

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 04 Sept 2022	Amos 01-02	Listen to God
2) 11-Sept	Amos 03-04	Turn to God
3) 18 Sept	Amos 05-07	Seek God
4) 25 Sept	Amos 08-09	Hope in God
5) 02 Oct	Jonah 01-02	No Escape
6) 09 Oct	Jonah 03-04	No Compassion
7) 16 Oct	Hosea 01-03	The Unfaithful Bride
8) 23 Oct	Hosea 04-07	The Hollow Promises
9) 30 Oct	Hosea 08-12	The Sin Harvested
10) 06 Nov	Hosea 13-14	The Restoration Promised
11) 13 Nov	Micah 01-03	Leaders Needed
12) 20 Nov	Micah 04-06	Humble Beginnings
13) 27 Nov	Micah 07	Hope Found

INTRODUCTION

- Amos shares his last 2 visions with us:
 - Vision #4) The basket of summer fruit; and
 - Vision #5) the Lord standing by the altar;
 - ...and he ends on a very positive note with Israel being restored to an Edenic Promised Land. But first, the Exile must happen

Passage	Comments
Amos 8:1-14	<p>Vision of Basket of Summer Fruit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v2. The basket of ripe fruit conveyed the season was over, the time was up – “I will spare them no more” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> But isn't God's patience endless? His patience is long (100's of years), but not endless “I will no longer have pity on them”Zech 11:6 The wicked never learn righteousness ... Isaiah 26:10 “Today is the day of salvation”2Cor 6:2 vv3-5. Many will die for the immoral greed of the few <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The poor seemed to be punished twice. The rich oppressed them, & when God punished the rich with foreign conquest, the poor were collateral damage vv11-12. A new type of famine in the land – a hunger for God's Word – but it was too late to repent & find it
9:1-6	<p>Vision of Horror – The Lord Standing by the Altar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v1. The Lord is standing by the Altar. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually, it is a priest who stands by the altar ready to sacrifice; Now, it is the Lord who is ready to sacrifice something; and that something is Israel vv2-4a. Israel may try to hide in Heaven or Hell; at the bottom of the sea or top of a mountain; or even in the clutches of a captor, God will find them and slay them v4b. “I will sit My eyes against them for evil and not for good” – God becomes Israel's worst enemy vv5-6. Almighty God is far above all and controls all
9:7-10	<p>Message of Judgment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v8. “I will destroy Israel – BUT I will not totally destroy them.” – Paradox: Two statements that are both true and yet appear contradictory. This situation is an impossibility with people and yet possible for God The Jews suffered 2 major dispersions: 1) under the Babylonians, but they were partially restored during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah; and 2) under the Romans The Philistines, Babylonians, and Edomites would all eventually cease to exist as distinct people groups By the time the Romans conquered Israel, Edomites were called Idumeans. Herod the Great was an Idumite After the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. the Idumeans (Edomites) disappeared from history v9. The Diaspora (exile) of the Jews was a judgment on them, and, yet, it was also a means for their survival

Passage	Comments
9:11-15	<p>Message of Hope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv11-12. Israel will be restored “in that day...” and they will possess Gentile nations – Probably the Millennial v13. “Behold, days are coming...” – The land will be like the Garden of Eden – Probably the Millennial
Amos 9:12 and Acts 15:17	<p>Amos 9:12 seems to be misquoted in Acts 15:17, but the quote was taken from the Greek LXX (Septuagint), which provided a dynamic (or conceptual) translation and not a literal (or word for word) translation from the Hebrew</p>
Formal Translations (more literal, word for word)	Dynamic Translations (less literal, more conceptual)
Versions: KJV, NKJB, NASB	Versions: ESV, HCSB, NIV
e.g., It's raining cats & dogs	e.g., It's raining very hard
Literal from Hebrew Text: “That they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by My name”	Dynamic from LXX (Septuagint): “That the remnant of men may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who bear my name”
Through guidance of the Holy Spirit, Luke recorded James the Elder quoting Amos 9:12 from the Greek LXX (a dynamic rendering), which conveys that the Gospel is available to all Gentiles. The dynamic rendering, in this case, provides better clarity of the author's intended meaning than a more literal translation does.	

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Our modern world should compare their state of affairs with what is seen in Hosea and Amos – but they won't, because there is a famine in the land – not a lack of food, but a lack of interest in God
- We can only expect our world to continue spiraling out of control until such time it culminates in the return of Christ
- We Christians have a long and hard task ahead of us, as our nation and our world morally spirals out of control. We are to stay true to God's word and to continue proclaiming the Gospel to all until such time we are removed or raptured away

NEXT WEEK: Jonah 1-2. We are presented with a story of a man swallowed by a sea creature who lived after surviving 3 days in its belly. What are the spiritual and historical merits of this story, and how do we convince skeptics of its truthfulness?



Sometimes we forget to spiritually think things through:

- ★My kids won't remember my bad temper or my bad words;
- ★There's nothing wrong with having some little sins in life;
- ★I'll consider accepting Christ after I have some fun first