

Amos Chapter 9:- The Lord in Judgement and a Promise of Restoration

As we begin this final chapter it is worth reading again the vision of the Lord God in Isaiah chapter 6, verses 1 – 5. The Holy and Righteous God will not tolerate the worship of idols. Remember the first commandment! *“God spake these words and said; I am the Lord thy God: Thou shalt have none other Gods but me.”* (From the Service of Holy Communion in the Book of Common Prayer 1662).

Verse 1:- The visions in chapters 7 and 8 begin *“The Lord God (He) showed me. . . .”* Here in chapter 9 it is a direct *“I saw the Lord”* He appears to be standing on, or alongside the altar in the temple. He was about to bring down the building in ruin upon the heads of the worshippers. Reading back to the closing verses of chapter 8, these would be worshippers of false gods in the temples of Bethel and Dan. From this final judgement there will be no escape!

Verses 2 – 4:- Can be summed up quite simply by the words “No Hiding Place!”. There will be nowhere to hide when the Lord comes in majesty to judge the earth. This theme is found not only in the prophets – e.g. Isaiah 2, verse 19 and Hosea 10, verse 8 but in the New Testament as well - Luke 23, verse 30 and Revelation 6, verses 15 – 17.

Verses 5 – 7:- The Creator God has been and still is in control of history. The children of Israel boasted in the favour shown to them in the Exodus. The Lord reminds them that He also controlled the migrations of the Ethiopians, the Philistines and Syrians, bringing them into their present countries.

Verses 8 – 10:- The Lord sees and knows what is going on in the *“sinful kingdom”*. The northern kingdom of Israel was completely destroyed (the capital Samaria fell in 721 B.C.) . Judah, the southern kingdom survived until 587 B.C. and the Jewish people were scattered among the nations in the exile.

Verses 11 – 15:- This last section of the prophecy gives a description of the restored Davidic kingdom. It brings into focus the goal of The Lord God’s control of history. The idea that God’s will must be done in history is a theme which runs through the whole Book of Amos.

Verse 11 - *“In that day”* refers to “The Day of the Lord”. In the punishment of Israel, the house of David was like a fallen tent. The picture here is of the coming restoration of Israel when the throne of David will be re-established. This prophecy was referred to at the Council of Jerusalem - read Acts 15, verses 12 – 20.

Amos’ vision of the Messianic kingdom under the throne of David represents it as universal and including the Gentiles. The fulfilment of this is seen in Revelation 7, verses 9 – 12 and Revelation 19, verses 1 – 9.

“The days are coming” declares the Lord, “when the ploughman shall overtake the reaper” In the new creation of the Lord all things will be as He meant them to be at the beginning. See Isaiah 35 verses 1 – 10: Isaiah 65, verses 17 – 25 and Isaiah 66, verses 22 – 23.

The thought of *“a new heaven and a new earth”* is not just an idea taken from the Book of Revelation but is the logical outcome of redemption by a loving creator God; foretold by the prophets, looked forward to by the Apostles (e.g. Romans 8, verses 19 – 25 and 2 Peter 3, verse 13) and culminating in the One who says *“behold I make all things new”*. Revelation 21, verse 5.

It is well worth reading through the Book of Amos, taking on board the prophecies of doom and gloom, to arrive at the reassurance that the Lord God is in control, and in His time will bring us, with all those who have put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, into His Kingdom of peace and light.