

Chapter 9

Amos 9: [1] I saw the LORD standing upon the altar: and he said, Smite the lintel of the door, that the posts may shake: and cut them in the head, all of them; and I will slay the last of them with the sword: he that fleeth of them shall not flee away, and he that escapeth of them shall not be delivered.

God has given Amos four visions which prophesy the judgment of God upon Israel for their sin. In chapter 9, Amos is shown the fifth and final vision.

Those visions are as follows:

1. The Locusts Devouring the Land Amos 7:1-3
2. The Fire Consuming the Land Amos 7:4-6
3. The Plumbline of Truth Amos 7:7-9
4. The Basket of Summer Fruit Amos 8:1-2
5. The Lord Standing Upon the Altar Amos 9:1-4

1. The Place of the Lord 1

Amos was given a vision of the Lord standing upon the altar.

The altar is a place of worship and sacrifice.

Israel has for some time turned to false worship of golden calves, Baal, Ashteroth, Molech, etc.

By standing upon the altar the Lord is saying there will be no more service or sacrifice.

The Lord will not allow Israel to compromise worship any further.

2. The Plan of the Lord 1

The Lord said “*smite the lintel of the door, that the posts may shake.*”

In smiting the lintel of the door, the Lord is closing the door & causing judgment to fall on attendants.

The doorposts and threshold are considered the strongest part of the house.

As attendants gather for empty vain worship, God’s plan is exercised.

The altar that once stood for mercy has now turned into the place of wrath and judgment.

God is saying those false altar will be destroyed.

God is saying that the Temple will be torn down.

Just as Samson pulled down the house in Judges 16, killing the Philistines, God will pull down the house of false worship, killing those who practice such.

God says what the doorposts shaking and collapsing the house do not kill, He will with the sword.

Amos 9: [1c].... he that escapeth of them shall not be delivered. [2] Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down: [3] And though they hide themselves in the top of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from my sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent, and he shall bite them: [4] And though they go into captivity before their enemies, thence will I command the sword, and it shall slay them: and I will set mine eyes upon them for evil, and not for good.

3. The Persistence of the Lord 1c-4

God says to those who choose to flee, you will not get away.
God will pursue and come after them until they are dealt with.

Numbers 32:23 “be sure your sin will find you out.”

Sins committed against God are known and will be dealt with.
For all sin that is not forgiven, will be rightly judged and thoroughly punished.

In verse 2, many will try to run and hide, but you cannot get away from God.

Psalms 139: [7] Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? [8] If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.

Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation..?

Many think they can escape God by death, but God is there.
Though they dig into hell and though they climb up to heaven, God will bring them down.

In verse 3, some will try to hide on Mt. Carmel and some will try to hide in the depths of the sea.
But they are not concealed from God.

In verse 4, some will voluntarily turn themselves over to their enemy in an attempt to hide from God.
But the Lord knows where they are and will surely destroy them there.

Romans 8:31 If God be for us, who can be against us?
Likewise if God be against us, who can be for us!

Amos 9: [5] And the Lord GOD of hosts is he that toucheth the land, and it shall melt, and all that dwell therein shall mourn: and it shall rise up wholly like a flood; and shall be drowned, as by the flood of Egypt. [6] It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name. [7] Are ye not as children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel? saith the LORD. Have not I brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt? and the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir? [8] Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from off the face of the earth; saving that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, saith the LORD. [9] For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth. [10] All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, which say, The evil shall not overtake nor prevent us.

4. The Power of the Lord 5-10

We have seen that God is omnipresent, in other words, He is everywhere, there is no escape.
Now we see that God is omnipotent, in other words, He is all powerful.

He is Creator God. He took nothing and made all that exists.
He is the God of the storm. He is Sovereignly in control and He causes the land to melt.

In verse 6, God constructed the heavenlies.

There are 3 heavens, the first is where the birds and clouds are, the second consists of the galaxies. The third heaven is the very abode of Almighty God.

God is in control all creatures and catastrophies.

In verse 7, Israel thought that Ethiopia, which originated from Ham's son Cush, was insignificant. Ethiopia was at one time judged by God and lost privileges.

Israel has forgotten how they were in enslaved in Egypt's bondage when God delivered them. Israel has become a proud, presumptuous sinful kingdom. They have forsaken the God that delivered them.

In verse 8, God is omniscient, in other words, He is all knowing. His eyes are upon the sinful nation of Israel and chastisement is forthcoming.

In verse 9, God sift His people Israel, thus eliminating the chaff in order to purify the remnant.

In verse 10, though Israel may boast of their privileges, they will be brought into severe judgment.

Amos 9: [11] In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: [12] That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this. [13] Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. [14] And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. [15] And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.

5. The Promise of the Lord 11-15

All of a sudden God gives the remnant that will repent, a promise of hope and future restoration.

A. Raising the Ruins 11

God will take what judgment has brought down into ruins and repair and rebuild it. God will cause things to be renewed.

B. Reaching the Remnants 12

God will enlarge His renewed kingdom by bringing in the remnants "*which are called by my name.*" This remnant is from Edom and the heathen nations of the Gentiles.
Psalm 2:8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance.

James spoke of these verses in Acts 15:13-17, as the Gentiles started receiving the gospel.

Acts 15: [13] And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: [14] Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. [15] And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, [16] After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: [17] That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

C. Releasing the Blessings 13

God says that in the day of restoration God will release His blessings. It will be so great that the plowman shall bump into the reaper. The harvest will increase and give plenty.

The harvest will also be great in unexpected places. Mountains and hills do not produce grapevines, but God will cause all the hills to drip with wine.

D. Restoring the Peoples 14

God says that captivity is over and the people are restored to their fertile lands. Israel shall build and be blessed of the Lord.

E. Rooting Israel Permanently 15

God will firmly plant Israel back upon their land, given by the Lord. Israel will not be removed from their land again. Now they will dwell in a state of permanence.

Concl: Amos has rightly prophesied of retribution of God upon the people but there is coming a day of final, permanent and blessed restoration.

Praise God for the hope that the believer has in the Lord!