Amos 8-9

Review...

- Amos gave Israel 2 Woes in light of their rejection of Word of God his 3 sermons from chapter 3-5!
 - o The first Woe was to the leaders because they led the people to rebel against God...
 - o The second Woe was to those who denied the day of doom the judgment of God...
 - o Their denial led to more sin kept the people from seeing the need to repent!
 - o Instead the people just lived for the moment / pleasure / prosperity no thought of eternity!
 - o But it was foolish of Israel to think there were no consequences judgment was coming!
- God gave 3 visions to Amos showing the different ways He could destroy Israel...
 - o After the first 2 visions Amos pleaded with the Lord to forgive / stop...
 - o So the Lord relented and did not destroy Israel with locusts / or by fire...
 - o But the 3rd time Amos said nothing God would judge Israel by the plumb line of His Word!
- Amaziah the priest of Bethel lied to the king that Amos was conspiring against him and Israel!
 - o $\,$ He demanded Amos go back to Judah stop prophesying against the nation of Israel...
 - o $\,$ Amos clarified he was not a prophet / or the son of a prophet but God did sent him...
 - o And the wife of Amaziah would become a prostitute / his children would die in battle...
 - o $\,$ His land would be given to someone else / and he would die in a foreign land...
 - o Oh and yeah Israel would be carried away captive because of their sins!

THE FALL AND RISE OF ISRAEL...

- $\mathbf{1}^{ST} \mathbf{A}$ FAMINE IN THE LAND... VS. $\mathbf{1-14}$
 - o 1st The vision of summer fruit... vs. 1-3
 - God showed Amos a 4th vision a basket full of summer fruit...
 - When God asked Amos about the basket He told him the end had come for Israel...
 - Summer fruit was the last fruit of the year to be gathered no more crops afterwards...
 - It was also fruit that could not be preserved it had to be eaten as soon as it ripened...
 - The though being Israel was done producing good fruit and was ripe for judgment!
 - This wealthy prosperous nation would be brought to its knees broken!
 - If you are like me there are times you wonder why God does not judged us yet...
 - God is VERY patient when it comes to sin He wants everyone to be save II Peter 3:9
 - But also in spite of all the wickedness is there are still fruits of righteousness...
 - There are still Godly men and women who are living for and serving Jesus...
 - But that does not mean judgment will not come God is not mocked judgment is coming!
 - God would not pass by the sin of Israel anymore...
 - The songs (*happy days*) in their Temple were gone to be replaced by mourning...
 - Dead bodies would be everywhere thrown out in silence because there were so many...
 - There would be no ceremony no funeral there would be more dead than living!
 - Speaking of the absolute devastation that was about to befall the nation!
 - When the black plague hit London in 1348 nearly half of the city died in 18 months...
 - The result of so much death was people just thrown into pits often stacked 5 people deep!
 - o 2nd Hear this the charges against Israel... vs. 4-6
 - God gives Amos a breakdown of the moral flaws of the people...
 - They take advantage of those in need ignore the plight of the poor...

- If someone is hungry and we say God bless you what good does that do James 2:16
- We are called as believers to practically reach out in love / help out those in need...
- How can we say we represent Jesus we Love someone and not be willing to help!
- They are greedy only think about money…
 - They despise the 'new moon' a monthly day to celebrate the Lord Numbers 10:10
 - They cannot wait for the Sabbath to be over because work was forbidden Exodus 20:10
 - Many years ago it used to be that all the businesses closed on Sunday...
 - They did so because it was important to set aside a day to worship the Lord...
 - But slowly that began to erode as people realized Sunday was another day to make money!
 - People thought it was a better to open the malls and close the churches!
- They use dishonest weights (ephah was a measurement of weight / shekel money)...
 - This might seem a minor offense just a little bit of cheating to get an extra buck...
 - But the Lord calls it an abomination Deuteronomy 25:13 / Proverbs 11:1 / 20:23
 - We tend to think taking paperclip from the company is not a big deal...
 - But the guy who stole millions from his company probably started with a paperclip!
 - Sometimes the minor offenses are the most important because they reveal the heart...
 - People start out small because they are afraid of getting caught...
 - But if we check our heart in the little things it will keep us from greater sin!
- They buy the poor for silver / needy for a pair of sandals see people only as a tool!
 - This is speaking of slavery seeing people as a commodity to be traded for gain...
 - There has been some speculation about what the Bible teaches about slavery...
 - While the Bible does acknowledge slavery does God view it as right or wrong...
 - The simple answer is God views it as a great evil a sign of the wickedness of the heart...
 - He created all men to be equal Galatians 3:26 and will judge those who mistreat others!
- They sell the bad wheat perhaps wheat mixed with chaff...
 - In the Philippines bad merchants often mix the rice with very small pebbles...
 - The purpose is to increase the weight of the rice so they can charge more!
 - It forces people to sift out their rice before cooking it or end up with broken teeth!
- o 3^{rd} Hear this the consequences for Israel... vs. 7-10
 - The Lord had sworn He would not forget any of the 'works' (sin) of Jacob...
 - Because the people did not mourn their sin there was no regret for their wickedness...
 - The suggestion is that if the people had repented there was still hope...
 - It was their indifference to their sin that would ultimately be their undoing!
 - It is not sin that keeps people from the Lord Jesus took care of that on the Cross...
 - It is their unwillingness to repent of their sin and ask for forgiveness!
 - As a result the people would be wiped away...
 - Amos paints a vivid picture using familiar Biblical images of sorrow and devastation:
 - The flooding of the Nile Egypt rises as much as 20' every year during the seasonal floods!
 - The sun would go dark at noon perhaps referring to an eclipse...
 - Feasts would turn to mourning / songs into weeping / all would end up in sackcloth...
 - All would shave their heads in sorrow as if they had lost their only son!
 - All of this simply because Israel had too much pride to turn back to the Lord!
 - Did you ever wonder why so many people reject the Gospel message...
 - They have LOTS of excuses they blame science / evolution / other religions...
 - But the truth is all of these excuses are paper thin easily debunked...
 - The real reason is they do not want to give up the sin in their life...

- They would rather have their sin than eternal life with God in Heaven!
- o 4th A famine of the Word... vs. 11-14
 - The days were coming when God would send a famine...
 - Not a famine of food or water but a famine of the Word of the LORD (Yahweh)...
 - Speaking of the 400 years of silence between Malachi and Matthew...
 - When there were no prophets in Israel or Judah no one declaring the Word of the LORD!
 - They did not want to hear the Word of the LORD so God gave them what they wanted!
 - People would wander from sea to sea from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea...
 - They would run to and fro from north to east (notice not south to Jerusalem)...
 - But the Word of the LORD would be nowhere to be found because they did not want it!
 - As a result the young women and men would faint from thirst a thirst for the Lord!
 - **Psalm 63:1** "My soul thirsts for You... In a dry and thirsty land where there is no water."
 - And all those who swore by the gods of Dan (*golden calf*) would fall and not get up again!
 - It is sad that you can still search from sea to sea today and not find the Word...
 - And for the same reasons people do not want to hear the truth...
 - They want their ears tickled tell them what they want to hear II Timothy 4:3
 - As a result too many pastors today spend too little time teaching the Word...
 - Instead they tell funny stories to entertain sprinkled with the occasional Bible verse!
 - They are more interested in filling pews than creating saints!
 - But it is not our words / or funny stories people need to hear...
 - They need to know about the hope of Heaven / or the horror of hell!
 - But the ones who should be teaching them the pastors do not!
 - The biggest problem in the church today there is a famine in the Land!
- 2^{ND} The destruction of Israel... vs. 1-10
 - o 1st No where to run... vs. 1-4
 - God showed Amos a 5th and final vision the Lord standing by the golden calves (altar)...
 - People thought they were safe in the temple of the golden calves but God was there...
 - And He commanded the columns of the temple to be hit cause the foundations to shake...
 - The temple would collapse and killing those who were worshiping inside!
 - God would then hunt down anyone who survived...
 - Those who escaped the sword (war with Assyria) would not get very far...
 - If they tired to hide in a cemetery (dig into sheol) the Hand of God would find them...
 - If they tried to climb up to heaven (*mountain top Carmel*) God would bring them down...
 - If they tried to hide from His sight in the bottom of the sea the serpent would bit them...
 - Even once they went into captivity the sword would find and kill them...
 - Because the Lord had set His eye to harm and not help them!
 - There is no place we can go to escape from the Lord...
 - **Hebrews 4:13** "There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account."
 - I am sure just like in Israel people think there are 'safe places' from the Lord...
 - Perhaps they run to the bar / or to the 'safe places' on the college campus...
 - Thinking surely God would never come to a place like this but He is there!
 - That can either be a VERY unsettling thought if we are trying hide from the Lord...
 - Or it can be a VERY comforting thought to know the Lord is always with us!
 - **Psalm 139:7-12** "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are*

there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me."

- o 2nd The diaspora of Israel... vs. 5-10
 - Just in case there was any doubt that God was capable of executing His Judgments...
 - He is the Lord GOD of Hosts Adonai / Yahweh / Tsabaw (*military commander*)
 - A title used 33 times in the Old Testament (this is the last time) to declare His power!
 - He is the one who touches the earth and it melts (volcanoes)...
 - He causes the ground to rise like the Nile River then sink again (earthquake)...
 - He built his house in Heaven (*sky*) / He constructed the plates (*strata*) of the earth...
 - He calls for the waters from the sea and pours them down on the land (water cycle)...
 - The LORD is His name distinguishing Him from all other 'gods' on the earth!
 - Did Israel think they were better than others (*Ethiopians*)...
 - Yes God brought them out of bondage of Egypt but they were not alone...
 - God rescued the Philistines from Caphtor (*Crete*) / and Syrians from Kir (*Mesopotamia*)!
 - Now the eyes of God were on this sinful nation but He would not completely destroy it...
 - God would sift them among the nations diaspora but the righteous would not be lost...
 - But all the sinners WOULD perish those who doubted the judgment of God!
 - Too many Christians get the impression they are untouchable...
 - Once saved always saved they have nothing to fear from His judgment...
 - But Israel the chosen people of God were broken off cause of unbelief Romans 11:20
 - How much more will he also be willing to break us off if we do not continue to live by faith!
 - John 15:2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away..."
 - A branch apart from a tree dies just as apart from Jesus we die spiritually...
 - There is no middle ground in the Christian walk we are either growing in Jesus...
 - Or we are slowly dying caught up in the care of this world!
 - If you plug a light into a cinder block nothing happens only a socket has power...
 - In the same way we often try and plug our lives into the world...
 - Then we wonder why we have no power why we are always in the dark
 - It is only when we plug into Jesus that the light comes on!
- 3^{RD} The resoration of Israel... vs. 11-15
 - o 1st The tabernacle of David... vs. 11-12
 - On that Day God would raise up the Tabernacle of David that had fallen down...
 - That day is not speaking of rebuilding the Temple either Zerubbabel or Herod...
 - Is it talking about the promise God made to King David II Samuel 7:16
 - The Lord promised the House of David would stand forever referring to the Messiah!
 - The tabernacle Amos is talking about is Jesus Christ **John 1:14** (*tabernacled*)!
 - Jesus would repair the damage done by sin restore men to God as in the 'days of old'!
 - But this promise was not just for the Jews...
 - Jesus would take possession of Edom (*LXX mankind*) all the gentiles called by His name!
 - In **Acts 15** the church faced a challenge did gentiles have to become Jews to be saved...
 - Paul and Barnabus made a special trip to Jerusalem just to resolve this issue...
 - After hearing about the work they did on the 1st missionary journey...
 - James (*brother of Jesus*) head of the church in Jerusalem addressed the counsel...
 - God always meant for the Gospel to go to the Gentiles and he quoted **Amos 9:12**!
 - o 2nd The rebirth of Israel... vs. 13-15
 - The days were coming after the 1st advent of the Messiah when Israel would be reborn...

- The land would once again flourish when grain will grow faster than it can be harvested...
- When Israel would return again to their land rebuild their cities / plant their crops...
- God would plant Israel in their land and they will never again be removed!