

Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

Amos: The Radical Justice of God

Message 6: Vivid Judgment

Amos 7:1-6 (ESV)

¹ This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, **he was forming locusts** when the latter growth was just beginning to sprout, and behold, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings. ² When they had finished eating the grass of the land, I said, "O Lord GOD, please forgive! How can Jacob stand? He is so small!"

³ The LORD relented concerning this: "It shall not be," said the LORD.

⁴ This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, the Lord GOD was **calling for a judgment by fire**, and it devoured the great deep and was eating up the land. ⁵ Then I said, "O Lord GOD, please cease! How can Jacob stand? He is so small!"

⁶ The LORD relented concerning this: "This also shall not be," said the Lord GOD.

Degrees of judgment:

The threat of **locusts** was a "2nd harvest" threat. This matters because ...

The threat of **fire** (though symbolic) was even more devastating ...

And yet, God " _____ " (literally, He " _____ ")

How God *doesn't* "repent":

God is never lacking _____ necessary to decide.

God is never morally _____ in what decisions He makes.

God does not have _____ over His decisions as man does.

In what sense *does* God "repent"?

God hears and _____ to our prayers.

Prayer _____ to happen that would not happen if we did not pray.

Case study: 1st Samuel 15:11, 29

Our lesson: God responds to _____ !

Amos 7:7-9 (ESV)

⁷This is what he showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with **a plumb line in his hand**. ⁸ And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said, “Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them; ⁹ the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

A plumb line is a _____ for measuring how “true” a wall is.

What is God’s “standard”?

What does the use of a plumb line signify?

God is about to see if they are as _____ as they claim to be.

God is about to see if they are as _____ as they *used* to be.

God does not judge _____.

God’s judgements are _____.

Note: There were 2 specific objects of God’s judgement:

The “high places and sanctuaries” =

The “house of Jereboam” =

(Remember the conditions God gave Jereboam when He gave him his kingdom: 1 Kings 11:38)

The response of the “religious establishment”:

Amos 7:10-17 (ESV)

¹⁰ Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹ For thus Amos has said, “Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.””

¹² And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, ¹³ but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

¹⁴ Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. ¹⁵ But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’ ¹⁶ Now therefore hear the word of the LORD. “You say, ‘Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac.’ ¹⁷ Therefore thus says the LORD: “Your wife shall be a prostitute in the city, and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be divided up with a measuring line; you yourself shall die in an unclean land, and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land.””

The final picture: **Ripe** for judgment

Amos 8:1-2 (ESV)

¹This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, a basket of summer fruit. ² And he said, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A basket of summer fruit.” Then the LORD said to me, “The end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass by them.

qāyits v. qēts =

The metaphor of **ripening fruit** signifies ...

All sin _____ eventually.

God is not _____ or _____ in His judgments.

Famine and the worst sort of judgment:

Amos 8:11-12 (ESV)

¹¹ “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD, “when I will send a famine on the land— not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.

¹² They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.

The worst sort of judgment is not the hand of God _____ me, but the hand of God _____ me.

The Word that _____ me is also the Word that _____ me.
(See: Romans 8)

Next week: Lord of the Altar