

Minor Prophets Summer 2025 - Lesson 12

Five Visions - Amos 7-9

Theme Verse: "I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel" (Amos 9:14 ESV).

In Amos 1-6, Amos' preaching was in clear words. In the next three chapters, Amos' prophecies in visions. In the first two visions, the Lord threatens to destroy Israel, but Amos intercedes like Moses interceded for Israel in the wilderness. In the next three visions, Israel is destroyed. Total destruction comes in the fifth vision.

Destruction Averted

Read **Amos 7:1-6**. In the first two visions, the Lord already had begun the destruction He was planning. After both visions, Amos interceded for the people and asked for forgiveness.

1. How is Amos a "type" of Christ, who intercedes for God's people?

Amos Accused

Read **Amos 7:7-9**. In the third vision, Amos sees a plumb line in the midst of the people of Israel. Usually, plumb lines are used in construction, but here it is used to show the need for destruction. What God had built to be straight and true has gone "out of plumb." Notice how Amos does not intercede. Because Israel is the Lord's people and their apostasy so great, so, too, shall be their punishment.

Read **Amos 7:10-17**. Amos confronts Amaziah, the priest at Bethel (1 Kings 12:32), who tells King Jeroboam that Amos is a traitor and the land cannot bear his message.

2. How was Jesus' message compared in a similar way to Amos' message?

Notice that the text does not tell us what happens to Amos after he boldly proclaims judgment against Amaziah, the "greatest" prophet of Israel. It seems unlikely that he was set free. He may have been imprisoned or even martyred (as the tradition says happened to Isaiah). Although Amos' future is left unresolved, the prophecy concerns the future of Israel. That is supposed to be the focus!

3. How does Amaziah's rejection of Amos demonstrate Israel's rejection of the Lord?

Destruction and Restoration

Regarding the last two chapters of Amos, Luther writes, "The final two chapters in this prophet are his last two discourses. With them he acts as if he were tired of preaching and prophecies that the entire people will be utterly destroyed." (AE 18:179). In the fourth vision, Amos sees a basket of summer fruit that represents the end of Israel. Corpses are everywhere (8:3).

Read **Amos 9:1-4**. The message of the fifth and final vision is total destruction. The Lord Himself comes and strikes down the temple where Israel worships her idols. The Lord shakes the earth to show that He is Lord of all creation.

4. Reading Psalm 139:8-10 we see that the Lord's presence everywhere is a comfort. Why, when the Lord comes to judge, is His omnipresence terrifying?

Read **Amos 9:5-15**. God does not leave His people without hope. He proclaims restoration. He is faithful to His promises.

5. Noting verse 12, how does this prophecy give hope to more than just Israel?

God's Word for Today

Israel was punished for her sin. She rejected the Lord and, after His long suffering and patience, the Lord handed her over to her desires. This is a dreadful judgment. May the sight of such judgment bring us to the repentant faith in our Lord Jesus, who forgives all our sins and makes "all things new" (Revelation 21:5).

6. When the judgment came upon Israel, corpses were scattered everywhere. Deuteronomy 21:23 declared that a body hung on the tree is cursed. How did Jesus bear the curse for us?

Recalling Ezekiel's valley of dry bones (37:1-14), and what happens in Matthew 27:51-53, we see that the end times are ushered in with the death of Jesus. The earth shakes and the grave gives up her death. This is a prelude to the raising of the valley of the dry bones, the resurrection of the dead.

7. How has Jesus' death and resurrection already raised the dry bones within us?

In Closing

- Consider how the Lord brings us to repentance through His Law and comforts us with His precious Gospel.
- Take comfort in these end times because Christ sits at God's right hand, delivering His mercy through His Means of Grace.

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, cleanse us by the power of Your redeeming blood, that in purity and peace we may worship and adore Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

This study is based on:

"God's Word for Today: Hosea, Joel, and Amos - Faithfulness amidst Unfaithfulness."