

The Example of Amos

Amos 7

The World and Work of Amos

- He was a prophet of God
- During the divided kingdom period
- In the reign of Jereboam II
- The northern kingdom of Israel was
 - Prosperous
 - Expanding
 - Self-satisfied
 - Deep in sin and idolatry
- God chose Amos to denounce the sins of Israel and call His people back to God

Amos' Intercession

- The locusts are called back (7:1-3)
- The fire is called back (7:4-6)
- The plumb line will not be called back (7:7-9)

Amos 7:1-3

Thus the Lord GOD showed me: Behold, He formed locust swarms at the beginning of the late crop; indeed it was the late crop after the king's mowings. 2 And so it was, when they had finished eating the grass of the land, that I said: "O Lord GOD, forgive, I pray! Oh, that Jacob may stand, For he is small!" 3 So the LORD relented concerning this. "It shall not be," said the LORD.

Amos 7:4-6

Thus the Lord GOD showed me: Behold, the Lord GOD called for conflict by fire, and it consumed the great deep and devoured the territory. 5 Then I said: "O Lord GOD, cease, I pray! Oh, that Jacob may stand, For he is small!" 6 So the LORD relented concerning this. "This also shall not be," said the Lord GOD.

Amos 7:7-9

Thus He showed me: Behold, the Lord stood on a wall made with a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand. 8 And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said: "Behold, I am setting a plumb line In the midst of My people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore. 9 The high places of Isaac shall be desolate, And the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste. I will rise with the sword against the house of Jeroboam."

Amos' Opposition

- Amaziah the false prophet
- His accusation (7:10-11)
- His advice (7:12-13)

Amos 7:10-11

Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. 11 For thus Amos has said: 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, And Israel shall surely be led away captive From their own land.' "

Amos 7:12-13

Then Amaziah said to Amos: "Go, you seer!
Flee to the land of Judah. There eat bread,
And there prophesy. 13 But never again
prophesy at Bethel, For it is the king's
sanctuary, And it is the royal residence."

Amos' Resolution

- I'm not doing this for my health or profit (7:14)
- God made me a prophet (7:15)
- More judgment declared (7:16-17)

Amos 7:14

Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah:
"I was no prophet, Nor was I a son of a
prophet, But I was a sheepbreeder And a
tender of sycamore fruit.

Amos 7:15

Then the LORD took me as I followed the flock, And the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.'

Amos' Choice

- God says,
 - Go
 - Prophecy to Israel
- Amaziah says,
 - Go away
 - Don't prophesy to Israel

Who should Amos obey?

Amos 7:16-17

Now therefore, hear the word of the LORD:
You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel,
And do not spout against the house of
Isaac.' 17 "Therefore thus says the
LORD: 'Your wife shall be a harlot in the
city; Your sons and daughters shall fall by
the sword; Your land shall be divided by
survey line; You shall die in a defiled land;
And Israel shall surely be led away captive
From his own land.' "

Following Amos' Example

- We are to be salt and light to the world (Matt. 5:13-16; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; 2 Pet 3:9)
- Our message will often not be welcome (John 3:19-20; 15:18-20)
- Will we be like Amos?
- For the disciple of Jesus, there is no other choice

Matthew 5:13-16

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9-11

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

Following Amos' Example

- We are to be salt and light to the world (Matt. 5:13-16; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; 2 Pet 3:9)
- Our message will often not be welcome (John 3:19-20; 15:18-20)
 - False accusations
 - Threats
 - “Friendly” advice

John 3:19-20

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

John 15:18-20

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

Following Amos' Example

- We are to be salt and light to the world (Matt. 5:13-16; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; 2 Pet 3:9)
- Our message will often not be welcome (John 3:19-20; 15:18-20)
- Will we be like Amos?

Our Choice

- God says,
 - Go
 - Shine your light
- The world says,
 - Go away
 - Don't rock the boat

Who should we obey?

Following Amos' Example

- We are to be salt and light to the world (Matt. 5:13-16; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; 2 Pet 3:9)
- Our message will often not be welcome (John 3:19-20; 15:18-20)
- Will we be like Amos?
- For the disciple of Jesus, there is no other choice (Acts 4:19-20; 5:29)

Following Amos' Example

- Acts 4:19-20 - But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."
- Acts 5:29 - But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."