

Amos 7-9

Good evening, Church...

Tonight, we will finish the writings of the prophet Amos as we continue through the Old Testament.

We will be in Chapters 7-9...

Before we get into it, I have some announcements.

Men, tomorrow night at 6:30, the men's Bible Study will resume.

Please come out for that study; they will be gathering in the Children's Ministry.

This Friday, our Homeschool Fellowship will meet at 9:30 am for fellowship.

Please consider coming out if you are a homeschool family looking to connect with other homeschool families here in the Body.

Ladies, you have an event on January 17th. The cost is \$12.

We have Hallie Martinez coming to share the Word with you all that morning.

She served as a missionary in South America for years and is now serving at Calvary Chapel Golden Springs.

A continental breakfast will be served.

The event starts at 10 am. Please come on out, allow the Lord to speak to you that morning, and, if you can, bring someone to hear the Word and meet with Jesus.

The last event I want to mention is the Marriage Dinner...

It will be on February 13th, and we have Pastor John Milhouse coming up from Calvary Chapel Moreno Valley to share.

He has been a friend for a long time, and I am looking forward to this evening.

It is imperative that we invest in our marriages, and you have an opportunity to do so on Friday Night, February 13th, at 6 pm.

You can find sign-ups for all of these events online, in our app, at the back of the sanctuary, or by coming into the office or calling, and one of the young ladies can help you get signed up.

So, let's pray, and we will get into the Word this evening.

I read a story this week about a small-town bridge that had stood for generations.

Everyone trusted it.

The kids would jump off it into the river during the summer heat waves.

The farmers would drive their heavy equipment across the bridge without hesitation.

The bridge always held, and no one questioned it.

But one day, a county inspector arrived without warning.

He turned his yellow hazard lights on, got out with his hard hat on, clipboard in hand, and started taking measurements, looking up close at the bridge.

He looked at the rust building on the bolts, the angles of the old steel. Using his level, he could see clearly that the bridge had shifted over the years, not much, but enough to see that things were off.

A prominent farmer saw the man there and realized what might happen to his shortcut to town, and he called city officials, who helped amplify the protests.

“The bridge is fine.”

“We have used it for years.”

“The inspector said, “I am not here because of what something has done for years, or even if it looks fine or strong. I am here to see the truth.”

The truth was that the bridge could not be trusted, and the inspector closed it.

The town officials told him he was overreacting, “If there were a real problem here, the bridge would have already come down.”

He replied, “That is not how failure works. Collapse does not come first. Drift does, and this bridge was drifting.”

The people were angry; traffic was disrupted, and businesses complained. A few months later, during a heavy storm, another nearby bridge that had not been inspected collapsed into the river.

The inspector was not cruel at all; he had actually been merciful to the townspeople.

Well, as we get into Amos 7-9 tonight, God will show up, not as a comforter, but as an inspector.

He will not come to admire Israel's worship, but to measure it.

He is not there to debate opinions, but to hold up a plumb line.

God's people will think they are fine, "We are standing. The place of worship is full. The sacrifices continue. All seems well."

God will reply, "Because you are standing, it does not mean you are standing straight."

Amos is not sent here because Israel is failing publicly, but because they are drifting spiritually.

Justice is crooked. Worship is hollow. Leaders are secure, while the poor are forsaken.

And like that, the bridge collapse is coming, not because God is impatient, but because the structure is unsound.

Yet, in these chapters, we will see more than judgment.

There will be intercession.

There will be restraint.

And we will see restoration.

God tears down so He can rebuild it right.

Look at verse 1 with me...

Vision of the Locusts

7:1 Thus the Lord GOD SHOWED me: Behold, He formed locust swarms at the beginning of the late crop; indeed *it was* the late crop after the king's mowings.

Now, this is important to remember about ancient times in Israel...

There were two harvest seasons, one in the spring and one in the fall.

The first fruits of the harvest were offered to God, and then the second portion was paid as a tax to the royal family; the prophet here calls it the “king’s mowings.”

The earlier harvest had the least amount for the people to keep for themselves.

That meant they depended heavily on the fall harvest, which we see here threatened by this plague.

God is sending this swarm of locusts, which can really do the same damage as a fire...

Look at verse 2...

2 And so it was, when they had finished eating the grass of the land, that I said:

"O Lord GOD, forgive, I pray!

Oh, that Jacob may stand,

For he *is* small!"

3 So the LORD relented concerning this.

"It shall not be," said the LORD.

Here, the prophet saw the judgment, the plague of locusts, and he cries out in desperation, "Jacob is so small, who will help, Lord, forgive, I pray."

And from this place of humility and intercession...

The Lord heard Amos's prayer...

Jesus said in

Matt 5:3-8

3 "Blessed *are* the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed *are* those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed *are* the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
For they shall be filled.

7 Blessed *are* the merciful,
For they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed *are* the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.

Amos comes from this Blessed low place, and God
hears...

The first vision here offers a hopeful message.

Verse 4 now goes into the second vision...

Vision of the Fire

4 Thus the Lord GOD SHOWED me: Behold, the Lord GOD called for conflict by fire, and it consumed the great deep and devoured the territory. **5** Then I said:

"O Lord God, cease, I pray!

Oh, that Jacob may stand,
For he *is* small!"

6 So the LORD relented concerning this.

"This also shall not be," said the Lord GOD.

Due to the severe drought, brush fires have consumed the mountains of northern Israel, burning thousands of acres.

It is similar to what we see in our dry summer months in the mountains surrounding our desert.

We often have this smoky haze overtake the whole High Desert, sometimes for a week or more.

The fires that Amos is seeing here are so great and powerful that they are consuming the great deep, probably the Mediterranean Sea, and not even able to help with the flames.

And again, we see the humble prophet intercede for God's rebellious people.

The incredible reality is that what the giant sea could not do to the flames, this humble prophet's prayers did, and the flames were extinguished.

Once again, as we did Sunday, we see the power of prayer... so often it is used as a last resort, after all our own planning and thinking are exhausted...

Prayer should be a first resort....

So often we jump to fixing things, but the greatest fix is not jumping at all, but dropping to our knees.

Never underestimate the power of prayer, Church.

Israel deserved the flames of judgment here; God had planned it so, yet because one man interceded, the Lord withheld it all for a time.

The people of Israel should have been grateful.

This extended mercy should have prompted repentance to sweep through the Land, but they ignored God's loving kindness and continued to spurn His love and grace.

Verse 7 now...

Vision of the Plumb Line

7 Thus He showed me: Behold, the Lord stood on a wall *made* with a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand. **8** And the LORD SAID to me, "Amos, what do you see?"

And I said, "A plumb line."

Then the Lord said:

"Behold, I am setting a plumb line
In the midst of My people Israel;
I will not pass by them anymore.

9 The high places of Isaac shall be desolate,
And the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste.
I will rise with the sword against the house of
Jeroboam."

Here we see a simple carpenter's tool used, also an ancient level, called a plumb line.

We used these on the job site to get a very long level line; they were strings with a weighted end.

You could drop it against a wall, and it would tell you whether the wall was crooked or level.

Here God is using a plumb line to determine whether the Jews were spiritually and morally level.

I really relate to Amos; I am so much like this man. I have to read other guys to get spiritual application, usually.

God asks him what he sees, and he says, "A plumb line."

He does not see the immediate spiritual connection here.

"It is a plumb line, Lord."

When I go through the Word, I am as literal as they come... sometimes that is to my benefit; other times, I wish I could see things as other people do.

When we go through the Book of Revelation, you will understand what I am saying more.

I believe the easiest way to understand that Book is the literal approach... what do you see, a plumb line.

But if God illuminates more for us, in His Word, then and only then do we go with it further.

So many people go off into undisciplined rabbit trails regarding the interpretation of God's Word...

I am an Amos through and through... I am literal, until the Lord shows me clearly in His Word what He is trying to say metaphorically or symbolically with a picture.

Here, after the first two judgments, God relented; at the third, God refused to remove His plumb line.

Israel was out of plumb with the will of God, and it is never okay to leave something crooked.

That used to be one of my biggest pet peeves: when my crew would not plumb the walls correctly. In fact, I never trusted them fully with it; I had to be the guy...

I realized this down in Mexico on our last trip. When we built the house, it was still a problem for me: I needed to be the guy holding the level. I don't trust anyone else to keep the bubble in the middle; things need to be straight.

And the nation of Israel had gotten so far out of plumb with God's Covenants and Law, that she was dangerously drifting...

She was past the point of being straightened out or being jolted back into place.

It is essential today that we make sure we keep a level in our spiritual life, so that we don't drift or get out of plumb.

Of course, God takes us just as we are, but he never wants to leave us crooked or leaning.

He wants to straighten out our lives and fix all that sin has ruined.

Jesus is that plumb line in our lives.

He is that standard of holiness... His Word is the standard of wisdom.

As Christians, we are to model our lives like Him...

We are to hold our lives up to His standard.

On Christmas Day, I got some terrible news, and it angered me. Someone was doing some horrible things, hurting people I loved, and apparently, I whispered out loud what my heart was saying, "I wish God would let me beat that guy up for Christmas."

Jess was behind me, I did not know she was there, she is like a ninja, and she clears her throat, and turns my attention to the stinking worship I had

playing at the time, and it was Pastor Josh and Jacob from their Exalt Album playing, and the song going was, “I want to be like You, Jesus.”

I was so embarrassed, then conviction set in... then I texted the boys, and asked, “Why don’t you guys ever write worship songs about Sampson killing Philistines with the Jawbone of the Donkey?”

Anyway, I am not called to mimic my life after Sampson, but Jesus... He is the plumb line...

Our goal in life is to resolve the divergence between who I am and who Jesus is... and it is not always easy.

And if I am not subject to correction... if I am resistant to change... and continue to lean further and further out of plumb – then it can be hazardous to my walk.

And I can tear apart my life, and be a bad witness...

This is what is happening here to Israel.

Look now at verse 10...

Amaziah's Complaint

10 Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words.

Here is the only place we get some insight into the kind of response Amos received from the people about his visions and judgments.

This man, who ministered on behalf of God, prayed for the people and pleaded for God's mercy, but was rejected by them.

I don't believe people understand sometimes the cost of ministry... they see the celebrity pastor in today's culture, and they approach ministry with thin skin...

But the Biblical record never shows millions of likes or views promised to anyone who heralded truth.

It does promise opposition, persecution, and false accusation.

Notice, even the clergy of the day, Amaziah the priest, joins in the opposition...

It is strange throughout Church history that when Revival comes or times of Renewal do, it is often the old guard that stands vehemently against it all...

They are uncomfortable with the change; the new movements are threatening their vested interests.

We see this here with Amaziah, the priest in Bethel.

His livelihood and legacy were all tied to the false religion that he promoted.

He could not embrace the truth Amos was tied to; the cost would be too great for all that he had built.

It is the same reason the false pastors do not repent today, the false teachers, because their reputation, the wealth, and all the influence they have garnered is too much, and to trade it all to trust God, well, that is something they won't do.

Verse 11 now...

11 For thus Amos has said:

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,

And Israel shall surely be led away captive

From their own land.'"

12 Then Amaziah said to Amos:

"Go, you seer!

Flee to the land of Judah.

There eat bread,

And there prophesy.

13 But never again prophesy at Bethel,

For it *is* the king's sanctuary,

And it *is* the royal residence."

14 Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah:

"I *was* no prophet,

Nor *was* I a son of a prophet,

But I *was* a sheepbreeder

And a tender of sycamore fruit.

Interesting: in verse 11, we see Amaziah putting words in Amos's mouth.

Saying that the prophet had gone against the king.

But Amos was a man inspired by God, and it really shows how out of plumb Amaziah and the entire religious establishment were.

They were trying to silence this man of God, who was speaking to them the Word of God.

Amos is being run out of town...

He is told to go back to Judah and eat bread there.

What a terrible thing, to be doing ministry, to be loving the people you are doing ministry with so much, you are interceding on their behalf, and the people you are ministering to are telling you, “Why don’t you go back to where you came from?”

Let them give you your paycheck again, go back to Judah.

Amos reminds them that he is no religious hireling at all.

He had a ranch that raised both cows and sheep; he grew figs... he was a blue-collar man.

He had callouses...

Because God was using his life, you wanted him to leave... to get out of the way of your comfortable religion... this simpleton threatened your legacy, this man with no education might ruin all that you built for yourself?

Amos reminds them that he never chose this life; he did not want it as a profession, but God called him to it...

He is there because he loves God and loves God's people.

Amos is not pretending to be a professional; he is admittedly an amateur... and was not there for the bread he earned.

Man, we need more Amos's today...

Men and women, who have counted up the cost, and those who would speak truth without fear of what will happen to them, their attendance, offerings, or followings.

People who will serve the Lord not for what they get out of it, but because they love Him, and they love the people He loves.

Look at verse 15...

15 Then the LORD TOOK me as I followed the flock,
And the LORD SAID to me,
'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.'

16 Now therefore, hear the word of the LORD:
You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel,
And do not spout against the house of Isaac.'

17 "Therefore thus says the LORD :

'Your wife shall be a harlot in the city;
Your sons and daughters shall fall by the sword;
Your land shall be divided by *survey* line;
You shall die in a defiled land;
And Israel shall surely be led away captive
From his own land.'

The Lord told Amos to go and prophesy to Israel...
but Amaziah said, "Do not spout," or, in Hebrew,
"drip."

Amaziah is trying to turn off what the Lord has
turned on for Israel.

Then Amos pronounces a terrible judgment upon the
priest and his family.

God will not be mocked.

Look now at verse 1 of Chapter 8...

Vision of the Summer Fruit

8:1 Thus the Lord GOD showed me: Behold, a basket
of summer fruit. **2** And He said, "Amos, what do you
see?"

So I said, "A basket of summer fruit."

Then the LORD said to me:

"The end has come upon My people Israel;
I will not pass by them anymore.

3 And the songs of the temple
Shall be wailing in that day,"
Says the Lord GOD —

"Many dead bodies everywhere,
They shall be thrown out in silence."

4 Hear this, you who swallow up the needy,
And make the poor of the land fail,

5 Saying:

"When will the New Moon be past,

That we may sell grain?

And the Sabbath,

That we may trade wheat?

Making the ephah small and the shekel large,

Falsifying the scales by deceit,

In this vision, the prophet is given a glimpse of a
basket of summer fruit... ripe fruit.

The meaning is clear: Israel is ripe for judgment.

God clearly says time is up; the day is coming for the
northern kingdom when the funeral songs will ring
out.

Amos brings to light the people's greed.

They did not rest and enjoy the Sabbath, which was a gift from the Lord...

Instead, they were anxiously waiting for it to end so they could get back to business and make more money.

They used false scales, cheating people out of more money anyway they could.

He continues on verse 6...

6 That we may buy the poor for silver,
And the needy for a pair of sandals —
Even sell the bad wheat?"

7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
"Surely I will never forget any of their works.

8 Shall the land not tremble for this,
And everyone mourn who dwells in it?
All of it shall swell like the River,
Heave and subside
Like the River of Egypt.

9 "And it shall come to pass in that day," says the
Lord GOD ,

"That I will make the sun go down at noon,
And I will darken the earth in broad daylight;
10 I will turn your feasts into mourning,
And all your songs into lamentation;
I will bring sackcloth on every waist,
And baldness on every head;
I will make it like mourning for an only *son*,
And its end like a bitter day.

We see businesses deliberately taking advantage of the poor and oppressed.

The rich in Israel had made this system ensure that no one could rise out of poverty, and that there would forever be a lower class and an upper class.

They were exploiting the poor.

It really is an incredible statement to consider in verse 7: God swears never to forget their works or their sins.

Today, we are promised through the blood of Jesus to be thoroughly cleansed... and here God says He will never forget their sins...

It should make us appreciate this New Covenant and the blessings we have in Christ.

We see cataclysmic judgments are promised to the nation for their treachery against God's Holy Law.

Verse 11...

11 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God,
"That I will send a famine on the land,
Not a famine of bread,
Nor a thirst for water,
But of hearing the words of the LORD.

12 They shall wander from sea to sea,
And from north to east;
They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the
LORD,
But shall not find *it*.

13 "In that day the fair virgins
And strong young men
Shall faint from thirst.

14 Those who swear by the sin of Samaria,
Who say,
'As your god lives, O Dan!'
And, 'As the way of Beersheba lives!'
They shall fall and never rise again."

Now, the worst of all judgments is perhaps famine, starving to death, having to watch your loved ones starve to death, slowly and painfully.

Here God sends a famine, perhaps even worse than a lack of food and water, but of hearing the Word of God.

Now, the problem was not having the Word of God, but hearing the Word.

Most of us have two or more Bibles in our homes. You can download any translation right now on your phone.

We can flip on the radio in our vehicles and find Bible teaching, go online, and find a podcast; we have an abundance of the Word today.

But like Israel of old, the problem is not having it for us, but hearing it.

We have the answers to life right at our fingertips, but so often we go searching elsewhere.

So many people demand that God speak to them... they want Him to part the clouds, to do something dramatic, to talk in their dreams...

But He is not silent; He is always speaking. You need to go to His Word.

We need to be listening too...

We can't just read a few obligatory Bible verses from time to time, or listen in on a sermon once a month, and say, "Well, God never speaks to me."

He will, you need to be digging in, and doing so with an open heart... and if you do not, like Israel here...

He will, over time, dull our ability to hear or even take the opportunity from us altogether.

Like anything else in our walk with the Lord, if we choose not to want to hear His Word, He will eventually honor our desire not to listen.

He will eventually even remove the opportunity.

Amos sadly saw the Israelites dying, wandering, and thirsty from spiritual malnourishment.

I wonder how our society's condition is seen today.

With a lack of spiritual meat...

People listen to whatever makes them feel so good.

I heard a teaching today... from a young man in a full church... talking about a pastor who hurt him... and he had a vision of Jesus picking him up off the ground and asking him to forgive him... and it was so touching... Jesus, as the Head of the Body... taking blame for this pastor who hurt this poor younger pastor's feelings.¹

The only problem with it all is that it is blasphemous... and unbiblical... nowhere in the Bible do we see anything remotely close to Jesus ever asking us for forgiveness, being a perfect, spotless Savior...

But the emotive feelings that lead the society we live in permit it, drive it all, and we allow it, because you know what, one time a pastor hurt my feelings, and that was terrible. We allow our experience to become the standard of truth instead of the Word of God.

And there may be a time where God says to us, "They shall wander from sea to sea, from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, but shall not find it."

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPOl3B4wgtc>

I am told, and I don't know this, because this is the only Church I go to, but when visitors come in and spend a Sunday or Wednesday night with us...

I am told, "No one does this anymore."

I say what? "Goes through God's Word, teaches the whole counsel of God's Word."

I tell them, "Well, I am not clever enough to do anything else." A plumb line is a plumb line to me.

God called me to teach His Word... this is what He clearly asked me to do... so this is what we will do...

I don't know anything about what other people are doing.

But apparently there is a famine in the Land...

But when the Bible is not taught, we can have visions of Jesus, and make Him into whoever we want Him to be, even a God who apologizes to us...

What in the world is happening out there?

Let's finish out with Chapter 9...

Verse 1...

The Destruction of Israel

9:1 I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and He said:

"Strike the doorposts, that the thresholds may shake,

And break them on the heads of them all.

I will slay the last of them with the sword.

He who flees from them shall not get away,

And he who escapes from them shall not be delivered.

2 "Though they dig into hell,

From there My hand shall take them;

Though they climb up to heaven,

From there I will bring them down;

3 And though they hide themselves on top of Carmel,

From there I will search and take them;

Though they hide from My sight at the bottom of the sea,

From there I will command the serpent, and it shall bite them;

4 Though they go into captivity before their enemies,

From there I will command the sword,

And it shall slay them.

I will set My eyes on them for harm and not for good."

Understand now, the altar was at the very center of the national life of God's people.

The offerings and the sacrifices were brought there for worship.

All of their worship was supposed to be centered at the Temple and that altar.

Yet in the northern kingdom, they had set up a false system, with their own altars, with idols.

And God would not put up with it any longer... judgment was coming.

There was nowhere they could go from His Wrath and Presence.

The Psalmist declared this reality positively...

Ps 139:7-8 Where can I go from Your Spirit?

Or where can I flee from Your presence?

8 If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there;

If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

But this reality is not always positive...

Amos uses it as a severe warning.

The sinner will not be able to outrun God.

No one can hide from His All-Seeing Eyes...

It may seem like the wicked are getting away with it...

You might feel like you are getting away with it...

Don't ever mistake God's patience for blindness...

God will pursue us; some He will chase to help, but if we keep resisting His Grace and Love, there will come a day when He will catch up to us in judgment.

The pain of that day will be unforgettable.

Look at verse 5...

5 The Lord GOD of hosts,

He who touches the earth and it melts,

And all who dwell there mourn;

All of it shall swell like the River,

And subside like the River of Egypt.

6 He who builds His layers in the sky,

And has founded His strata in the earth;

Who calls for the waters of the sea,

And pours them out on the face of the earth —

The LORD *is* His name.

7 "Are you not like the people of Ethiopia to Me,

O children of Israel?" says the LORD .

"Did I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt,
The Philistines from Caphtor,
And the Syrians from Kir?

8 "Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD *are* on the sinful
kingdom,

And I will destroy it from the face of the earth;
Yet I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob,"
Says the LORD .

9 "For surely I will command,
And will sift the house of Israel among all nations,
As *grain* is sifted in a sieve;
Yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground.

10 All the sinners of My people shall die by the
sword,
Who say, 'The calamity shall not overtake nor
confront us.'

The prophet uses a few analogies here.

He says the land will sink and rise like the water level
in Egypt's Nile River.

Amos points to God's handiwork in the stratosphere
and the overpowering waters in the sea that obey His
commands.

And then compares Him to the Hebrews, who were brought up out of slavery by that same Mighty Hand... They thought they were immune to His judgments, but God also brought the other nations out from their own bondage...

And then God calls Israel a sinful kingdom.

God promises a sifting of that nation, and after the fall of Samaria in 722 BC, Israel was scattered, and for the last 2000 years, they have been sifted.

Yet, in the closing verses, we will see promises that one day Israel will be restored.

We actually live in privileged times.

Scholars had trouble piecing together the prophetic timeline for centuries because the Jews were scattered.

Now they have a homeland... which is only a piece of the puzzle...

They are still, for the most part, godless and Christless.

They rejected their Savior, and they have paid severely historically for this, Jesus Himself casting Woe and Judgment upon them and their Temple.

But prophetically, there will be another time period, Daniel's last week, God will once again turn His attention to the Jewish people, and their eyes will be open to Jesus, their Savior.

Until then, we pray, we evangelize, and hope that God will work among the Jews, in every age, because He will have a remnant, but it is now the Church Age... until the Rapture of the Bride...

Let's finish out Amos here...

Verse 11...

Israel Will Be Restored

(cf. Acts 15:16,17)

11 "On that day I will raise up

The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down,

And repair its damages;

I will raise up its ruins,

And rebuild it as in the days of old;

This very well could be a reference to the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem...

And as some of us will see in a couple of weeks when we are there, the construction of some of the implements has already been completed.

This could also be a reference to the Davidic Dynasty, and the promise that he would never lack a son to sit on the throne.

Jesus is the rightful heir, and when He comes to establish His Kingdom here on earth, He will sit on that throne.

Look at verse 12...

12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom,
And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,"
Says the LORD who does this thing.

13 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD ,
"When the plowman shall overtake the reaper,
And the treader of grapes him who sows seed;
The mountains shall drip with sweet wine,
And all the hills shall flow *with it*.

When Jesus returns, His Kingdom will be centered in Jerusalem.

And the promises here that in those days, the harvest will be so plentiful that by the time it is finished being gathered, it will be time for sowing again.

The mountains here, dripping with sweet wine, the hills flowing, are speaking to a time of great prosperity.

Verse 14...

14 I will bring back the captives of My people Israel;
They shall build the waste cities and inhabit *them*;
They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them;
They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.

15 I will plant them in their land,
And no longer shall they be pulled up
From the land I have given them,"
Says the LORD your God.

When Jesus returns, we see a final regathering of the Jews who have been scattered.

No longer will their hearts be far from God, and when the Jews are for Jesus, and their God, the Land will prosper like it was meant to.

God will plant them in the land...

After Assyria and Babylon displaced the Jews, they returned for a time and occupied the land again for another 600 years, until they rejected Jesus and hung Him on the Cross.

Jesus would have gathered them to Himself as a mother hen gathers her chicks, but they would not come.

He wept... Jesus knew what their rejection meant...

The disciples marveled at the giant stones at the Temple...

Jesus told them, not one of them would be left upon another.

In AD 70, the Jews had pestered Rome to the max. The Roman General Titus came into the Holy City, and as Jesus foretold, broke down the sacred Temple, and his troops, with a Satanic fury, killed and massacred men, women, children, pregnant women, elderly...

It was a terrible scene...

To this day, the Jews have not had another Temple, and the Bible speaks to this...

There will not be another until the one that is seen in the Last Days prophecies...

And because we are seeing zealous Jews readying themselves for this next Temple...

That tells us one very important thing, Church: time is short...

We need to have an urgency about reaching people for Jesus... not just an excitement about getting out of here... but a discontentment about who might get left behind...

Let's get them Church... May we be filled and be willing to Go... and be used in these final days... fight the urge to think of self... but look to reach them...

To get busy about our Lord's Business until He returns.
Amen?

Let's Pray...