

# AMOS - FINAL CHAPTER

Who Will Be Spared?

# THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL

Amos 9:1-10

“In a fifth and final vision, Amos witnessed the Sovereign of the universe wielding an inescapable sword against all the sinners among His people.”

– Donald R. Sunukjian, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Old Testament*; Amos 9:1-10

I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and He said:

“Strike the doorposts, that the thresholds may shake,

And break them on the heads of them all.

I will slay the last of them with the sword.

He who flees from them shall not get away,

And he who escapes from them shall not be delivered.”

Amos 9:1 NKJV

# THE LORD BY THE ALTAR

- There is some disagreement about where this altar is located.
- Dr. Constable believes it is at Bethel as that is where much of the preceding encounter with Amaziah occurred, although he allows that the altar might be at any of the temples.
- Calvin teaches that the Lord would not give even indirect approval of the profane temples of Bethel and Dan, so the altar must be of the true temple in Jerusalem. This leads to a broader interpretation of Amos' vision:

“A vision was exhibited to him which showed that it was decreed by God himself to smite both the chiefs and the common people: and since God begins with his temple, how can profane men hope for pardon, who had deserted the true and pure worship of God? They were all apostates: how then could they have hoped that God would be placable to them, inasmuch as he had broken down his own temple?”

—John Calvin, *The Twelve Minor Prophets: Amos*

# A BIT OF HISTORY

- Amos prophesied in 762 BC under King Jeroboam II of Israel
- King Jeroboam II reigned from 793 to 753 BC
- The division of Israel had occurred when Jeroboam returned from exile in Egypt. The prophet Ahijah had told Jeroboam that he would rule 10 of the tribes of Israel (I Kings 11:31-39).
- The northern tribes called upon him to present their plea for lower taxes when Rehoboam, the son of King Solomon by one of his foreign wives, was to be coronated as King of all the tribes in 931BC.
- Rehoboam refused to lower the taxes and delivered a insulting reply that inflamed the Israelites of the north. He ended up fleeing his own coronation. The northern tribes coronated Jeroboam instead.

“Jeroboam could have been an instrument of blessing for Israel. He was divinely chosen and given promises that his dynasty would continue and prosper if he obeyed the Lord (I Kings 11:38-39). But Jeroboam did not trust or obey the Lord; he committed many serious sins that resulted in the Israelites turning *from* God rather than *to* Him. He planted seeds that bore bitter fruit for Israel as long as it continued as a nation. Twenty kings ruled the northern kingdom and not one of them turned the people back to the Lord.”

– Thomas L. Constable, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Old Testament, I Kings*



“Rehoboam turned from the Lord after he had become established on the throne and was strong (2 Chron. 12:1,14). This revival of idolatry reintroduced conditions that had prevailed in the days of the Judges before David turned the nation to the Lord. The Lord’s jealous anger was directed at those responsible for the sins that destroyed His beloved people. ... The same practices that moved God to purge the land of the moral cancer that plagued it in Joshua’s day were those to which the Israelites [in the south] returned under Rehoboams leadership.”

– Thomas L. Constable, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Old Testament, I Kings*

# A SIMILAR EARLY PROPHECY

- So, back in 931 BC when the division of the kingdom occurred:
  - Jeroboam the First had built an altar at Bethel and was standing near the altar about to offer up a sacrifice on a festival day he had decreed at at an altar he had built contrary to God's covenant.
  - A man of God appeared and cried out against the altar saying "O altar, altar! This is what the Lord has said, 'Look, a son named Josiah will be born to the Davidic dynasty. He will sacrifice on you the priests of the high places who offer sacrifices on you. Human bones will be burned on you.'"

- Josiah was born 290 years later and fulfilled this prophecy by demolishing the Bethel altar between 638 BC and 632BC, along with all the other “high places” of pagan worship.
- Josiah ordered the execution of the pagan priests and even had the bones of dead priests exhumed from their graves and burned on their altars.
- Josiah died opposing Pharaoh Necho in 609 BC, who was marching through the Megiddo valley to fight the Babylonians.
- So, I am inclined to agree with the analysis that Amos’ vision was not of the altar at Bethel, but that of the temple at Jerusalem, since the anonymous prophet of the tenth century BC was directly associated with Bethel.
- And both Jeroboam II in Israel and Ahaz in Judah were, shall we say, bad kings.

- So, now that I've beaten verse one to death, any questions?
- OK, let's move on to God's inescapable sword ...

- 2 “Though they dig into hell,  
From there My hand shall take them;  
Though they climb up to heaven,  
From there I will bring them down;
- 3 And though they hide themselves on top of Carmel,  
From there I will search and take them;  
Though they hide from My sight at the bottom of the sea,  
From there I will command the serpent, and it shall bite them;
- 4 Though they go into captivity before their enemies,  
From there I will command the sword,  
And it shall slay them.  
I will set My eyes on them for harm and not for good.”

Amos 9:2-4 NKJV

“I will set My eyes on them for harm and not for good.” - NKJV

- NET: “I will not let them out of my sight; they will experience disaster, not prosperity.”
- ESV: “And and I will fix my eyes upon them for evil and not for good.
- AMP: “And I will set My eyes against them for evil (judgment, punishment) and not for good [that is, not for correction leading to restoration].”

- 5 The Lord God of hosts,  
He who touches the earth and it melts,  
And all who dwell there mourn;  
All of it shall swell like the River,  
And subside like the River of Egypt.
- 6 He who builds His layers in the sky,  
And has founded His strata in the earth;  
Who calls for the waters of the sea,  
And pours them out on the face of the earth—  
The Lord *is* His name

Amos 9:5-6 NKJV

- 7 “**Are** you not like the people of Ethiopia to Me,  
O children of Israel?” says the Lord.  
“Did I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt,  
The Philistines from Caphtor,  
And the Syrians 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;  
Yet I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob,”  
Says the Lord.
- 9 “For surely I will command,  
And will sift the house of Israel among all nations,  
As **grain** is sifted in a sieve;  
Yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground.
- 10 All the sinners of My people shall die by the sword,  
Who say, ‘The calamity shall not overtake nor confront us.’

Amos 9:7-10 NKJV



THERE WILL BE RESTORATION

Amos 9:11-15

- 11 “On that day I will raise up  
The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down,  
And repair its damages;  
I will raise up its ruins,  
And rebuild it as in the days of old;
- 12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom,  
And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,”  
Says the Lord who does this thing.

Amos 9:11-12 NKJV

- 13 “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord,  
“When the plowman shall overtake the reaper,  
And the treader of grapes him who sows seed;  
The mountains shall drip with sweet wine,  
And all the hills shall flow *with it*.
- 14 I will bring back the captives of My people Israel;  
They shall build the waste cities and inhabit *them*;  
They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them;  
They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.
- 15 I will plant them in their land,  
And no longer shall they be pulled up  
From the land I have given them,”  
Says the Lord your God.

Amos 9:13-15 NKJV

# APPLICATION QUESTION

- Who are the poor and exploited of today?
- One group are the immigrant class - foreigners who come to this land of plenty hoping to better their station in life.
- This is how orthodox Christians reacted:

“A wide variety of societies were created to minister to the new problems: Sabbath Schools for immigrant children and Christian day schools as well were created; English was taught to adults; missions were started; orphanages, relief societies, Bible societies, societies to deal with various vices, these and hundreds of other organizations were established to cope with every kind of problem which arose. The future of America was shaped by this massive effort at Christian reconstruction. The “native American” movement failed; the Christian reconstruction was so extensive that it became the real government of American society.”

– R. J. Rushdoony, *Revolt Against Maturity* (Vallecito, California: Ross House Books, 1977), 220

HAVE A GREAT DAY!