

Amos' Prophecy to Israel – Part 3 (c. 760 BC)

Amos 7–9

Amos' First Vision—the Locusts

7:1 Thus the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, He was forming a locust-swarm when the spring crop began to sprout. And behold, the spring crop *was* after the king's mowing.

2 And it came about, when it had finished eating the vegetation of the land, that I said,

“Lord GOD, please pardon!
How can Jacob stand,
For he is small?”

3 The LORD changed His mind about this.
“It shall not be,” said the LORD.

Amos' Second Vision—the Fire

4 Thus the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, the Lord GOD was calling to contend *with them* by fire, and it consumed the great deep and began to consume the farm land.

5 Then I said,

“Lord GOD, please stop!
How can Jacob stand, for he is small?”

6 The LORD changed His mind about this.
“This too shall not be,” said the Lord GOD.

Amos' Third Vision—the Plumb Line

7 Thus He showed me, and behold, the Lord was standing by a vertical wall with a plumb line in His hand.

8 The LORD said to me, “What do you see, Amos?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“Behold I am about to put a plumb line
In the midst of My people Israel.
I will spare them no longer.

9 “The high places of Isaac will be desolated
And the sanctuaries of Israel laid waste.
Then I will rise up against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

Amaziah, Priest of Bethel, Urges Jeroboam II to Get Rid of Amos

10 Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent *word* to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel; the land is unable to endure all his words.

11 “For thus Amos says, ‘Jeroboam will die by the sword and Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.’”

12 Then Amaziah said to Amos, “Go, you seer, flee away to the land of Judah and there eat bread and there do your prophesying!

13 “But no longer prophesy at Bethel, for it is a sanctuary of the king and a royal residence.”

14 Then Amos replied to Amaziah, “I am not a prophet, nor am I the son of a prophet; for I am a herdsman and a grower of sycamore figs.

15 “But the LORD took me from following the flock and the LORD said to me, ‘Go prophesy to My people Israel.’

16 “Now hear the word of the LORD: you are saying, ‘You shall not prophesy against Israel nor shall you speak against the house of Isaac.’

17 “Therefore, thus says the LORD, ‘Your wife will become a harlot in the city, your sons and your daughters will fall by the sword, your land will be parceled up by a *measuring* line and you yourself will die upon unclean soil. Moreover, Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.’”

Amos' Fourth Vision—A Basket of Summer Fruit

8:1 Thus the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, *there was* a basket of summer fruit.

2 He said, “What do you see, Amos?” And I said, “A basket of summer fruit.” Then the LORD said to me, “The end has come for My people Israel. I will spare them no longer.

3 “The songs of the palace will turn to wailing in that day,” declares the Lord GOD. “Many *will be* the corpses; in every place they will cast them forth in silence.”

Indictment of Greedy Merchants

4 Hear this, you who trample the needy, to do away with the humble of the land,

5 saying,

“When will the new moon be over,
So that we may sell grain,
And the sabbath, that we may open the wheat *market*,
To make the bushel smaller and the shekel bigger,
And to cheat with dishonest scales,

- 6 So as to buy the helpless for money
And the needy for a pair of sandals,
And *that* we may sell the refuse of the wheat?”
7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob,
“Indeed, I will never forget any of their deeds.

The LORD’s Judgment

- 8 “Because of this will not the land quake
And everyone who dwells in it mourn?
Indeed, all of it will rise up like the Nile,
And it will be tossed about
And subside like the Nile of Egypt.
9 “It will come about in that day,” declares the Lord GOD,
“That I will make the sun go down at noon
And make the earth dark in broad daylight.
10 “Then I will turn your festivals into mourning
And all your songs into lamentation;
And I will bring sackcloth on everyone’s loins
And baldness on every head.
And I will make it like *a time of mourning* for an only son,
And the end of it will be like a bitter day.
11 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD,
“When I will send a famine on the land,
Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water,
But rather for hearing the words of the LORD.
12 “People will stagger from sea to sea
And from the north even to the east;
They will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD,
But they will not find *it*.
13 “In that day the beautiful virgins
And the young men will faint from thirst.
14 “As *for* those who swear by the guilt of Samaria,
Who say, ‘As your god lives, O Dan,’
And, ‘As the way of Beersheba lives,’
They will fall and not rise again.”

Amos’ Fifth Vision—The LORD Standing by the Altar

9:1 I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and He said,

“Smite the capitals so that the thresholds will shake,
And break them on the heads of them all!
Then I will slay the rest of them with the sword;
They will not have a fugitive who will flee,
Or a refugee who will escape.

- 2 “Though they dig into Sheol,
From there will My hand take them;
And though they ascend to heaven,
From there will I bring them down.
3 “Though they hide on the summit of Carmel,
I will search them out and take them from there;
And though they conceal themselves from My sight on the floor of the sea,

- From there I will command the serpent and it will bite them.
 4 “And though they go into captivity before their enemies,
 From there I will command the sword that it slay them,
 And I will set My eyes against them for evil and not for good.”

The Lord Almighty

- 5 The Lord GOD of hosts,
 The One who touches the land so that it melts,
 And all those who dwell in it mourn,
 And all of it rises up like the Nile
 And subsides like the Nile of Egypt;
 6 The One who builds His upper chambers in the heavens
 And has founded His vaulted dome over the earth,
 He who calls for the waters of the sea
 And pours them out on the face of the earth,
 The LORD is His name.

Destruction of the Sinful Kingdom

- 7 “Are you not as the sons of Ethiopia to Me,
 O sons of Israel?” declares the LORD.
 “Have I not brought up Israel from the land of Egypt,
 And the Philistines from Caphtor and the Arameans from Kir?
 8 “Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are on the sinful kingdom,
 And I will destroy it from the face of the earth;
 Nevertheless, I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob,”
 Declares the LORD.
 9 “For behold, I am commanding,
 And I will shake the house of Israel among all nations
 As *grain* is shaken in a sieve,
 But not a kernel will fall to the ground.
 10 “All the sinners of My people will die by the sword,
 Those who say, ‘The calamity will not overtake or confront us.’

Future Restoration of Israel

- 11 “In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David,
 And wall up its breaches;
 I will also raise up its ruins
 And rebuild it as in the days of old;
 12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom [*that the remnant of men may earnestly seek me* (LXX)]
 And all the nations who are called by My name,” [*and all the Gentiles upon whom my name is called* (LXX)]
 Declares the LORD who does this. [Acts 15:13–21]
 13 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD,
 “When the plowman will overtake the reaper
 And the treader of grapes him who sows seed;
 When the mountains will drip sweet wine
 And all the hills will be dissolved.
 14 “Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel,
 And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live *in them*;
 They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine,
 And make gardens and eat their fruit.
 15 “I will also plant them on their land,
 And they will not again be rooted out from their land
 Which I have given them,”
 Says the LORD your God.