

**How to Get What You Do Not Want
Bullying Amos = Very Bad Idea
Amos 7**

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Since chapter 3, we have reviewed the clear documentation from YAHWEH and learned why His judgment on Israel is coming. It consists of evidence of:

- legal injustice,
- economic exploitation,
- religious hypocrisy,
- luxurious indulgence, and
- boastful complacency. (Sunukjian 1985, 1444)

These “warnings against the selfish, God-forgetful enjoyment of prosperity are as relevant today as when Amos lived. Affluence too often leads to moral decline, social irresponsibility, and formal religion. God’s dealings with Israel should be a present warning against the abuse of wealth and a call to renewed dedication to him as sovereign Lord of the universe.” (Ackland 1972, 551)

These last three chapters of Amos will provide for us five visions that he had. There will also be some interaction with the religious leadership of Israel. They are not too happy about what Amos has been saying and the visions don’t help too much with that.

The first four visions all start with “the Lord God showed me.” The last vision though begins differently with “I saw the Lord.” These visions clearly show us that Amos had been with the Divine Council, and

what he is presenting is the result of that personal encounter. These were the “visions concerning Israel” that he stated back in Amos 1:1.

Here in chapter 7, Amos will intercede for Israel, but he is interrupted after the third vision when the religious leadership decides to interrupt him and then attempts to bully him to comply with the company line. It does not end well for them.

These visions are also to prove up that Amos is a prophet of God called by God and has indeed been in the Divine Council.

Amos 7:1–3

“This is what the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, He was forming a swarm of locusts when the spring crop began to sprout. And behold, the spring crop was after the king’s mowing. And it came about, when it had finished eating the vegetation of the land, that I said, “Lord GOD, please pardon! How can Jacob stand? For he is small.” The LORD relented of this. “It shall not be,” said the LORD.” (NASB 2020)

The first vision Amos has is of the Lord preparing a locust swarm. Shades of Joel but this is intended for the northern kingdom.

There were typically two harvests in Israel. The first was usually for the King, the second was for the people and predominately, cattle feed. God is forming the locust swarm at the point in time between harvests that the crops would be their most vulnerable.

In Joel, the locusts had already done their damage, here, Amos is given a preview of coming events and he sees the landscape devastated by the locusts and the livestock left with no food. Amos is so shocked by what he sees that he intercedes on behalf of Israel with YAHWEH.

“Amos had already been reminded that for Yahweh the covenant relationship was ground for harsh judgment not lavish grace. So in the face of the locusts’ terror he appeals to God’s compassion for a feeble people and to that compassion alone. Yet even here covenantal overtones may be heard: Israel is called Jacob, a reminder that he was the smaller, younger one to Esau in Isaac’s family; God had deliberately chosen him and therefore was obligated to stand by him in his helplessness.” At least Amos would hope so. (Hubbard 1989, 219-220)

Remember, this is an agrarian society and as we learned with Joel, devastation of crops means no forage for the livestock. This means death for the livestock which leads to starvation and death for the people is not far ahead.

When Amos asks the Lord to “pardon” His people, he uses a very specific word. He uses the word סָלַח (slah). Because that word is used, there is more to this request than we pick up on in the translation. We also see the heart of Amos.

The sum and substance of this plea, however, lies in the correct understanding of the verb סָלַח (slah). In the Bible, it occurs only when the Deity is the subject or object and refers to an absolute and total pardon of sin. Man may “forgive” individual wrongdoings, but only God can grant complete “pardon.” The prophet’s petitionary plea is that Israel’s guilt (which is not directly mentioned, but is the basic assumption underlying the divine punishment) be completely expurgated. He requests an unconditional pardon. As such there would be no need to punish Israel anymore. (Paul and Cross 1991, 228-229)

Notice, Amos does not say they are worthy to be pardoned. He has carefully outlined the reasons why they should be judged. Part of his job as a prophet is to stand between God and His people, he is doing that. He is asking God for mercy for a people who are guilty, and he is doing so based solely on the character of God and His attributes.

Numbers 14:18

“The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.” (ESV)

Amos also provides the true condition of Israel. He has not been fooled by their press releases and their pride of military might their oppression or idolatry. They are small, they are not powerful, contrary to the press release. Amos believes that the nation would not survive the locusts.

Amos 7:3

“The LORD relented of this. “It shall not be,” said the LORD.” (NASB 2020)

Because Amos interceded for the people, the Lord canceled the locusts. Intercession is part of the job description of a prophet.

Genesis 20:7

“Now then, return the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.” (ESV)

Abraham was the first person called a prophet in the Old Testament. Notice what is said about his duties, “he will pray for you.” A relationship exists between YAHWEH and His prophet. Amos has stood before the Divine Council, and based on what he sees, he intercedes for a people who are guilty and deserving of judgement, yet they receive mercy. This is a picture of what Jesus has does for us.

Amos 7:4–6

“So the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, the Lord GOD was calling to contend with them by fire, and it consumed the great deep and began to consume the farmland. Then I said, “Lord GOD, please stop! How can Jacob stand? For he is small.” The LORD relented of this. “This too shall not be,” said the Lord GOD.” (NASB 2020)

Amos relates a second vision now. After the Lord responded with mercy to his intercession from the first vision, He shows Amos a second vision.

This would be as devastating if not more so than the locusts.

Fire consuming the great deep is a reference that is used in this second vision. ““Fire” is a symbol here of a severe drought that the Sovereign Lord was summoning against Israel (cp. 4:7–8; but here the vision appears to describe a much more devastating drought). “The great deep” refers to subterranean waters that feed the springs.” (Smith and Page 1995, 131)

Not only would there be no water in the streams of Israel, but all the wells would be dry too.

Again, this is just as devastating as the locust swarm would have been. All the crops and forage would fail for lack of water. All the sources of drinking water would be gone. The livestock would die, and so would the people unless they left and went somewhere that water was still at.

The first vision, and this one, are both direct assaults on the fake religion of Israel and their reliance on Baal and other fertility gods to provide rain, water, and good crops. YAHWEH is God, not any of the pretenders who are being worshipped by Israel.

Amos is a farmer, and he knows personally what locusts can do as well as the impact from water sources being dried up. He knows the impact on crops, livestock as well as on future growth of fruit trees.

Because of that, seeing what God intends to do in judgment once again leads him to intercede on behalf of a people that he knows deserve judgment. Once again, he cries out for mercy from YAHWEH.

This time though, there is no request for forgiveness as there was to the first vision. All that is asked for is mercy and once again, he relates the inability of Israel to survive this as a nation.

The pardon requested in the first situation involving the locusts is not repeated here, we are not told why?

It is possible that YAHWEH has revealed how extensive the sin of Israel is, but we do not know.

There is no request for pardon this time around, just mercy.

Military might, economic might, political power, none of that matters if you can't eat. Israel does not repent; Amos though still intercedes for them. "Compassion should not be seen as something that balances off God's justice, but it is a factor which conditions the timing of judgment in this passage. In the two visions of Amos, judgment is not totally removed, but it is delayed through the intercession of Amos (cf. 7:7–9; 8:1–3)." (G. V. Smith 1998, 305)

All around us we see a culture, much like Amos saw, in total meltdown. Sin is upheld as a virtue, and those things which are good, are being held by the culture as sin. This nation, many nations, are ripe for judgment. It is indeed coming, the warning signs are evident, and coming soon.

Isaiah 5:20–21

"Beware, those who call evil good and good evil, who turn darkness into light and light into darkness, who turn bitter into sweet and sweet into bitter. Beware, those who think they are wise, those who think they possess understanding." (NET 2nd ed.)

There are some political leaders in our nation who currently have nothing to look forward to, unless they repent, other than judgment. The opportunity to repent is there and we should be praying for them that they would indeed seek the Lord while they can. John MacArthur recently wrote an open letter to the Governor of California reflecting this.

"MacArthur called (the Governors) recent pro-abortion billboards, which (he) launched in seven pro-life states across the nation in September 2022, a rebellion against God, saying, "You revealed to the entire nation how thoroughly rebellious against God you are when you sponsored billboards across America promoting the slaughter of children, whom He creates in the womb. You further compounded the wickedness of that murderous campaign with a reprehensible act of gross blasphemy, quoting the very words of Jesus from Mark 12:31 as if you could somehow twist His meaning and arrogate His name in favor of butchering unborn infants,"

MacArthur said. "You used the name and the words of Christ to promote the credo of Molech (Leviticus 20:1–5). It would be hard to imagine a greater sacrilege." (Jackson 2022)

We need to follow the instructions of scripture and pray for our leaders. Pray for their salvation because "It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:31, NET 2nd ed.)

As Amos interceded for Israel, as Jesus interceded for those who crucified them, we must take that example and intercede for those around us who are lost and listening to the enemy. Pray for their salvation, that the Holy Spirit would break through, and they would seek the Lord, while He may still be found.

Amos was praying for a people who deserved judgment, yet his heart reflected that of the God he served. Amos has been given two visions and he was moved to pray for mercy in both cases. Something changes though with the third vision.

Amos 7:7–9

"So He showed me, and behold, the Lord was standing by a vertical wall with a plumb line in His hand. And the LORD said to me, "What do you see, Amos?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

“Behold I am about to put a plumb line In the midst of My people Israel. I will not spare them any longer. “The high places of Isaac will become deserted, And the sanctuaries of Israel will be in ruins. Then I will rise up against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.” (NASB 2020)

Unlike the first two visions, this one begins with a conversation between Amos and YAHWEH.

Amos sees the Lord standing next to a vertical wall holding a plumb line. I need to explain this a bit since I fear there are others like me who have no idea what a plumb line is.

My wife taught me what a plumb line is shortly after we were married, and I returned home from a business trip to find the bathroom being remodeled. We were putting up sheet rock and she told me to keep it plumb, I had no idea why we were talking about fruit at that point. I learned that it is a weight on a string and when held up and motionless, it tells you what is truly vertical as it is based on gravity.

The Lord is showing Amos a wall that was built to specification (spec) and then confirmed to be to spec based on testing it with a plumb line. It passed the test. Israel didn't.

What would be the comparative plumb line the Lord would be talking about when it comes to His people Israel? “The self-revelation of God made this one people a set-apart people: God chose them and showed Himself to them. Essentially it was the ‘I am’ of divine revelation which gave them being.” (Motyer 1984, 162)

God revealed Himself to Moses and then later to His people at Sinai. The Torah is the plumb line for Israel. When God told His people “For I am the LORD who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.” (Leviticus 11:45, ESV) He established the plumb line.

The law is a verbal extension of the person and presence of God among His people; it expresses as precepts those things which exist as principles within His nature. (Motyer 1984, 162-163)

This plumb line is extensive. “There are 613 Mosaic laws as described by Maimonides. Some of these are laws that the priests, Sanhedrin, and the king must follow. Since a Gentile can never be an Israeli King, priest, or part of the Sanhedrin, these laws can never apply to the majority of people on earth. What remains is the seventy moral laws of Moses.” (Johnson 2016, Kindle Location 1530-1532)

Was Israel still to spec? The plumb line is a simple test, are they still following the standard that God established for them? God established the law, the Torah, and His people were to be obedient and faithful. Israel was not. I only need to cite just one of the moral laws.

Exodus 20:3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.” (NKJV)

Israel was no longer operating to spec. In fact, they had been out of spec for over 200 years.

Because of their false worship and unjust behaviour they were ‘out of true’; they had not been building their lives, and the life of their nation, in strict accordance with God’s Word. This had been the repeated message of Amos right from the beginning; the people had deviated from the straight and narrow of God’s law, and now they were going to have to suffer for it. (Bentley 2006, 89)

God heard Amos and exercised His mercy after revealing His plans to Amos. Amos had interceded for the people.

Even though He is holding up the plumb line and Israel is so obviously out of spec it is laughable, notice what God says.

Amos 7:8

“And the LORD said to me, “What do you see, Amos?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said, “Behold I am about to put a plumb line in the midst of **My people Israel**. I will not spare them any longer.” (NASB 2020)

They are still His people. This is the first time God even says that in Amos. But here is the problem, when a wall is not plumb, it must be destroyed and then rebuilt back to spec.

Israel has failed to meet the standard set by the one who created everything. He left them a detailed guidebook as to how to live and remain in fellowship. They did not follow it. God tells Amos, “I will not spare them any longer.” In other words, actions are going to take place that will move them back to spec.

At least the remnant.

This time, Amos is not moved to pray for Israel. Why? Because God is the one who moves us to prayer, He will not spare them any longer, so He does not motivate Amos to prayer.

Though Amos had sympathy for Israel and initially objected to God’s plan to judge the nation, he eventually came to the point where he agreed with God’s decision. Perhaps his personal experience helped convince him that judgment was inevitable. (Chisholm Jr. 2002, 398)

Time was up. Once the clock runs out, all that is left to do is talk about what will be left. We will learn, not much will be.

Amos 7:9

“The high places of Isaac will become deserted, And the sanctuaries of Israel will be in ruins. Then I will rise up against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.” (NASB 2020)

All of the impromptu places of worship that have popped up in Israel, where they worship fertility gods, they will all be deserted implying there will be no one around who cares.

The two places of alternative worship built by Jeroboam I, gone. They will be in ruins. Those other places that turned into that as well, such as Gilgal, gone.

Then there is Jeroboam II. The current King is not of lineage of the one who moved Israel away from YAHWEH worship, but he has done nothing to return them to YAHWEH worship. We learn that God will rise up against that house with a sword.

We read in 2 Chronicles 14 that Jeroboam II died, and his son Zechariah became King. Things did not end well for Zechariah thus fulfilling this prophecy.

2 Kings 15:8–11

“In the thirty-eighth year of King Azariah of Judah, Zechariah son of Jeroboam reigned over Israel in Samaria six months. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, as his ancestors had done. He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he caused Israel to sin. Shallum son of Jabesh conspired against him, and struck him down in public and killed him, and reigned in place of him. Now the rest of the deeds of Zechariah are written in the Book of the Annals of the Kings of Israel.” (NRSV)

The houses of worship failed the test, the high places failed the test, and Jeroboam failed the test. In all places, the law was abused, forgotten, misused and generally disobeyed.

For those religious leaders and other elites there in Bethel who have been listening to all of this, the threat made against the King and his house was just too much for the grand poobah of the false religious system there. Amos is interrupted by him. Warning: Always be careful about who it is you interrupt and who he works for. Amos is a prophet of the living God.

Amos 7:10–13

“Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent word to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel; the land is unable to endure all his words. For this is what Amos says: ‘Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.’ ” Then Amaziah said to Amos, “Go, you seer, flee to the land of Judah; and eat bread there and do your prophesying there! But do not prophesy at Bethel any longer, for it is a sanctuary of the king and a royal residence.”” (NASB 2020)

Amaziah sent a letter and lied about Amos to his boss, the King.

One of the problems being faced by many in ministry today involves the message being delivered. Those of us who are still being faithful to our calling and the word of the Lord, need to accept that there will be those who do not like what they hear. They will lie about us.

Thanks to modern technology, we can now use tools such as live streaming, audio and video podcasting, radio, internet radio, and television. These are all wonderful tools to help spread the gospel to the entire planet from a single location. Many of those platforms are owned by entities who may not like what it is we have to say when we get to certain places in the Bible.

A member of our board Pastors a Calvary Chapel in Texas and he now must look for alternative platforms to livestream his Sunday and midweek services. Yes, letters are being written about us, emails actually, to these platforms complaining about the content of what it is the Bible has to say on topics such as sexuality, marriage, or just sin in general. The desire is to have us canceled.

Countries we are in: US, Canada, Ghana, Australia, China, Malaysia, France, Germany, Pakistan, Russia. And that is a list from our website for just the last 30 days.

For example, this ministry, the UnSafe Bible, livestreams on our website at theunsafebible.com, YouTube and Facebook. We also have our own app for Google and Apple where we livestream as well. The video is uploaded a day later onto Rumble where it is also available.

That is not the only thing we are doing to get the word of God out. We also podcast Monday through Friday. The podcast is professionally produced to sound like a radio program and is 26 minutes long. The podcast though is not the same content as the livestream.

At present, we podcast on the app, the website, as well as Google, iTunes, Amazon Music, Spotify, Pandora, Deezer, FYFD, Gaana, JioSaavn, Audible Podcasts, Stitcher, Feedspot, iHeart Radio, Alexa, TuneIn, Podcast Addict and many other places as well.

Are we “liked” on every app? No. In most cases, it is a mixed bag.

Are complaints being made? I would be surprised if they weren’t.

Where is the podcast? US, France, UK, Canada, Russia, Brazil, India, Pakistan, Australia, Germany, Netherlands, Kenya, South Africa, Sweden, Israel, Philippines, Ireland. All around the world.

Thanks to technology, we can make teaching about the word of God available, in English currently, globally. Please pray for those listening as some do so, such as house churches in Pakistan, at great peril.

Satan would like to have us canceled (1 John 4:4).

Amaziah want Amos canceled. Unknown to Amos, complaints were being forwarded to the management of the platform he had been using there in Bethel. In his case, management is the King and the one who

authored the complaint happens to be the head priest of the idol worshipping calf compliant center in Bethel, Amaziah.

I have been an executive in business and an officer in the military. I have been lied about by others more times than I care to think about. I am confident that lies about me and what it is we teach are continuing even today. Amos had this privilege as well, in fact if you teach the word, someone someplace will eventually lie about what you said and will determine they know why you said what you said even though you may have never said it at all.

2 Timothy 3:12–17

“Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived. But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.” (NLT)

We must never forget this, Godliness brings persecution. Satan is the prince of the power of the air. He wants to keep ministry off the airwaves and out of reach for all. He is a liar and those who work for him participate in that activity. We know what Amos has said to this point, but here is what Amaziah has written to his boss.

Amos 7:10–11

“Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent word to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel; the land is unable to endure all his words. For this is what Amos says: ‘Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.’ ”” (NASB 2020)

Amaziah accuses Amos of engaging in the exact same activity that Jehu, Jeroboam’s great granddad, did to obtain power in the first place (2 Kings 9:14). Has Amos conspired? No, not at all. He has simply related the word of the Lord.

All that really good stuff Amos said by the way, not mentioned. Instead, Amaziah has created a conspiracy where none exists and lies to others about it. The reaction against Amos is strong. Yes, lies were being told and in this case, the intent was to enflame the boss to the point he would either arrest Amos or have him killed.

Remember this, if you engage in creating or spreading lies about someone to another, you are not working for the Lord. Amaziah sure wasn’t.

For a lie to be believable, there must be a shred of truth in there somewhere.

On the subject about the conspiracy to overthrow the King, “there is no textual evidence of Amos’s involvement in a political movement or, for that matter, of any of those who heard him being inspired to overthrow the king.” (Carroll R. 2020, 421)

Some of what was related to the King was true, some not so much.

Amos 7:11

“For this is what Amos says: ‘Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.’ ” (NASB 2020)

He did not say Jeroboam would die by the sword, but his house would end that way. He did indeed say Israel would go into exile. But again, this is what God's word was for Israel. At no point did he ever advocate for a rebellion.

There is something else about what Amaziah told the King, it is in what he chose not to tell the King. He has intentionally kept the King in the dark about most of the message from YAHWEH.

By not mentioning God, the socioeconomic and political transgressions, or the predictions of the destruction of the sanctuaries, Amaziah effectively eliminates any chance of avoiding the imminent judgment through repentance. He also epitomizes the chasm between Yahweh and the unacceptable deity of the sanctuaries. How ironic it is that Amaziah tries to muzzle the very one who had pleaded before Yahweh on the nation's behalf. Instead, the priest reinforces Israel and its leadership's guilt and blindness. (Carroll R. 2020, 422)

Amaziah made a decision, he has decided to lie and tell his boss half truths and purposely keep the idea of repentance and grace away from the King. He has gone all in with bullying and belittling Amos and has created a false image of the prophet in the mind of the King. Welcome to what the media has been doing in our culture for years.

The King has apparently sanctioned the following message, based on lies and innuendo, to Amos.

Amos 7:12–13

"Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Go, you seer, flee to the land of Judah; and eat bread there and do your prophesying there! But do not prophesy at Bethel any longer, for it is a sanctuary of the king and a royal residence."" (NASB 2020)

Amaziah is confident in himself and how his word will be received by Amos. Remember, Amos is working for the God of the universe, the creator of everything and he has been in the Divine Council. He knows what is real, who is in charge, and who is not.

Amaziah threatens Amos implying death is in his future if he does not comply.

Moreover, he also accuses Amos of being a false prophet who is in it solely for the money. Go home and find a real job, this is where a real King worships and he will not put up with a phony like you.

Amaziah believes he has won the debate. But Amos, is only getting warmed up. Now Amaziah is on God's radar and there will be added to the message for Israel, a personal word of "encouragement" for Amaziah. Here comes the redirect from Amos.

First his bona fides, Amos is an Ambassador, a Prophet sent by YAHWEH Himself. He represents the Creator. So do we as believers.

Amos 7:14–15

"Then Amos replied to Amaziah, "I am not a prophet, nor am I the son of a prophet; for I am a herdsman and a grower of sycamore figs. But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go prophesy to My people Israel.'" (NASB 2020)

First of all, Amos lets Amaziah that he has a day job. He is not a "professional prophet." He is not a "professional prophet." He is here only because God called him here.

Amos "defends himself from the implied charge that he is a professional prophet, and probably a false or mercenary one at that. Emphatically, and in a style that reflects the manner of the priest, Amos affirms that he is neither a prophet nor a member of the prophetic guild." (Anderson and Freedman 2008, 789)

No doubt, now Amaziah is remembering stories about a couple of other guys who had similar bona fides, Elijah and Elisha.

Amos is a farmer and a rancher. He is a hick and by saying this implies that he does not have the skill or the wherewithal to foist a conspiracy on anyone. He may have been a man of means, we don't know. He is like everyone else; he is not a professional. He has a day job. Not like Amaziah who is a professional idolator.

God took Amos from following the flock to give a message to the center of power in Israel. By the way, if Amaziah took that statement and thought it through a bit he would remember, Moses was called this way, David too.

Here is the deal, Amos was called by God, commissioned by God, he has been in the Divine Council, he has interceded on behalf of Israel. Amos flips Amaziah with this redirect and then three times emphasizes just who it is that he works for, he is working for YAHWEH.

Amos 7:15–16

“But **the LORD took me** from following the flock, and **the LORD said to me**, ‘Go prophesy to My people Israel.’ So now **hear the word of the LORD**: you are saying, ‘You shall not prophesy against Israel nor shall you prophesy against the house of Isaac.’” (NASB 2020)

In other words, YAHWEH has called Amos, provided him the message he is to deliver, and then instructed him where to go and personally deliver that message. Amaziah said to leave, he belittled the ministry Amos was called to, he is encouraging Amos to not obey the word of the Lord. Amaziah has made a clear decision against the instructions of YAHWEH. He has just dug himself an incredibly deep hole.

By doing so, he has placed himself and his family at the very center of the bullseye. Congratulations Amaziah, you have encouraged the Prophet of God to deliver a personal word from Him, just for you.

This is the warmup, now Amos delivers a personal word from the Lord for Amaziah. This politician, this phony priest, assumed he knew what God wanted and he didn't have a clue. How many in the culture are in this place right now? We hear the elites and so-called leaders in our culture presume to tell us what it is the Lord wants or means in His word. They don't have a clue.

The Governor of California is not the only one who has presumed they know what God wants and that they know His word. This is a worldwide problem. The misappropriation of God's word is so common, that it has become the source of bad theology for some.

The problem is natural man, those without the Holy Spirit, trying to interpret the words the Holy Spirit led others to write. They don't have a clue what the Bible really says, and we learn from the scripture, that that is an inconvenient truth for those who do not know the Lord.

Romans 8:5–8

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” (ESV)

Whenever you see someone using the scriptures to defend a talking point, be a Berean (Acts 17:11). Check it out.

The Holy Spirit and the Word

The Spirit does not redo in us what has already been done through the author and through the text. The Spirit does not make us coauthors so that we read our own meanings into the text. The Spirit does not tell us what the meanings of the authors were. We're supposed to be careful readers. The Spirit does not give new meanings to the words in the texts that were not there in the texts. The Spirit put the texts there, and that has authority. If we are going to take those words and do something different with them, we're now departing from what we're supposed to be doing. We're departing from the Spirit's work.

The Spirit is not going to redo the work that was done with the author or with the text as we read the text. We're expected to be careful readers—to try to understand what the author meant, to understand what the text says in its own context—not taking those words at random.

So what does the Spirit do in us as readers? The Spirit enables us to take the truth that God has placed in His Word and to bring it into our lives to center that Word in our lives, to help us understand how we need to build our lives around that. (Walton 2014)

Amos 7:17

"Therefore, this is what the LORD says: 'Your wife will become a prostitute in the city, your sons and your daughters will fall by the sword, your land will be parceled up by a measuring line, and you yourself will die upon unclean soil. Furthermore Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.' "" (NASB 2020)

The Lord has a personal word for Amaziah, he will go into exile, but his family will remain in Israel. His kids will all be killed so they will be unable to leave. His wife, she will become a prostitute in order to make ends meet. His land, parceled out to others.

Amaziah had heard the word of the Lord, but it did not fit his agenda. He had his own truth, not God's truth. Amos was not a professional, Amaziah was, so he looked at Amos with disdain and refused to accept what Amos had to say. In fact, he lied about Amos in order to get him canceled. Because he rejected God's word, he was rejected.

Not a good place to be. Right now, the offer of salvation is still there and available to all who accept it. Amaziah rejected repentance and made sure that message never got to the King. He was doing Satan's work for him. Don't let Satan lie to you too.

Romans 3:21–24

"But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins." (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."" (NLT)

ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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