

Amos 7-9 – 9 April 2026

“A Sinner’s Paradox”

Introduction

- *Amos the shepherd spent 2 years in full ministry
 - *He wrote judgment letters to surrounding nations
 - *He wrote to Israel of the responsibility that their privilege in knowing God comes with
 - *He called Israel to not just cleave to God, but also to leave their idols and false worship
 - *Today, Amos finishes by telling us of his visions and how he revealed them to Israel to promote repentance
 - *As Amos hears from God and sees from God’s point of view, we’ll see it’s very different than the people
 - *Sinners see the same things we see, but don’t perceive the same things we do
 - *Sinners know many of the same things as us, but don’t live by them as we do – THAT’S A PARADOX
- Today, we’ll see 3 ways sinners live contrary to reality**

#1 – Paradox of Love: They hate God’s people even though we seek their best (Chap 7:1-17)

Read 7:1-3

1. In a vision to Amos, God shows that He could completely eat up the vegetation w/ grasshoppers as a form of punishment
2. But b/c Amos asks for pardon, God does
3. Don’t get the idea that God changed His course
 - a. He showed a potential course and then went another direction

Read 7:4-6

1. Now the Lord insinuated that He could judge Israel by fire
2. But Amos intercedes again – this is not always the case with men – think of Jonah

Read 7:7-9

1. Israel was built by walls; building & city walls
 - a. God is symbolically checking Israel to see if they’re spiritually built straight

2. The high places of false worship & Jeroboam's royal family are found to be crooked (perverted)

Read 7:10-13

1. This shows that Amos made public his visions in chapter 7
 - a. Also, for us, don't hold back sharing what God is teaching you and doing in your life
2. Amos went to where the Word was needed
 - a. Let us not just stay in our Christian bubble
3. "Go home and say your words, Amos"
 - a. The enemies of God aren't afraid when we speak of God; they're afraid when we speak it *to people that need God*

Read 7:14-15

1. This is what a calling looks like
 - a. Not based on who you are, but who God is
 - b. Not based on what I want to say or do, but what God has given to say and do
2. To obey the call of God is a higher calling

- a. Read Acts 4:18-20 – do it no matter the cost
- b. Read Jer 20:9 – can't hold back, driven

Read 7:16-17

- 1. Oh, you don't like this, Amaziah? Let me tell you what the Lord says to you...
 - a. There'll be a personal explosion in his family
- 2. God didn't cause this to happen
 - a. God simply knows beforehand the toll his sin will have in his life
 - b. This is the same for Israel & for us

#2 – Paradox of Truth: They know much of God, yet don't apply it, so it will be taken (Chap 8:1-14)

Read 8:1-3

- 1. There're 3 times in a year that Israel harvested
 - a. Spring, Early Summer, and Summer
 - b. To speak of the summer fruit is to say the end fruit

2. This is a play of words, b/c the Lord says, ‘the end has come”
3. Be clear, this is the end of their current status as a nation, not that this is permanent

Read 8:4-6

1. Greedy Israelites couldn’t wait to ‘open the store on Mon morning’ just to cheat & steal more
2. See, this is premeditated, intentional sin

Read 8:7-8

1. You’ve heard, ‘the bigger they are, the harder they fall’
 - a. This is, ‘the higher their pride, the harder they fall’

Read 8:9-10

1. The very thing they’re trying to prevent, will come upon them – bitter, mourning & darkness

Read 8:11-14

1. When Israel is exiled to Assyria, even God’s truth thru the prophets & His law will be removed

2. They think they need food, but they *need* spiritual food
 - a. And they won't know it, until it's gone

#3 – Paradox of Destiny: They deserve judgment, yet God wants to bless them w/ grace (Chap 9:1-15)

Read 9:1-4

1. Judgement is brought to Israel's false worship centers – this is the altar at Bethel
 - a. Center of a nation, city, home, or person is the spiritual center of the altar of worship
 - b. This place is rewarded or judged first
2. There's nowhere to escape God's judgment
 - a. Must be paid for on the cross or on our head
3. Notice, it's the Lord Himself doing the judging
 - a. God isn't removed from His earthly activity
 - b. It's God Himself who will destroy Anti-Christ in that day to come

Read 9:5-6

1. Amos is always emphasizing ‘the Lord God’
 - a. The powerful One over all creation

Read 9:7-10

1. Ethiopia in the Bible is always pictured as far away and remote (the end of the earth)
 - a. Meaning: God has cast out of His sight
2. The God, who knows how to call a nation out of obscurity & into big things, now casts out Israel
3. God’s judgment is seen as a sifting of people
 - a. He will not make a full end to Israel

Read 9:11-12

1. “In that day” – later days of Israel’s restoration
2. This is quoted by James in Acts 15:16-17
 - a. It’s quoted to prove that Gentiles were always supposed to come into God’s plan
 - i. The Apostles saw the prophecies of the Church to come written in the OT

- b. It's quoted to prove that God will once again restore the Kingdom to Israel and David
 - i. The Apostles knew that God would *later* establish the Kingdom of Israel

Read 9:13-15

1. Vs 13 – one season of harvest will lead right into the next without delay – bountifulness
2. Make no mistake, this is clearly speaking of Israel coming back, not Gentiles
3. Notice, when this return happens, they'll never again be uprooted
 - a. So, this isn't following the Assyrian & Babylonian captivity, but this is following the Roman exile
 - b. This speaks of Israel's return in the 20th Century

Conclusion

So the sinner lives in a paradox against reality

- 1. Paradox of Love: They hate God's people even though we seek the best for them**
- 2. Paradox of Truth: They know much of God but don't use it, so it'll be taken from them**
- 3. Paradox of Destiny: They deserve judgment, but God wants to bless them with great grace**

How do we respond as sinners

1. We continue to love them despite themselves
2. We offer them the truth, whether they use it or not
3. We warn them of judgment to come and offer them the grace of the cross of Jesus Christ