

04

AMOS 9:5-15

A GREAT REBUILD



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

Just because we haven't yet experienced consequences for our actions doesn't mean there won't be any, and just because we can't see the benefit of changing doesn't mean there isn't a reward waiting for us if we do. Because they hadn't suffered for it yet, the Israelites thought they were getting away with their sin. Because they thought the life they were living was as good as life gets, they didn't see the benefit of repenting. Unfortunately for them, their refusal to see things as they really were would cost them. Fortunately for those who were open to correction, God offers hope to those who repent. That includes us!



CENTRAL **truth**

God offers us hope if we repent.



EXPLORE

scripture

AMOS 9:5-15

AMOS 9:5-6

5 The Lord, the GOD of Armies — he touches the earth; it melts, and all who dwell in it mourn; all of it rises like the Nile and subsides like the Nile of Egypt. **6** He builds his upper chambers in the

heavens and lays the foundation of his vault on the earth. He summons the water of the sea and pours it out over the surface of the earth. The LORD is his name.

AMOS 9:7-10

7 Israelites, are you not like the Cushites to me? This is the LORD's declaration. Didn't I bring Israel from the land of Egypt, the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Arameans from Kir? **8** Look, the eyes of the Lord GOD are on the sinful kingdom, and I will obliterate it from the face of the earth. However, I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob — this is the LORD's

declaration — **9** for I am about to give the command, and I will shake the house of Israel among all the nations, as one shakes a sieve, but not a pebble will fall to the ground. **10** All the sinners among my people who say, "Disaster will never overtake or confront us," will die by the sword.

AMOS 9:11-15

11 In that day I will restore the fallen shelter of David: I will repair its gaps, restore its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old, **12** so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name — this is the declaration of the LORD; he will do this. **13** Look, the days are coming — this is the LORD's declaration — when the plowman will overtake the reaper and the one who treads grapes, the sower of seed.

The mountains will drip with sweet wine, and all the hills will flow with it. **14** I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel. They will rebuild and occupy ruined cities, plant vineyards and drink their wine, make gardens and eat their produce. **15** I will plant them on their land, and they will never again be uprooted from the land I have given them. The LORD your God has spoken.

04

AMOS 9:5-15
CONVERSATION

questions

▶ READ AMOS 9:5-6.

.01 Why is it so important for us to pay equal attention to all aspects of God's character, even the aspects we don't like or understand?

.02 What does it mean to fear God? What keeps us from fearing God as we should?

.03 How is God's sovereignty a comfort to us if we fear Him? How is it a threat to those who do not fear Him?



HISTORY

The Cushites, Philistines, and Arameans were different people groups who were all descended from various grandsons of Noah (see Gen. 10:1,6,13,22). The Cushites were descended from Noah's grandson Cush. The prophet Isaiah said they were an intimidating group of people and warned Israel against an alliance with them because they would face judgment (see Isa. 18:1-2,6; 20:4-5). Even so, the Bible depicts the Cushites presenting an offering to God (see Ps. 68:31). The Philistines were long-time enemies of Israel and inhabited the promised land before God gave it to the Israelites. The Arameans were an ancient people who found themselves at odds with King David (see 2 Sam. 8:5-11) and were a constant threat to Israel until they were defeated by Assyria. God was just as sovereign over these nations as He was over His chosen people Israel and used them to bring about His will, as well.

READ AMOS 9:7-10.

.04 Why do we sometimes fall into the trap of thinking that God needs us or owes us something? What's wrong with this thinking?

.05 Read Luke 19:40. How does God glorify Himself when people refuse to glorify Him?

.06 What actions tend to distinguish true followers of Jesus from those who just claim to follow Him?

READ AMOS 9:11-15.

.07 Why didn't the Israelites like that God meant to include their enemies in the rebuilding of David's house? Can you relate? Explain.

.08 What can we learn about God from this portion of Amos's prophecy?



THEOLOGY

The day(s) Amos referred to in this passage could have something to do with the future after Christ's second coming (see Luke 21:25-28; Matt. 19:28). It could also simply refer to the establishment of the church, which is made up of everyone who puts their faith in Jesus. The plenty described in this passage could refer to the harvest of people God would reap through the spread of the gospel of Jesus. It could also refer to the peace, security, and abundant life those who put their faith in that gospel will enjoy as a result of their faith. This second view seems to be confirmed by the fact that James, the half-brother of Jesus, quoted this particular passage in his argument to allow Gentile Christians into the fellowship of the early church without being circumcised or being required to obey Mosaic law (see Acts 15:12-21). James believed that the early church was part of the rebuilt house of David and that God had already included the Gentiles.

04

AMOS 9:5-15

NOW

what?



CENTRAL truth

God offers us hope if we repent.

.09 What can we do to make sure we remember God's true character and what He is capable of?

.10 What should we do when we are tempted to think that God needs us or owes us something?

.11 What can we do to show the world we truly belong to God and are not just pretending to follow Jesus?

.12 What reminders could we give fellow Christ-followers when they are feeling overwhelmed by their circumstances?

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE AMOS 5:15

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about man?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

AMOS 9:1-4

DWELL

Because we can sometimes hide our actions and true motives from other people, we assume we can get away with disobeying God—that somehow He won't notice. Adam and Eve attempted to hide from God in the garden of Eden when they were ashamed. But the truth is that none of us can escape God, and that's what Amos was reminding the Israelites of here. It wouldn't matter if they were a leader ("pillars") or a regular citizen. There would be no mountain too high or sea floor too low for God to reach. Even being captured by their enemies wouldn't bring them out of God's reach.



If God loves His people, why would He say that he would "keep my eye on them for harm and not for good" (v. 4)?



How do these verses help you understand your relationship with God better? How can they help your prayer life?

MEMORIZE

Add reminders to your phone, computer, or calendar to read Amos 5:15 every morning and night this week.

PRAY

Ask God to help you grow in your reverence for Him. Pray that you would remember that He is never far away and that He is aware of your every thought, word, and action.

day 2

AMOS

9:5-6

DWELL

← Why was God's power over the natural world important for the Israelites to remember at a time like this?

↑ Why should God's power over the earth and sea give us hope? Why should it cause us to have awe and fear for Him?

God's messages of judgment against Israel weren't just empty threats, as though He were some school bully who was all talk. God had both the power and the authority to carry out His threats, and He intended to do so. So Amos reminded the Israelites about just what kind of power God has: the power to shake the earth to its very foundation and the power to flood the land with the waters of the sea. The Israelites should have been very afraid indeed.

MEMORIZE

Write Amos 5:15 on a sticky note and place it on your bathroom mirror. Read it to yourself each time you brush your teeth or wash your hands.

PRAY

Reflect on how you have personally experienced God's power over creation. Say a prayer worshiping Him for the glory and power you saw Him demonstrate at those times.

day 3

AMOS

9:7-10

DWELL

God had set Israel apart from the other nations—they were His chosen people, favored in His eyes. But they also weren't as different from other nations as they thought. Being "set apart" wouldn't save them from His judgment when they disobeyed. In fact, their position as His people gave them a greater responsibility than the other nations, a responsibility to reveal God to the nations! But they were proud and they had ignored their responsibilities, and now they would pay the price.

↻ Why did Israel still have reason for hope in the midst of this judgment according to verse 8? Why was this important to remember?

↑ Jesus was descended from the remnant that God preserved. Knowing this, why is the hope in verse 8 important for you?

MEMORIZE

Pick a song you enjoy and read or sing Amos 5:15 aloud to the beat of that song. Read the verse this way throughout the week, trying to recite more of it from memory each time.

PRAY

Thank God that He we can trust Him to keep His oaths. Thank Him that He sent a Messiah to restore the broken relationship between Him and His people.

day 4

AMOS 9:11-15

DWELL

God's destruction would not last forever. Amos spoke on God's behalf here and shared the ways that God would restore His people once the period of judgment was over. Ultimately, God is a God of love, and His judgment is never the final word. Israel would once again be a nation of plenty and beauty. The people would rebuild their cities, replant their fields, and be prosperous as before. Like a farmer plants a field, the Lord would "plant them on their land" (v. 15) to grow strong. He had made an oath long ago that they were His people, and this was an oath that could never be broken.

← Why did God remind the people that they were His people (v. 14) and that He had given them the land (v. 15)?

↔ Why does God value restoration? What does it look like to restore broken relationships with people in your own life?

MEMORIZE

Write Amos 5:15 on the center of a sheet of paper, then add drawings or doodles around the edges that relate to the verse. Hang it somewhere you will see it every day.

PRAY

Pray that God would help you to value restoration in your own relationships the way He does.

day 5

MATTHEW 3:7-12

DWELL

John the Baptist baptized many people in preparation for Jesus's coming, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near" (v. 2)—in other words, turn away from sin and turn back to God, because He is going to bring His kingdom to earth. But not everyone who went to be baptized was truly repentant. They wanted to appear holy, but John knew they weren't truly coming to "flee from the coming wrath" (v. 7). Jesus would come and sort out those who were sincere from those who were merely "chaff"—the worthless, inedible outer shell of the wheat—and throw them into the fire of judgment.

↓ Why did the Pharisees think that they were safe from judgment? Why were they wrong, according to these verses?

→ What does it mean to produce "good fruit" (v. 10)? How can we encourage each other to do this?

MEMORIZE

Write each word of Amos 5:15 on a separate note card. Shuffle the cards and try to put them in the correct order. Do this throughout the week until you can do it without checking the answer.

PRAY

Pray that you would grow in your love for Jesus and follow Him joyfully, repenting of anything that takes you away from His ways.