



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

AMOS 7:10-17

LESSON: THE CALL OF AMOS —July 30, 2017

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 7:1-9 ¹The Lord showed Amos a series of visions foretelling the destruction of Israel, Amos pleaded with God on Israel's behalf. In the first vision he saw a *swarm of locusts* ready to destroy the harvest (7:1). Instead of rejoicing because God's sinful people were getting what they deserved, Amos cried out in anguish and begged God to forgive (7:2). So, the Lord granted the prophet's request (7:3). The next vision Amos saw was "*judgment by fire*" to destroy the crops and dry up the underground water supply (7:4). Once again Amos pleaded with God to relent and judgment was delayed (7:5-6). After this, Amos is given the vision of a *straight wall* where the Lord is standing by it with a plumb line (7:7-9). Because Israel's conduct didn't "*square*" with God's laws, they experienced God's wrath.

LESSON: I. THE MESSAGE CHALLENGED Amos 7:10-13

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. ²An encounter between Amos and Amaziah occurred at Bethel, which is the king's sanctuary. Amaziah, the priest who officiated at Bethel, wanted to please his leaders. In an effort to sabotage Amos's ministry, Amaziah sent word to Jeroboam II accusing Amos of trying to overthrow him, which will lead to rebellion all across the land. Amos' message was not popularly received. He had prophesied against the religious and political corruption of the land. Therefore, Amaziah says the land would not be able to endure his words; he is upsetting what otherwise would be a peaceful land.

7:11 For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land. Amaziah further goes on to say that Amos prophesied that Jeroboam would be killed; he would die by the sword, and Israel will surely be sent far away from their own land into exile and slavery. Amaziah seeks to support his charge by manipulating Amos' message to suit his own purpose. His report is designed to motivate Jeroboam to take action against Amos. Amaziah's story is only half true, for Amos did not say that Jeroboam would die by the sword. What Amos said was that God would bring the sword against the house of Jeroboam (7:9), and this prophecy was fulfilled. Zechariah, his son was assassinated by Shallum (II Kings 15:8-10).

7:12 Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there:— Amaziah didn't like what he heard and tells Amos to flee into the land of Judah and eat

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/visions-of-judgment/>

² <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/visions-of-judgment/>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

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bread meaning at least in Judah he would make a better living; they would feed him well. And he's told to prophesy there. Mind you, this is a priest telling God's prophet to get out. He called Amos a "seer", also meaning "prophet" and "one who has visions."

7:13 But prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court. Amaziah continues from verse 12 and tells Amos don't bother prophesying again in Bethel where he's priest; don't even show his face again in the king's chapel (sanctuary) and king's court; the king's place of worship and residence, implying that the prophet is not worthy of being there. Somehow, Amaziah has an element of truth to his message, for Bethel is not God's place of worship. It is Jeroboam's, and it certainly isn't worthy of God's messenger.

II. THE MESSAGE AUTHENTICATED Amos 7:14-15

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:— Amos answers by giving a simple reference to who he was and how he came to be commissioned by God to prophesy to the people of Israel. He was no prophet nor was he a prophet's son. He was simply a herdsman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit (a fruit picker).

7:15 And the Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel. It was a sovereign act of God who took a most unlikely person from a most unlikely place and gave him the highest privilege to proclaim the message of God. Without any special preparation, education, or upbringing, Amos obeyed God's call. Obedience is the test of a faithful servant of God.

III. THE MESSAGE REINFORCED Amos 7:16-17

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. God declares and reinforces His message because Amos had heard Amaziah say prophesy not, now this is what he has to say from the Lord. Amos says to Amaziah if he didn't hear it before: "*Now therefore hear thou the word of the Lord but, you say prophesy not against Israel and don't drop (drivel) down upon the house of Isaac.*" Since Amaziah had come down upon Amos, it's time for him to really hear the Word of the Lord. It doesn't matter what Amaziah has said, it's what he will hear next.

7:17 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. Then Amos delivers a prophecy against Amaziah's wife, who would be a harlot because Amaziah would no longer be able to provide for her. His sons and daughters would be slain by the sword. His land will be taken away from him and divided by measuring line. He himself would die in a polluted land, and Israel would go into captivity; led into Assyrian exile and would not return.

SUMMARY:

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An encounter between Amos and Amaziah occurred at Bethel, the king's sanctuary. Amaziah, the priest who officiated at Bethel, wanted to please his leaders. In an effort to sabotage Amos's ministry, Amaziah sent word to Jeroboam II accusing Amos of trying to overthrow him, which will lead to rebellion all across the land. Amaziah then tells Amos to flee into the land of Judah and not to come again; not to show his face again prophesying in Bethel, for its king's chapel and king's court (7:10-13).

Amos revealed who he was before God called him. He was not a prophet, nor the son of a prophet. He was simply a herdsman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit (a fruit picker). And the Lord took him away as he followed the flock. God said *"Go, prophesy unto my people Israel."* It was a sovereign act of God who took a most unlikely person from a most unlikely place and gave him the highest privileges to proclaim the message of God. (7:14-15).

Since Amaziah had come down upon Amos, it's time for him to really hear the Word of the Lord. Then Amos delivers a prophecy against Amaziah. Amaziah's wife would be a harlot, his sons and daughters would be slain, his land would be taken away from him, and he himself would die in a polluted land, and Israel would go into captivity; led into Assyrian exile (7:16-17).