
Amos 9:1-15

The book of Amos is about the nation of Israel and surrounding gentile nations. The timeframe it's talking about - 750 B.C., 200 years after the death of King Solomon - is parallel to what our nation is going through today. Most of the happenings today are not good. We need to take heed and wake up before terrible things happen. Too many people have the idea that we're too big to fail. That's not true. Anything can fail - size doesn't matter. Today we've seen GM, Citigroup, AIG insurance all fail, along with many banks. The founding fathers of America based our country on the bible and God's word, but we've turned away from His word, and we will crumble as others have done before us. God will judge this nation harshly just as he judged the nation of Israel when they turned away from God and His word.

Setting: Amos was a simple herdsman who came from a simple family and a simple life. God chose this simple man for a wonderful job-He gave Amos visions of warning to pass on to the Israelites and the wealthy rulers of the area. When "Israel" is mentioned in this book, it is not the nation of Israel but rather the 12 tribes of Israel. Amos comes from a small village about 10 miles south of Jerusalem. At that time, things were prospering for the people, and things had become so great and so corrupt that God decided to judge the people. God at that time never judged people without some warning beforehand. During the time of Amos, many prophets were warning people of pending judgment. Today there are many people warning others of pending judgment who are being ignored and stifled by corrupt people right here in America. The name "Jesus" is highly offensive to many, and this is very dangerous that His name is offensive.

Amos 9:1-15

1 ¶ I saw the Lord standing beside the altar: and he said, Smite the capitals (doors), that the thresholds (posts) may shake; and break them in pieces on the head of all of them (cut their heads off); and I will slay the last of them with the sword: there shall not one of them flee away, and there shall not one of them escape. This altar had been in place about 200 years and it was a pagan center of worship. God tells Amos He wants the people to destroy this old altar. God wants to start His judgment at the center of pagan worship. God is also going to kill the pagan worshippers. Anytime we see the word "sword", it means warfare. God is going to wage war on the pagan worshippers.

2 Though they dig into Sheol (a place of the dead), thence shall my hand take them; and 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 it shall bite them.

Carmel is still there today, you can go visit it. At the time of this writing, it was a common place of hiding. People went there to hide out. The bible makes several references to a great serpent that lives in the sea. The Japanese, a while back, caught an enormous dead decaying serpent. We're not so sure that this serpent is figurative; it may be literal. The bottom line is that God is saying it doesn't matter where these pagan worshippers go, God is going to kill 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. Even in slavery in another country, God is going to hunt these pagans down and kill them. This is strange for our loving caring God to say He is going to judge them not for good-meaning evil, but not in the sense of the devil-but it is written right here.

5 For the Lord, Jehovah of hosts, is he that toucheth the land and it melteth, and all that dwell therein shall mourn; and it shall rise up wholly like the River, and shall sink again, like the River of Egypt; Amos is making a reference to God being in control of the weather and the natural disasters of Earth. Melting land means an earthquake-a great earthquake. The land, the dirt, will flow like water and then settle down again.

6 it is he that buildeth his chambers in the heavens, and hath founded his vault upon the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth; Jehovah is his name. This is a reference to God's power. We have a Hubble space telescope in the heavens, and the heavens are so vast that it makes us feel so small. With God building his chambers in the heavens, we see how mighty He is. The vault upon the Earth refers to all the natural things on earth-mountains, etc. The waters of the sea-God set this cycle up, of water, land, air, moon-God created this closed ecosystem that supports our life on earth.

7 Are ye not as the children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel? saith Jehovah. Have not I brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt, and the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir? Here's what God thinks of Israel today: the Israelites are looked upon just like the heathens who know nothing of God. Hasn't God saved the Israelites from slavery in Egypt? Hasn't God looked out for and protected and made a promise with the Israelites and this how they treat God? This is how they repay Him? Each week in America we can pick up a newspaper and see more legislation being passed to ban Jesus Christ from schools, businesses, and the public in general. If God judged Israel like this for turning against His word, what makes us think we are any different?

8 Behold, the eyes of the Lord Jehovah are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from off the face of the earth; save that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, saith Jehovah. God destroyed the northern kingdom – wiped them up and took them captive. These are referred to as the lost kingdoms of Israel. They are not lost; God knows exactly where they are. It has been 2700 years since they were destroyed and disassembled, but they are being pulled back into Israel today.

9 For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all the nations, like as grain is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least kernel fall upon the earth. The entire nation of Israel disappeared during Nebuchadnezzar's time- 2600 years ago-the nation of Israel has not been a sovereign nation until May 14, 1948. This means God is starting to move. Israel is reassembled, and the world is getting more and more antagonist towards Israel.

10 All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, who say, The evil shall not overtake nor meet us. We are not too big to fall as a nation. America is feeling the fall already.

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 its ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old; The Jews are the sign that God's word is true. They have been attacked all through history but we cannot eradicate them because God is protecting them.

12 that they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the nations that are called by my name, saith Jehovah that doeth this. Edom is to the southeast of Israel, today it's modern Jordan. There are going to be gentile nations brought into the millennium that God will bless. The Jordan people are the kindest nation towards Israel.

13 Behold, the days come, saith Jehovah, 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. During that millennium reign, it will be so prosperous and bountiful. Right now their desert is blossoming and prosperous. Israel is a nuclear power. When Israel makes a move, the world shakes. God will make them so prosperous after the tribulation period that they won't be able to harvest all the goods He's going to bless them with.

14 And I will bring back the captivity of my people 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. The Israelites won't have any enemies then.

15 And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be plucked up out of their land which I have given them, saith Jehovah thy God. Amos starts out for about 9 ½ chapters about a peculiar special nation (Israel), who turned against God, were dispersed, attacked, the world attempted annihilation of the Jews, regathered into their land (Israel), and will be blessed by God. If you notice, the world is persecuting Israel again. Two thirds of the Jews won't make it alive through the tribulation.