

God's Plumb Line
Amos 7

Final 3 chapters

Third section of Amos

Judgment on the NATIONS (1-2)

Judgment on ISRAEL (3-6)

5 Pictures of Judgment, Coming Restoration and Blessing (7-9)

1. Locusts. 7:1-3
2. Fire. 7:4-6
3. A Plumb Line. 7:7-17

4. Basket of Ripe Fruit. 8:1-14
5. Broken Thresholds (building) 9:1-19
6. Blessing. 9:11-15

THIS WEEK: Amos 7 *God's Plumb Line - Declaring God's When Judgment is Imminent*

We find ourselves much like AMOS

- I. Compassion for the lost. *Amos pleads for God's mercy.*
 - A. The Plague of locusts. 7:1-3
 1. The coming plague would have wiped out the peoples sustenance.
 - a. The FIRST CUTTING (harvest) went to the KING
 - b. The SECOND CUTTING was for the PEOPLE
 - c. God was about to take away their very sustenance.
 2. Amos INTERCEDES and God RELENTS
 3. Much like MOSES.
 - a. Ex 32:1-14
 - b. Numbers 16:22, 41-46
 - B. Fire. 7:4-6
 1. Again, the land would not be spared
 2. Again, Amos pleads with the LORD
 3. Again, the LORD relents
 - C. A Plumb Line. 7:7-9
 1. A Plumb line was an illustration for BUILDING
 2. Also an illustration for JUDGMENT (Israel failed God's standard)

- a. 2 Kings 21:13
- b. Isa 28:17
- c. Isa 34:11

- 3. Amos does not intercede, because the LORD declares that there is no more patience for Israel's sins. (Hebrews 10:31) *"It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*

II. Courage Under Fire. 7:10-13

- A. False charges, lies. 7:10 Amos was not inciting rebellion.
- B. Insults (12) "go back to your simple farm life..."
- C. Threats (13a)
- D. Self incrimination (13b) Amaziah unwittingly admits that Israel's system of worship was man made, and not the worship of YHWH.

III. Confidence in God's Message. 7:14-17

- A. Amos Knew that God called him
- B. Amos knew that the message was the LORD's
- C. Amos would not back down in the face of opposition
- D. Jeremiah 20:9-12

IV. APPLICATION.

- A. Today, Christians face FALSE CHARGES, INSULTS, THREATS.
 - 1. Things will get worse!
 - 2. We need to be prepared
- B. America is much like ISRAEL, 750 BC
 - 1. Christians in the 1980's begged for God's mercy
 - a. For the sins of the sexual revolution
 - b. For the sins of abortion
 - c. For the sins of materialism
 - d. God relented
 - 2. After 9/11, Christians begged for God's mercy
 - a. For the sins of a nation that had excluded God
 - b. For the sins of hedonism
 - c. For the sins of modern philosophy
 - d. For the sins of homosexuality and abortion
 - e. ... God relented

3. TODAY - there is no outcry of REPENTANCE in light of our financial crisis
 - a. Things will get WORSE
 - b. Judgment is here

4. What are we to do?
 - a. We will enter judgment along with the wicked
 - b. We will experience God's mercy in the midst of suffering
 - c. We will experience the greatest opportunities of our lifetimes for the gospel.

 - d. Financial preparation for the coming judgment
The same godly principles apply!
 - (1) Recognize the Lord's ownership (stewardship)
 - (2) Put the LORD first in your finances
 - (3) live within your means
 - (4) get out of debt
 - (5) provide for the needs of those who hurt
 - (6) Save for the future so that you can support your family and have something left for the needs of others

 - e. (2 Corinthians 1:8-11) *"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. **He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.**"*

 - f. We must have COMPASSION for the LOST
 - g. We Must have COURAGE under FIRE
 - h. We must have CONFIDENCE in the MESSAGE