

The Book of Amos

Chapter 7

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- Vision of Locusts – vs. 1-3
 - vs. 1 – The “first cutting” of hay was reserved for the monarch. The “second cutting” would likely have been in the late summer or early fall.
 - vs. 2 – Amos intercedes on behalf of Israel, as did Moses (Exodus 32:11-12), Jeremiah (Jeremiah 14:7,20-21), and Daniel (Daniel 9:19).
 - vs. 3 – God repented or changed course. This does not mean that God was wrong, just that instead of Him sending climactic judgment upon Israel He instead offers a reprieve.
 - Some see this vision as referring to the invasion of the Assyrians under Pul in II Kings 5:19.
- Vision of Fire – vs. 4-6
 - vs. 4 – This fire appears to be supernatural and symbolic as it is seen devouring “the deep”, referring to the ocean depths.
 - vs. 5 – Amos prayer before for forgiveness in vs. 2, but here only prays for mercy that the fire be stopped.
 - Some see this vision as referring to the invasion of the Assyrians under Tiglath-pileser II in II Kings 15:29
- Vision of Plumbline – vs. 7-9
 - vs. 7 – the wall likely represents Israel. God had made them a mighty nation and worked to keep them “straight”.
 - vs. 8 – This is Israel’s last chance before judgment. There is no more room for intercession.
 - vs. 9 – Isaac – used only here and in vs. 16 as a name for the nation of Israel.
 - vs. 9 – house of Jeroboam – Jeroboam II was on the throne at the time. His successor, his son Zachariah would be killed by Shallum – II Kings 15:8-12.
 - The fulfillment of this is the final defeat of Israel by the Assyrians under Shalmaneser – II Kings 17:6
- Amaziah’s Opposition – vs. 10-17
 - vs. 10 – Amaziah is a pagan priest at the shrines at Bethel.
 - vs. 11 – Amaziah’s report is twisted and misleading. Amos had said Jeroboam’s *house*, not him personally, would fall by the word (vs. 9). He had said Israel would be taken captive (5:5, 5:27, and 6:7) but the Amaziah conveniently leaves our *why* that would happen.
 - vs. 12-13 – Amaziah is threatening Amos to frighten him into silence.
 - vs. 14-15 – Note the humility of Amos. It was not *his* authority, it was *God’s!*
 - vs. 16 – second use of Isaac as referring to Israel – vs. 9
 - vs. 17 – The lying Amaziah would be witness to the truth Amos spoke.