

Amos 8-9

Visions of Judgment and Hope

Introduction

Question: How does hope differ from wishful or "positive" thinking?

Hope can lift our broken spirits, strengthen our feeble bodies and transform our darkest moments into lighthearted praise. Up to this point Amos has offered little hope to Israel. But in this final chapter, as the pace toward destruction quickens, he brings his prophecy to a surprising conclusion — one that is full of hope, promise and a renewed vision of God.

Amos 8:1-14

Question: Why does Amos use the imagery of ripe fruit?

Question: What were the unjust business practices of the Israelites, the results of these practices, and God's view of them (vv. 4-6)?

Question: How are these injustices practiced today?

Question: What is the famine God says He will send (vv. 7-14)? How serious is this compared to the other descriptions of judgment you have already studied in Amos?

Question: Is this kind of famine worse than a famine of food?

Amos 9:1-15

Question: Identify all of man's actions to escape (vv. 1-4). What are the actions of God against people who try to flee? Why is God's eye fixed on His people for evil?

Question: For what reasons might a believer try to run and hide from God?

Question: Why does God call attention to His divine attributes in verses 5-6? Why is it important for everyone to know His name in this context?

Question: In Amos' illustration, some would be caught in the sieve and some would not (vv. 7-10). Who are those that get caught in the sieve?

Question: What judgments promised earlier in Amos are restored by God's promises (vv. 11-15)? What does this reveal or signify?

Reflection

How can this portrait of God give us hope even when things seem hopeless?