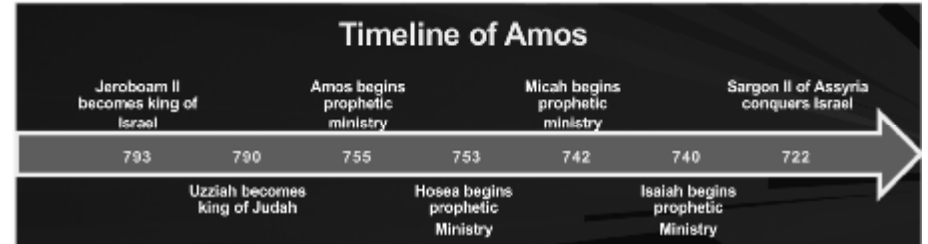


AMOS 7-9



AMOS'S 5 VISIONS

1. locust swarm (7:1-3)	God relented.
2. vision of fire (7:4-6)	God relented.
3. plumb line (7:7-9)	"I will spare them no longer."
4. basket of summer fruit (8:1-3)	"I will spare them no longer."
5. Lord standing beside the alter (Bethel) (9:1-4)	"I will set My eyes against them."

LOCUST SWARM



LOCUST SWARM



- 7:1-3—**locust swarm**—the Lord relented. He did not pardon or forgive. He showed compassion.
- Malachi 3:6—“For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”
- Numbers 23:19—“God is not a man that He should lie, nor a son of man that He should repent [change His mind].”

- *Changed His mind* = *nah-cham* = to relent, to repent, to comfort, to grieve (depending on context); here, it means relent [to let up or become less severe].
- The names of Nehemiah and Nahum include this Hebrew word.

Jeremiah 18:7-10

⁷ At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot it, to tear it down, or to destroy it; ⁸ if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I planned to bring on it. ⁹ Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; ¹⁰ if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will relent of the good with which I said that I would bless it.

Importance of Intercession—seen in Amos's first two visions

- Great intercessors: Abraham (Gen. 18:20ff.); Moses (Ex. 32:9ff.); Job (42:7ff.), Samuel (1Sam. 7:5ff), the Lord Jesus
- Heb. 7:25—Therefore He [Jesus, our High Priest] is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

RAIN OF FIRE



PLUMB LINE



PLUMB LINE



Limits of Intercession—God reaches a point where judgment is so certain that appeals for compassion are futile.

- Jer. 15:1—“Even though Moses and Samuel were to stand before Me, My heart would not be with this people.”
- Ezek. 14:14, 16—Even though these three men, Noah, Daniel and Job were in its midst, by their own righteousness they could only deliver themselves.

Amaziah, the Priest of Bethel

- Accuses Amos of treason
- Misrepresents Amos’s words
- Assumes that he is superior to Amos
- Implies that Amos is motivated by a desire for gain

Amos’s Courageous Answer

- Amos has his own business and does not seek gain as a professional prophet.
- Amos has higher authority than Amaziah, for Amos is God’s prophet, while Amaziah is a false prophet.



BASKET OF SUMMER FRUIT



More Charges against Them (8:4-7)

- Cruelty to the Poor (8:4, 6)
- No Heart for Worship (8:5)
- Crooked in Business (8:5, 6)

- God will not overlook any of these sins! (8:7).

Judgment (8:8-14)

- 8:8—earthquake
- 8:9—eclipse
- 8:10—from joy to lamentation
- 8:11-12—famine for God's Word
- 8:13-14—fainting and reverting to paganism, followed by death



- Jeroboam I—931-910 B.C.
- Jeroboam II—782-753 B.C. (Time of Amos was ca.170 years after Jeroboam I.)
- Josiah (king of Judah, who fulfilled the prophecy)—640-608 B.C. (about 300 years after Jeroboam I)

LESSONS

1. The importance of intercession (7:1-6)
 - Intercession changes history & may postpone judgment.
 - Intercession has limits.
 - Intercession requires involvement.
2. The importance of courage (7:10-17)
3. God’s future plans for Israel (9:8,11-15)

LESSONS

4. God’s plumb line (7:8; Rom. 3:23)
 - His standard, not ours, is what matters—with no deviation.
 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).
 - He will make us able & willing to do what pleases Him (Philippians 2:13).
5. God forgives those who repent (Ps. 103:11-12).

LESSONS

To the believer—“For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness [*hesed*] toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:11-12).

To the unbeliever—“They do not consider in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness” (Hosea 7:2).