

Amos 7

Visions of Judgment Pt. 1

Introduction

Question: Think of a time you have been confronted by a street preacher or visiting evangelist who warned of God's judgment. How do you respond to that approach?

It is easy to side with Amos. After all, his prophecies are part of the Bible! But put yourself in Israel's place. How would you have responded if a farmer came to town and began announcing visions of judgment? We will look at three of Amos's five visions and one typical response.

Amos 7:1-17

Question: What similarities do you observe in the first two visions (vv. 1-3 and 4-6)? What do you learn about the extent of the destruction each of these judgments bring?

Question: How does Amos' prayer (vv. 2 and 5) affect God's actions (vv. 3 and 6)? Why does God relent?

Question: What does the plumb line represent in the third vision (vv. 7-9) and how will God use it to evaluate His people?

Question: In what ways are our lives to be measured to the straight line of God's word?

Question: What do you notice different in the form of this vision compared to the form of the first two visions? Why do you think Amos did not intercede for Israel after the judgment of this third vision was pronounced?

Question: What does Amaziah mean when he told the king that the land was not able to bear all of Amos' words (v. 10)?

Question: In what ways do people today express the same idea against the word of God?

Question: What is the relationship between verses 14-16 and verse 17?

Question: Who are the Amaziahs of our day? Who are the Amoses of our day?

Reflection

Do you have Amoses or Amaziahs in your life? If so, how do you handle them?