

Chapter 7

Amos 7: [1] Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me; and, behold, he formed grasshoppers in the beginning of the shooting up of the latter growth; and, lo, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings. [2] And it came to pass, that when they had made an end of eating the grass of the land, then I said, O Lord GOD, forgive, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small. [3] The LORD repented for this: It shall not be, saith the LORD.

1. Three Visions

A. The Devouring Vision of the Land 1-3

God shows Amos a vision.

This vision is of "*grasshoppers*" which we know as locusts.

God is showing Amos that God will bring judgment upon Israel for their sins through locusts devouring the land.

This will happen after the first harvest, which was known as the "*king's mowings*."

The king collected a tax off of the first harvest of the land in order to maintain the royal livestock.

The second harvest would be used for each individual to live off of.

God would bring locusts to devour the second harvest, leaving Israel with nothing.

Amos, the prophet, was moved with pity and compassion.

He began to pray and he begs God for "*forgiveness*."

Amos asks God to consider that Jacob is "*small*" which means to be weak and feeble.

Interesting that Amos uses the word Jacob, for Jacob was the original name for Israel. Jacob means "*deceiver*."

Jacob is also the full 12 tribes of Israel, not a divided kingdom as Amos knows it to be in his day.

In response to Amos' prayer, God "*repented*", which is mercy that such a judgment won't be allowed to take place. God answers Amos' prayer with "*it shall not be*." In other words God will choose a different course of action.

God remands the locusts from devouring the land.

Amos 7: [4] Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me: and, behold, the Lord GOD called to contend by fire, and it devoured the great deep, and did eat up a part. [5] Then said I, O Lord GOD, cease, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small. [6] The LORD repented for this: This also shall not be, saith the Lord GOD.

B. The Devastating Vision of the Land 4-6

God shows Amos another vision.

This time Amos sees a consuming fire initiated by God Himself, burning and devastating the land of Israel.

This probably began with a severe drought.

The fire was so strong that it devoured the "*great deep*" which is the very water that was designed to stop a fire.

Again, Amos intercedes for the nation of Israel.

Amos prays and asks God to "*cease*" or take away this judgment.

Once more, God "*repented*" and in mercy would choose another course of action.
God again answers Amos' prayer with "*it shall not be.*"

** Praise God that Amos prayed for the people.

A preacher has little right to preach to his people unless he has prayed for them!

If we spent as much time praying for our congregations as we did preparing and preaching messages ...
they would be more receptive to hearing the word of God!

Amos 7: [7] Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand. [8] And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more: [9] And the high places of Isaac shall be desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste; and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.

C. The Desolate Vision of the Land 7-9

God shows Amos another vision.

This vision is of the Lord standing upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand.
This wall was surely straight.

The Lord asks Amos, "*what seest thou?*"

Amos' answer was "*A plumbline.*"

A plumbline is a line with a suspended weight to determine or judge absolute vertically, squareness or if straight.

A plumbline provides a standard!

A plumbline is never inaccurate, it is perfectly true.

It reveals structural inaccuracies and weaknesses.

Please note that a plumbline is used in construction. Here it is destruction for construction!

God's plumbline is His Word! "Thy Word is truth."

God will measure the moral and spiritual values of Israel against God's standard.

In verse 8, God says "*I will not again pass by them any more.*"

In other words I have chosen to spare them but no longer.

God will bring judgment on the high places of Isaac (laughter), the sanctuaries of Israel and house of Jeroboam.

The religious system of Israel and the political system of Israel has devised corruption throughout the land.

Now when they do not measure up they will be held accountable.

Amos prophesies that God will judge Israel.

Israel will become desolate as a great enemy invades the land and carries away captives.

The altars of idolatry will be demolished and deserted.

Amos prophesies that warfare will come to the land and the household of the king will be put to death.

The king of that day was an evil king named Jeroboam II, 2Kings 14:23-24.

Amos 7: [10] Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words. [11] For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land. [12] Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there: [13] But prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court.

2. Three Voices

A. The Defiant Voice of Amaziah 10-13

Amaziah was the high priest of Bethel.

Bethel was the place where the king had placed a golden calf and caused the nation to worship it.

Amaziah was the priest of the golden calf god.

King Jeroboam sanctioned this calf worship.

Amaziah sent King Jeroboam a message.

This message said that Amos was conspiring against the king and his golden calf altars.

Amaziah said "Amos is preaching this all across the land sowing seeds of insinuation against the kingdom."

Remember Amos has just prophesied the ruin of the household of King Jeroboam and the desolation of the land.

But there are no converts aiding and helping Amos. There is no movement across the land.

Amaziah is lying on Amos to the king!

This ruin is coming because King Jeroboam, Amaziah and Israel have conspired against God's word.

In verse 12, Amaziah rebuked Amos.

Rather than heed God's message and repent, he spoke against God's Word and God's man.

Amaziah told Amos to go back to the land of Judah where he came from.

He told Amos to eat bread and preach at Judah.

In verse 13, Amaziah told Amos do not come back to Bethel anymore.

Amaziah said that Amos was not fit to preach in the king's chapel or the king's court.

Funny how Amaziah did not acknowledge Amos for interceding for the nation.

Amaziah may have thought Amos ignorant and unworthy to stand.

Yet Amos' message is written in God's Eternal Word.

Amos 7: [14] Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit: [15] And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.

B. The Dedicated Voice of Amos 14-15

Amos did not cow-down to Amaziah.

Amos knew that the plumbline was going to measure Amos' ministry too.

Amos says, I was not a prophet, I was not a prophets son. I never attended the school of the prophets.

I was not even a shepherd to lead the sheep, but I was a herdman following the sheep.

I was not even a farmer but a gatherer of sycamore fruit.

Yet, God called me to "**go, prophesy unto my people Israel.**"
It was God that called me to go to Israel and stand before a nation and preach His Word!

I did not confer with flesh and blood, I just became obedient to the Lord. I didn't start this and I can't quit.

Amos 7: [16] Now therefore hear thou the word of the LORD: Thou sayest, Prophesy not against Israel, and drop not thy word against the house of Isaac. [17] Therefore thus saith the LORD; Thy wife shall be an harlot in the city, and thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the sword, and thy land shall be divided by line; and thou shalt die in a polluted land: and Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of his land.

C. The Diligent Voice of the Almighty 16-17

Immediately, when Amaziah told Amos to prophesy not at Bethel, God has Amos to prophesy.

Amos says to Amaziah, "**hear thou the word of the Lord.**" Hear what God is saying.
Amaziah you say "**prophesy not against Israel and drop not thy word against the house of Isaac.**"
Isaac represents Israel but "**Isaac**" means "**laughter.**" Surely Israel has been laughing at Amos.

Therefore Amaziah, the Lord says to you, "**thy wife shall be an harlot in the city.**"
Amaziah would live to see this happen! The invading enemy turned all women into sex slaves.

The Lord says to Amaziah, "**thy sons and daughters shall fall by the sword.**"
Amaziah would live to see his children killed in warfare.
This would be the end of Amaziah's genealogical line which was an immense curse.

The Lord says to Amaziah, "**thy land shall be divided by line.**"
The enemy will divide your own inheritance and property and you will live to see it.

Then Amaziah, the Lord says, "**thou shalt die in a polluted land.**"
Amaziah would see all these things take place and see the land of Israel "polluted" and then he would die.
Just as Amaziah had polluted the people with idolatry God will allow Israel to be polluted by an enemy.

The plumbline of Gods truth will reveal that Amaziah's golden calf could not save him or Israel.
The plumbline of God's truth will reveal that Amos has preached truth.

Amos, in the face of great pressure was faithful to deliver God's word!
Amos boldly proclaims "**the Lord says Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of this land.**"