



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Amos, Jonah, Hosea, Micah Sermon Series

Supports Session 4: Hope in God

Sermon Title: "Hope Found" (Amos 9:11-15)

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### Connection to Amos 9:5-15

Amos declared severe consequences of God's judgment if His chosen people persisted in their sins. His prophetic utterances promised restoration if Israel would repent of their evil deeds and obediently seek to keep God's commands. In turning from their rebellion, they would receive hope for the present and future.

### Introduction/Opening

Most to us would be shocked to see a car abruptly made a U-turn and quickly accelerate in opposite direction. We would wonder what they forgot or who had called them. However, that same type of abrupt U-turn is called for if we are to head in the direction that God has for us.

### Outline

1. Repentance is Preceded by the Harsh Consequences of Sin
  - a. Amos preached that Jehovah would exact judgment against the guilty inhabitants of Israel. His fierce anger was inescapable. There was no hiding from the punishments of God. No place would be safe (9:1-4).
  - b. When Paul persisted in his persecution of the church, God revealed it was hard to kick against the pricks (Acts 26:14). As an ox injures itself kicking against the pointed goads on the plow, we injure ourselves when we rebel against God.
  - c. Sin brings the wrath of God (Rom. 1:18). Judgment can awaken the sinner to the grace of God and bring them back to God. When the prodigal son had squandered his inheritance, lost his friends, and was starving in a pig pen, he had an awakening. His awakening was a return to His father's house where life was better.
  
2. Repentance Entails a Complete Change of Direction
  - a. Amos called for a change of direction, a radical shift in actions. The people of Israel were to seek God instead of the idols of Bethel (5:4-5). Israel was charged to treat the poor fairly (5:11) by allowing justice to roll like a mighty stream (5:24). Through His judgments, the Lord would create a hunger for the Word of God (8:11) where there was a silencing of prophets (2:12).
  - b. The judgments of God and harsh conditions would prompt a broken people to seek the Lord again. They would abruptly turn away from their rebellious ways toward the loving arms of God and His truth.

- c. The change is abrupt. Instead of listening to the world, we tune into the voice of God. Instead of self-reliance, we must seek the power of God through a life of prayer. Instead of remaining in “fleshly ways,” we seek life by walking in the Spirit.
- d. Jesus called for His disciples to enter through a narrow gate that leads to life rather than the broad road travelled by the lost. We are to build our lives upon the Rock, not the shifting sand of worldly hopes. Repentance is a sharp calling to the holiness of God by forsaking the common corruption of a world controlled by the evil one.

### 3. Repentance Produces Hope

- a. The hope presented by Amos was found in the intervention of a Holy God with a faithful love for His people. He would discipline so His people would turn from wickedness (3:2). He demonstrated mercy when the calamities of sin seemed too great for His people to bear (7:3,6). Finally, God promised to rebuild David’s fallen tent to its former glories (9:11). This was all done through a God determined to claim His wayward people. The people were not lost because of the faithfulness of God.
- b. There was hope that exceeded the required repairs of the restored nation. With a hint of the ideals of an eternal heaven, wine would drip from the mountains and flow from the hills (9:13), and Israel would never fall again, safe in the eternal embrace of God (9:15).
- c. Jesus specifically taught that He is preparing a place for us in heaven, and He is coming back to take us to be with Him forever (John 14:2-3).
- d. This hope comes from a living faith (1 Peter 1:3) that transforms our fears into courage and our dread into a renewed sense of purpose.

### Conclusion

It is hard to admit we are heading the wrong direction, especially when we are in a crowd of people unwittingly placing their fate in a prosperous society. However, we are wrong. We must summon our courage and go against the powerful currents causing us to drift in the wrong direction (Hebr. 2:1). We must admit to God we are wrong and accept His salvation and new birth even though we may be mocked by our former friends. When we do, our hearts will be possessed by a powerful hope written there by our all-sufficient Savior.

*Ken and Welda Cox live in New Boston, Texas. In 2012 Ken retired from First Baptist Church after 20 years of service. Ken has been active in prison ministry since 1995 and presently serves as interim pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Omaha, Texas. Ken and Welda have six children and nine grandchildren.*