

# Amos 7:1-17

*\*Sunday School was cancelled May 2, 2010 due to local flooding\**

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. When "Israel" is mentioned in this book, it is not the nation of Israel but rather the 10 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 7:1-17

**1 ¶ Thus the Lord Jehovah showed me: and, behold, he formed locusts in the beginning of the shooting up of the latter growth; and, lo, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings.** "grasshoppers" translated means "creeping thing". What this is talking about is that over in this land at that time, they could get two crops, two harvests, a year. The first harvest was for the king, the second was for the people. The king got the best, the people got the leftovers.

**2 And it came to pass that, when they made an end of eating the grass of the land, then I said, O Lord Jehovah, forgive, I beseech thee: how shall Jacob stand? for he is small.** Amos sees the locusts eating the entire second crop, and the people starving to death. Amos pleads with God to back off of this judgement, please don't hurt the innocent poor people.

**3 Jehovah repented concerning this: It shall not be, saith Jehovah.** The English language doesn't really bring out the Hebrew or Greek of the original writing of the bible. This word "repented" by Jehovah, by God, does not mean that God did something bad and is repenting. It means God took a look at what Amos said and reevaluated what would happen if the judgement was allowed to progress, and He changed His mind in response to Amos's intervening on behalf of the people.

**4 Thus the Lord Jehovah showed me: and, behold, the Lord Jehovah called to contend by fire; and it devoured the great deep, and would have eaten up the land.** This fire dried up the wells of the land.

**5 Then said I, O Lord Jehovah, cease, I beseech thee: how shall Jacob stand? for he is small.** Amos is pleading with God again. "Please don't wipe out the people!" God likes us coming to Him with our concerns and cares.

**6 Jehovah repented concerning this: this also shall not be, saith the Lord Jehovah.** God again agrees to answer Amos' beseeching, his prayers.

**7 Thus he showed me: and, behold, the Lord stood beside a wall made by a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand.** This is like a level, and it shows if a wall is perfectly vertical or leaning one way or the other. It is a measurement.

**8 And Jehovah said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumb-line. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel; I will not again pass by them any more;** God is going to see how upright and straight the Israelis are, how far they have strayed from His ways. He is measuring how much Israel has come out of line from His will. He warns this is the last time He will reevaluate them.

**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.** God says He's going to come against Israel and tear down the king and all he's left behind with warfare.

**10 ¶ Then Amaziah the priest of Beth-el 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.** Amaziah is participating in false worshipping of golden calves (cows). Amaziah says to the king of Israel, "We gotta stop Amos. He's saying dangerous things."

**11 For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of his land.** Amaziah twisted the truth, twisted Amos' words and bore false witness against Amos to the king.

**12 Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thou away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there:**

**13 but prophesy not again any more at Beth-el; for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a royal house.** Amaziah tells Amos to leave the land, quit talking to the Israelis because they don't want to hear it. People don't want to hear the truth when it's bad news.

**14 Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore-trees:** Amos said "I didn't want to do this. I'm just a simple farmer. But God has chosen given me, given me visions and I must pass the news to the people."

**15 and Jehovah took me from following the flock, and Jehovah said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.** The Lord God told Amos to go tell the people of Israel about his visions from God. God gives His warning to the people who are misbehaving through Amos.

**16 Now therefore hear thou the word of Jehovah: Thou sayest, Prophecy not against Israel, and drop not thy word against the house of Isaac;**

**17 therefore thus saith Jehovah: Thy wife shall be a 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 thyself shalt die in a land that is unclean, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of his land.** Amos tells Amaziah, the false priest, what's going to happen to him: Your wife will become a prostitute, your sons and daughters will be killed (it happened in 722 b.c.), you will be taken captive and taken to another land. Amos' news went from warning the whole country to a personal warning directly to Amaziah.