

# The Example of Amos - Amos 7

- I. Introduction
  - a. Leo's Lesson: Do not love the world, but God so loved the world
  - b. We should love the world of human souls as God does, without loving the world system that is the result of human pride and the support of human sinfulness.
  - c. Amos knew how to do this.
    - i. He was a prophet of God
    - ii. During the divided kingdom period
    - iii. In the reign of Jereboam II
    - iv. The northern kingdom of Israel was
      - 1. Prosperous
      - 2. Expanding
      - 3. Self-satisfied
      - 4. Deep in sin and idolatry
    - v. God chose Amos to denounce the sins of Israel and call His people back to God
  - d. Amos 7 gives a touching description of
    - i. Who Amos was
    - ii. How much he loved the people of God
      - 1. What that love motivated him to do
      - 2. What that love cost him personally as a man of God who was in the world, but not of the world
- II. KEY THOUGHT: Amos was a wonderful example of how the people of God love the world as God does, and are the salt and light of the world.
- III. Exposition
  - a. Amos' Intercession
    - i. Amos prays to avert disaster in Israel
      - 1. Locust swarms (7:1-3)
      - 2. Destructive fire (7:4-6)
      - 3. He is heartbroken for His people
      - 4. He prays for them
        - a. They are wicked
        - b. They deserve the punishment
        - c. But they cannot survive the punishment they deserve
        - d. So Amos begs for mercy
      - 5. God relents
      - 6. We cannot fully appreciate the rest of Amos' work of prophecy if we don't understand this about him
    - ii. There is a judgment that prayer cannot avoid (7:7-9)
      - 1. God is bringing the plumb line
      - 2. What does not square up with His expectations will be destroyed

- b. Amos' Opposition
  - i. Amaziah
    - 1. A false priest of Jeroboam I's calf religion
  - ii. His accusation (v. 10-11)
    - 1. Conspiracy
    - 2. Intolerable words
      - a. Jeroboam shall die
      - b. Israel shall be led captive
    - 3. True or false accusation?
      - a. There was an "unless you repent" that went with that
      - b. Wasn't Amos the one who through prayer convinced God to spare Israel from two devastating judgments?
      - c. Clearly it was not from pure orneriness that Amos was preaching judgment
  - iii. His advice to Amos (v. 12-13)
    - 1. Leave
    - 2. Go to Judah
    - 3. You can make a good living there
    - 4. Never prophesy here again
    - 5. It's the royal residence
    - 6. Totally secular
    - 7. Apparently God's will has no consideration!
- c. Amos' resolution
  - i. I'm not doing this for my health
    - 1. I was not a prophet [by profession]
    - 2. Nor a son of the prophet [a trainee]
    - 3. I was a shepherd and tender of sycamores [fig trees that needed the fruit nipped to ripen faster]
  - ii. God made me a prophet
    - 1. He gave me the job
    - 2. He gave me the words
    - 3. He gave the audience and location
  - iii. More pronouncements of judgment
    - 1. God says prophesy in Israel
    - 2. You say, "Don't prophesy in Israel"
    - 3. What should Amos do?
    - 4. He prophesies judgment on the one who would rebuke the prophet for prophesying judgment
      - a. An unpleasant message
      - b. But was it spoken from bitterness, resentment and hate?
      - c. No, twice in this chapter Amos has personally interceded for Amaziah and his nation before God to spare them God's judgment

- IV. Application
  - a. We are to be the salt and the light
    - i. Matt. 5:13-15
      - 1. Preserving
      - 2. Showing the way
    - ii. The world needs us
      - 1. Praying for it – 1 Tim 2:1-4
        - a. Like Amos or Moses (Num. 14:19)
        - b. Are we heartbroken for our world?
        - c. Not excusing the wicked
        - d. But praying they will be spared and come to repentance
      - 2. Preaching to it
        - a. Repent or perish
        - b. 2 Pet 3:9-11
  - b. Sometimes our message will not be welcome (John 3:19-20; John 15:18-20)
    - i. Our message is not any better than Amos'
      - 1. Our world is nearly as wicked
      - 2. And the ultimate judgment of the wicked that has been revealed in the gospel age is much worse than any threat Amos made
    - ii. We may
      - 1. get false accusations, - Acts 17:6-7
      - 2. threats – Acts 4:16-18
      - 3. or helpful advice –
        - a. Not here
        - b. Not now
        - c. Not too extreme
        - d. Hurt your employment/advancement/career projects
        - e. Might offend someone
      - 4. We should offend just for the sake of offending
        - a. That is selfish and prideful
        - b. TEST: Are we broken hearted and praying for the souls of those we “offend” with the gospel?
    - iii. All of which will be designed to influence us to be silent about Jesus Christ and the gospel
    - iv. Who is your Amaziah? Telling you to stop being a Christian, or at least stop talking and acting like one.
    - v. Will we be like Amos?
      - 1. I'm not a theologian,
      - 2. or an ordained minister,
      - 3. but God tells me this in His word
      - 4. and I am going to do it and teach it
  - c. As disciples of Christ, is there any other choice?

- i. Acts 4:19-20
- ii. Acts 5:29

V. Conclusion

- a. The world deserves spiritual examples like Amaziah
  - i. Self serving
  - ii. Practicing and offering a religion of convenience
  - iii. And a religion where God's will isn't even considered
- b. The world desperately needs spiritual examples like Amos
  - i. Shining a clear light
  - ii. Broken hearted over sin
  - iii. Enough love for sinners to call them to repentance
  - iv. Single-minded devotion to God
- c. Which will you be?
- d. INVITATION