

City Priest Meets Country Prophet

Amos 7

Historical Context

- Military successes
- Thriving economy (focus on gifts, forget the Giver). Am.3:12, 15
- Unjust officials...idolatrous religion
- Amos: contemporary of Hosea, goes north to warn of coming judgment
- Bethel – 1 K.12 ... false worship
 - House of Jeroboam II . . . [not ‘Beth·el’]

I. Israel's Order

God is first (Mk.12:29-30)

Prophets: give God's word to people. Ex.7:1

Priests: offer sacrifices that God will accept.
Ex.19:5-6

People: insist on serving true God. Josh.24:21

Kings: prophets correct all

- . Kings: 400 years after Israel became a nation
- . 1450 – Law 1055 – Saul

God is first (Mk.12:29-30)

- Prophets rebuked kings. 2 Sm.12
- Priests rebuked kings. 2 Chr.26
- People overruled kings. 1 K.12
- Kings who obeyed were blessed.
2 Chr.27⁶ Jotham became mighty, because
he prepared his ways before the LORD his
God.

I. Israel's Order

II. Israel's Opponents

Amos 7

1-2: **locust vision** (= power of God)

- Showed me (1, 4, 7)
- King's mowings
- Intercession

Amos 7

3: God 'repented' [Did God overreact? No!]

- His repentance is a change in way He will treat people.
 - Prayers of righteous bless sinners
- Jonah preached judgment; Amaziah wanted to avoid it...
- Ninevah: conditional threat... Jer.18
- Thermometer: "very changeable"?
- God relents. Gn.18:16-33 sinners decide

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4-6: **vision of fire** . . . so hot. 2 Pt.3

- Intercession: “cease, I pray”
- Jacob is small. [Jeroboam II is king??]
- Mercy again.

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7-9: plumb line

- Reveals state of wall. Israel: out of line
 - High places
 - Isaac = Israel
- Verdict: sword. Ec.7:29
- Against sanctuaries / holy place (13)
- Amos does not intercede

Amos 7

10-13: Amaziah, priest of Bethel

- Defends king; insults Amos
 - Intimidate, 10-11. 1 K.13; 18:17. Lk.13:31
 - Isolate (Amos from public), 11.
 - Insult, 12-13. 1:1; 2 Tim.4:3-4.

Amaziah: Go...prophecy ... not at Bethel (12-13)

God: Go...prophecy ... at Bethel (Israel) (15)

Amos 7

14-17: Amos' prophetic response

- Agreement: "I'm no prophet" (14)
- Assignment: "LORD said Go!" (15)
(Amos 3:8; 1 Co.9:16)
- Address: solved problem of sermon selection (16)

Amos 7

17: **Amaziah's surprise** (feared Amos would shut down business at Bethel)

- Wife – spoils of war (harlot)
- Sons / daughters – sword
- Land – surveyed for others
- You – die in defiled land
- Israel – (= v.11)

I. Israel's Order

II. Israel's Opponents

III. Israel's Outcome

Avoid Worldliness

- When God's people mimic satan's people, they too are punished (Amos 1-2)
 - Ro.12:1-2, don't be enamored of Rome's glitter.
 - Col.3:1-2, don't be enticed by satan's false teachers.
 - Hb.12:1-2, don't be engrossed in this world's sin.

Some of worst people in Bible were religious

Mt.16 ... Mt.23 ... not atheists; avoid wrong
leaders

Amos: focus on God...sent by God...ignore
Amaziah (Paul, Ga.1:15-16)

False prophets

- Use personal attacks, threats, insults, intimidation, to succeed
- False prophets dilute message; tickle ears, 2 Tim.4:3-4

Truth

- Only truth can save; only truth is merciful.
- Am.8: need Amos to prepare for judgment.
- Ch.9: need Amos to prepare for Messiah
(Ac.15:14-17)

Amos, watchman (Ezk.3) must warn

1. Inconvenient truth, 4:4; 5:5
2. Time reveals who is the truth-teller

Israel had enough information to know truth before Assyrian invasion.

We must apply the
plumbline to our wall

Anyone who fears self-examination will fail.

2 Co.13⁵ Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?— unless indeed you are disqualified

Sincere people seek to know truth about themselves. 2 Tim.1¹³ Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

Application

- Most Israelites would support Amaziah, protect Jeroboam's reign, ignore their true King.
- In the end, it doesn't matter what earthly officials favor.
- One thing matters: are we ready to meet God?
- Lk.12:40, Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.