judgement Fire, GOD SIGHED.

As Amos describes to Amaziah: "You say, Do not Prophesy, stop preaching." Therefore, "your wife will become a prostitute, your children will fall by the sword. Your land will be measured and divided up, as Israel goes into exile."

In the New Testament, we recall that the people from Jesus' hometown would not listen or believe in him, unable to do anything himself, he commissioned his followers to go out into the world. They did, preaching repentance, driving out demons, healing many people. Long before Pontius Pilate was made aware of Jesus, KING HEROD became well aware.

Interesting, that in the way as Jesus asks the Disciples to consider who he is; King Herod has already begun to remember and consider if Jesus is the embodiment of ELIJAH, or One of the other PROPHETS of long ago. Herod recalls, that in spite of John the Baptist calling him out for his sins, HEROD enjoyed listening to JOHN the BAPTIST and often came to him with questions. Yet, one evening at a public display, lusting after his own NIECE who had become HEROD's STEP-DAUGHTER, King Herod promises her whatever she desires. Consulting her Mother, she demands John the Baptist's head on a platter, and KING HEROD had John murdered.

Hearing about Jesus, the miracles that Jesus' followers were doing, King Herod was confronted with his own sin, and declares "JESUS IS JOHN THE BAPTIST, WHOM I BEHEADED, RAISED FROM HE DEAD."

I have never been a Hellfire and Brimstone Preacher, or allowed the Pulpit to be used for Politics...

I listen to Governments of Israel and Hamas recognizing they have each brought this upon themselves, as civilians suffer and the Holy Lands are destroyed.

I listen to news of people in Ukraine taking up weapons to defend themselves against a Superpower.

I remember all of the attacks upon people in our own Nation, by people in our Nation, who do not want to listen or to trust, twisting the Bible, twisting their ideologies to justify their hate of an enemy.

ALL THAT I CAN DO is read the Bible, as real, entreating us each to REMEMBER what we have done.

I pray for GOD to STOP the madness, for GOD to FORGIVE, and in the whirlwind:

I hear GOD SIGH.