

BAD NEIGHBOURS

By Rod

Based on Amos Ch 1 v 1 – Ch 2 v 5.

CAST	Narrator 1	<i>Straight man</i>
	Narrator 2	<i>A bit of a joker</i>
	A	<i>Takes part of Amos + other roles</i>
	B	<i>Takes part of king of Judah + other roles</i>
	C	<i>Takes part of king of Israel + other roles</i>

Narr 1 This is the story of Amos.

[A steps forward as Amos]

Narr 2 Bzzz.....

[2 Claps hands together as if swatting a mosquito. A,B, C swat mosquitoes – eg on neck]

Narr1 What are you doing?

Narr 2 You said 'This is the story of a mosquito'.

Narr1 No, I didn't. I said 'This is the story of Amos'.

[A,B,C, look sheepish and return to positions]

Narr 2 Oh, who was he?

Narr 1 He was a shepherd in Tekoa, two years before the earthquake.

[B, C become sheep tended by A. All 3 shake]

Narr 2 What earthquake?

Narr 1 The one that happened two years later.

[A,B,C stop shaking]

And it was at the time when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam was king of Israel.

[B becomes Uzziah, C becomes Jeroboam putting on crowns]

Narr 2 Two kings. That's confusing.

Narr 1 Yes, the Jewish nation was split into two: the northern kingdom called Israel under Jeroboam, and the southern kingdom called Judah under Uzziah

[C moves stage right, B moves stage left, leaving Amos in the middle].

Narr 2 Where was Tekoa?

Narr 1 In the north.

Narr 2 Right, so Amos was in the north – in Israel?
[Amos joins C to be in the north]

Narr 1 Correct.

Narr 2 So what did this shepherd Amos do then? Did he write a book about looking after sheep? Something like “How to stay awake while counting sheep”?

[B,C become sheep again. A counts them and dozes off]

Narr 1 No, he spoke God’s word to Israel.

[A proclaims to congregation]

Narr 2 No kidding! Still it must have been really encouraging.

Narr 1 Not exactly, because he said that God was angry – like a roaring lion showing his disapproval.

[B becomes roaring lion. C looks afraid.]

Narr 2 What was God unhappy about?

Narr 1 For a start – Damascus.

[A holds up bottle of Domestos and loo brush]

Narr 2 What, killing 99% of all germs not good enough? He expected the full 100?

Narr 1 Not Domestos – Damascus.. the capital of Syria. They had been sledging Gilead

Narr 2 I don’t like sledging either. When you fall off you get cold snow down your neck. Yuk, horrible.

[C gets on sledge, pushed by B]

Narr 1 No, they had attacked Gilead mercilessly.

[A bowls, B bats, C as close fielder poking batsman]

Narr 2 Oh, that sort of sledging. The Australians do that to English batsmen. I think it’s unsportsmanlike

Narr 1 No, they had physically attacked Gilead in the cruellest way.

Narr 2 That’s not very nice.

Narr 1 And God was angry with Gaza too.

Narr 2 That seems a bit harsh. I mean he did his best. He couldn’t help it if he started crying when he got that yellow card; it did mean he was going to miss the final.

[A as Gazza, fouls B who has ball. C as referee shows yellow card. A cries]

Narr 1 Not Gazza – Gaza.

Narr 2 Oh, what had they done?

Narr 1 They sold people to Edom.

[B grabs C and sells to A for money]

Narr 2 Oh dear.

Narr 1 And Amos said God was cross about ‘the three sins of Tyre, even for four’.

[A as driver, B and C a spit crew changing tyres]

Narr 2 Four tyres is definitely better than three. Michael Schumacher had dreadful problems when one of his tyres came off.

[A drives off and veers to side before crashing]

Narr 1 They had done the same as Gaza, selling people to Edom.

[C grabs B and sells to A for money]

Narr 2 It doesn’t sound as though Edom was a good place.

Narr 1 No – God wasn’t happy with them either; he wasn’t happy with the Edomites, the Ammonites or the Moabites.

Narr 2 Or the kilobytes, or the megabytes or the gigabytes. It doesn’t sound as though God likes computers.

[C grabs laptop. A looks over shoulder]

Narr 1 And so he promised to set a fire to their walls.

Narr 2 I have a firewall on my computer. I thought it was supposed to protect me.

Narr 1 There is no protection from the wrath of God – the lion’s roar.

[A as lion roaring at B. He looks frightened and cowers.]

Narr 2 I expect Israel was pleased to hear its neighbours were going to get a good thrashing from God.

[C as king of Israel looks happy]

Narr 1 They were probably even more pleased when he turned his attention to their fellow Jews – in Judah.

[A points at B who is now back as king of Judah]

Narr 2 No love lost between them? Like the Scots cheering when England lose at football?

Narr 1 Amos said ‘For the three sins of Judah’....

Narr 2 Three – nil, three – nil.

[A and C football chant pointing at B – eg with scarves held aloft]

Narr 1 ... even for four....

Narr 2 Four – nil, four – nil.

[More chanting]

Narr 1 I will not turn back my wrath.

Narr 2 What had Judah done wrong?

Narr 1 They had rejected God’s teaching and gone after false gods. This had made God really angry – hence his roar.

[B grabs an ‘idol’ and worships, turning back on A and C]

Narr 2 You said this was two years before the earthquake?

Narr 1 Yes.

Narr 2 Well it sounds to me as though the earthquake was about to happen – right away.

[A,B,C shake and fall over]

THE END