

God's Plan

The Book of Amos

We've come to the final passage in the book of Amos. It's a passage of hope and restoration. It's a passage of anticipation. It's a passage of prosperity, productivity, prophecy, and permanence. It's God's perfect answer to the sin encountered in the book of Amos and the sin that is of this world today. It's a picture of completeness.

Read Amos 9:11-15.

This final passage lays out God's plan for His covenant people. Throughout the book, God says that He will bring judgment to Israel. However, this final chapter speaks of a remnant.

Throughout Scripture, there is the "idea" of a remnant. A remnant is a group of people who survives a catastrophe brought about by God, ordinarily in judgment for sin. This group becomes the nucleus for the continuation of the people of God.

- **Remnant** is used 71 times in 70 verses in the Christian Standard Bible. In verses 8-10 of this chapter, God alludes to this remnant. Amos 9:8 says, *Look, the eyes of the Lord GOD are on the sinful kingdom, and I will obliterate it from the face of the earth. However, I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob— this is the LORD's declaration.*"
- **Restoration.** However, it is a restoration that only He brings about. Notice how God emphatically says in verses 11-15, *"I will restore, I will repair."* Again in verse 14, *"I will restore,"* and in verse 15, *"I will plant."* He closes the book stating, *"The Lord God has spoken."* God will always get what He directs.
- **Reconstruction.** The verses in this passage speak of abundance, reoccupation of ruined cities in a land where the faithful followers of God will *"never again be uprooted."* God, through Amos, gives hope after the disaster. However, only a remnant will enjoy a restored and rebuilt land.

Read Amos 9:12. It's a revelatory statement that ties the Old and New Testaments, and it presents God's Completed Picture for His people. Verse 12 states, *"so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name—this is the declaration of the LORD; he will do this."*

Exegesis – (Just a seminary word for a critical explanation or interpretation of Scripture text)

- It says, *"so that they."* Who are the *"They?"* Well, the context tells us that the *"they"* are the faithful remnant of Israel. Remember, this is the remnant of people given an assignment by God. That assignment is to show others God, which ultimately leads others to the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

- This verse calls out two words here, "*Edom*" and "*nations*." *Edom* is the arch-enemy of the Israelite people; they are a Gentile nation. The second word is "*nations*." This term in the Bible is always translated, Gentile. In this obscure verse, God states that the Gentile nations would bear His name. That is an apparent reference to Jesus Christ. It is through Jesus Christ that we Gentiles were grafted into a relationship with God, the Father!
- Finally, the verse says that "*He*," Jesus Christ is the catalyst for the inclusion of Jews and Gentiles into one family.

Read Acts 15:16-18. Following the report by Paul and Barnabas of Gentiles coming to faith in Christ, the apostle James at the Jerusalem Council recounts this verse from the Old Testament.

He states, " 'After this, I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it,¹⁷ that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things'¹⁸ things known from long ago."

Notable isn't it. Jesus Christ and His finished work were pronounced 700 plus years before His birth. That's prophecy; that's the prophetic value of a book like the book of Amos.

Thought to live by:

Amos brings us a keen awareness of the cost of being God's elect. God has intervened to make us right with Himself through Christ. We must live seeking righteousness and justice. We do so with humility, repentance, and without hypocrisy and pretense.