

SUNDAY SCRIPTURES FOR JULY 11, 2021, PROPER 10B
[[2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19](#) and [Psalm 24](#)] OR [Amos 7:7-15](#)
and [Psalm 85:8-13](#) [Ephesians 1:3-14](#) [Mark 6:14-29](#)

Introduction: Welcome to a couple of new readers. Although this is a form of “Bible Study”, it probably differs from some that you may have been part of in the past. The idea here is to savor, throughout the week, the Scripture texts that we will hear next Sunday in worship. We begin here early in the week with the list of lessons, some reflection questions, and the invitation to you to read all or some of these in more than one translation, as time and energy allow. Then, over the next few days, to think about and chew on the questions, and later on in the week, to write down your responses, and a brief prayer if you want. These questions do not have one single correct answer. The answers are those of each one of us, and they are offered in the hope of sharing with each other what we find here, while also listening respectfully to each other. Given that it is July, this will be the last regularly posted set for this month. If time should allow I may do one more. Otherwise, I will be back at this in August. The yellow that you find throughout the versions below simple means that I found that particular phrase to be something I want to ponder during the week. I am sure that you will have your set.

Our Jewish brothers and sisters, some of whom read these lessons with us, consider the study of Scripture to be a form of prayer. May it be that for us. And, may you be blessed in your savoring of these holy words.

Note: If you are new to this, you will find hundreds of translations of the Bible in all kinds of languages, and styles, at Bible Gateway <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/>

Reflection Questions:

1. After looking at all or some of these readings, which 1-2 sentences stand out for you and offer you something to feed your soul during this week?
2. What seems to be God's strategy in dealing with Amos?
3. “Seeing things”, listening, and paying attention to what is going on around them is showing up in several of the lessons. What is being seen or hear, and what comes of that?
4. Neither Amos nor Paul see themselves as well prepared to do what they are doing, i.e. things God's has asked them to do. How might that shed light on something you are dealing with?
5. This is not a “happy” Gospel. Still, what are you able to gain from it? As this Gospel has been useful in the Church for a long time, in what way is it useful to you now?
6. How would you describe the personal attributes of John the Baptist and King Herod? What do you learn from that?
7. To what is God calling you this week?
8. After spending this time chewing on these holy words, what is your prayer for this week?

Opening Prayer: TBA

Closing Prayer: TBA

Amos 7:7-15 Common English Bible

7 This is what the Lord showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall, with a plumb line in his hand.
8 The Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?"

"A plumb line," I said. Then the Lord said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the middle of my people Israel. I will never again forgive them.

9 The shrines of Isaac will be made desolate, & the holy places of Israel will be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

10 Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, reported to Israel's King Jeroboam, "Amos has plotted against you within the house of Israel. The land isn't able to cope with everything that he is saying. 11 Amos has said, 'Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will be forced out of its land.'" 12 Amaziah said to Amos, "You who see things, go, run away to the land of Judah, eat your bread there, and prophesy there; 13 but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's holy place and his royal house." 14 Amos answered Amaziah, "I am not a prophet, nor am I a prophet's son; but I am a shepherd, and a trimmer of sycamore trees. 15 But the Lord took me from shepherding the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

Psalms 85:8-13 Saint Helena Psalter

8 I will listen for what you are saying,
for you are speaking peace to your faithful
people, & to those who turn their hearts to
you.

9 Truly, your salvation is very near to those
who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.

10 Mercy and truth have met together;

righteousness & peace have kissed each
other.

11 Truth will spring up from the earth,
& righteousness will look down from heaven.

12 You, O God, will indeed grant what is
[good], and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before you,
& peace shall be a pathway for your feet.

Ephesians 1:3-14 The Message

1-3 This is why I, Paul, am in jail for Christ, having taken up the cause of you outsiders, so-called. I take it that you're familiar with the part I was given in God's plan for including everybody. I got the inside story on this from God himself, as I just wrote you in brief.

4-6 As you read over what I have written to you, you'll be able to see for yourselves into the mystery of Christ. None of our ancestors understood this. Only in our time has it been made clear by God's Spirit through his holy apostles and prophets of this new order. The mystery is that people who have never heard of God and those who have heard of him all their lives (what I've been calling outsiders and insiders) stand on the same ground before God. They get the same offer, same help, same promises in Christ Jesus. The Message is accessible and welcoming to everyone, across the board.

7-8 This is my life work: helping people understand and respond to this Message. It came as a sheer gift to me, a real surprise, God handling all the details. When it came to presenting the Message to people who had no background in God's way, I was the least qualified of any of the available Christians. God saw to it that I was equipped, but you can be sure that it had nothing to do with my natural abilities.

8-10 And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

11-13 All this is proceeding along lines planned all along by God and then executed in Christ Jesus. When we trust in him, we're free to say whatever needs to be said, bold to go wherever we need to go. So don't let my present trouble on your behalf get you down. Be proud!

Mark 6:14-29 Biblia de las Américas

14 El rey Herodes se enteró de esto, pues el nombre de Jesús se había hecho célebre, y la gente decía: Juan el Bautista ha resucitado de entre los muertos, por eso es que estos poderes milagrosos actúan en él. 15 Pero otros decían: Es Elías. Y decían otros: Es un profeta, como uno de los profetas antiguos. 16 Y al oír esto Herodes, decía: Juan, a quien yo decapité, ha resucitado. 17 Porque Herodes mismo había enviado a prender a Juan y lo había encadenado en la cárcel por causa de Herodías, mujer de su hermano Felipe, pues Herodes se había casado con ella. 18 Porque Juan le decía a Herodes: No te es lícito tener la mujer de tu hermano. 19 Y Herodías le tenía rencor y deseaba matarlo, pero no podía, 20 porque Herodes temía a Juan, sabiendo que era un hombre justo y santo, y lo mantenía protegido. Y cuando le oía se quedaba muy perplejo, pero le gustaba escucharlo. 21 Pero llegó un día oportuno, cuando Herodes, siendo su cumpleaños, ofreció un banquete a sus nobles y comandantes y a los principales de Galilea; 22 y cuando la hija misma de Herodías entró y danzó, agradó a Herodes y a los que se sentaban a la mesa con él; y el rey dijo a la muchacha: Pídeme lo que quieras y te lo daré. 23 Y le juró: Te daré lo que me pidas, hasta la mitad de mi reino. 24 Ella salió y dijo a su madre: ¿Qué pediré? Y ella le respondió: La cabeza de Juan el Bautista. 25 Enseguida ella se presentó apresuradamente ante el rey con su petición, diciendo: Quiero que me des ahora mismo la cabeza de Juan el Bautista en una bandeja. 26 Y aunque el rey se puso muy triste, sin embargo, a causa de sus juramentos y de los que se sentaban con él a la mesa, no quiso desairarla. 27 Y al instante el rey envió a un verdugo y le ordenó que trajera la cabeza de Juan. Y él fue y lo decapitó en la cárcel, 28 y trajo su cabeza en una bandeja, y se la dio a la muchacha, y la muchacha se la dio a su madre. 29 Cuando sus discípulos oyeron esto, fueron y se llevaron el cuerpo y le dieron sepultura.