

For the Living of These Days

Session 8: Amos – Looks Ahead

Visions (Pictures) of Judgment – Chapter 7:1 – 9:15

Vision of Locusts

“This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: He was preparing swarms of locust after the king’s share had been harvested and just as the second crop was coming up. When they had stripped the land clean, I cried out, ‘Sovereign Lord, forgive! How can Jacob survive? He is so small.’” Amos 7:1-2

The Lord showed Amos these visions

Images of destruction that would be familiar to them. Compare with Joel 1:4

Vision of Fire

“This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: The Sovereign Lord was calling for judgment by fire; it dried up the great deep and devoured the land. Then I called out, ‘Sovereign Lord, I beg you, stop! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!’” Amos 7:4-5

Amos’ immediate response to first two visions was to pray that God would forgive and spare Israel.

Compare with Ezekiel 11:13

The power of prayer

God relented

“So the Lord relented. This will not happen, the Lord said.” Amos 7:3

“So the Lord relented. This will not happen either,” the Sovereign Lord said. Amos 7:6

Examples of God relenting: Moses prayed Exodus 32:11-14, Jonah 4:2 and Jeremiah 18:8, 26:3, 26:13 and 42:10

Why do you think God relents from punishing Israel? Us?

What does it mean that “Jesus is same yesterday and today and forever?”
Hebrews 13:8

Vision of Plumb Line

“This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord asked me, ‘What do you see, Amos?’ ‘A plumb line.’ I replied. The the Lord said, ‘Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.’” Amos 7:7-8

Plumb line determines the straightness of a wall. A wall that is not straight will eventually collapse.

God’s chosen nation was no longer straight because their sin has made them crooked. No longer will God spare them.

They conformed to the ways of the pagan nations and disobeyed God.

What if God set a plumb line to measure our straightness, our rightness

with God? How are we tempted to live in ways that are crooked to God's word? Read Romans 12:1-2

God will destroy the high places (King Jeroboam and religious leaders) and their sanctuaries of Israel.

Greedy, wicked leaders, false sanctuaries where the worship to false gods and/or insincere worship of the Living God.

Amos and Amaziah

"Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: 'Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words.'" Amos 7:10

Amaziah was the chief priest at Bethel which was once a Holy Place to Living God. He hated Amos' prophecy against the 'false' worship of the people of Israel

Amaziah's message to Jeroboam Amos 7:11

Message to Amos: "Get out of town. Go back to Judah. Don't prophesy anymore in Bethel to the people of Israel!" He was telling Amos to disobey God. Why was he doing that?

It is possible that 'religious' leaders have told people things that are contradictory to God's instructions for the living of our days?

Amos' message to Amaziah Amos 7:17

Vision of a Basket of Ripe Fruit

"This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: a basket of ripe fruit. 'What do you see, Amos?' he asked. 'A basket of ripe fruit,' I answered. Then the Lord said to me, 'The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.'" Amos 8:1-2

The people were now ripe not for harvest but for punishment. They are now rotten because of their sins.

God proclaims what will happen 'in that day' – day of judgment

Vision of the Lord standing by the altar – Israel to be destroyed

"I saw the Lord standing by the altar..." Amos 9:1

Judgment the altar the center of the nation's life, the place where the people expected protection and blessing. All 12 tribes would be punished.

Israel will be restored

"In that day I will restore David's fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restores its ruins and build it as it used to be." Amos 9:11

"I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them." Amos 9:15

