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*God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.*

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## Amos 9.

(2014)

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The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

***Teach it, don't demand it.***

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## Amos 9.

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### Topics.

- God's judgment on Israel.
- God used Assyria and Babylon to fulfil Amos prophetic words.
- The LORD will not utterly destroy Israel.
- The LORD will shake Israel with a sieve, but no pebble shall fall to the earth.
- Jerusalem will be rebuilt.
- Egypt my people, Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance.
- Israel will be established in their land forever (an echo of a future age).
- The commonwealth of Israel.

**NOTE:** for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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### God's Judgment on Israel.

Amos 9:1 ----- <sup>1</sup>I (Amos) saw the LORD standing beside the altar, and he said: "Strike the capitals (lintel in KJV) until the thresholds (posts in KJV) shake, and shatter them on the heads of all the people; and those who are left of them I will kill with the sword; not one of them shall flee away; not one of them shall escape.

**Strike the capitals:** refers to the cities towns and villages of Israel and particularly the city of Jerusalem.

**I will kill with the sword:** means by war. Amos in his vision sees the LORD standing alongside the altar and God says to Amos, He is going to strike the nobles and those who have power and authority, then everything else will crumble. Even if people try to flee or hid there will be no escape. At this time Israel is grossly corrupt and have turned from God and made their hearts diamond hard to the word and warning of the prophets.

### God used Assyria and Babylon to fulfil Amos Prophetic Words.

The LORD uses secular nations, kings, and people to achieve His plans and purposes, sometimes to bless and other times to bring judgment. He used Assyria to bring judgment on Israel in the land of Samaria (the ten tribes of Israel) and Babylon to bring judgment on Judah at Jerusalem (the two tribes of Israel).

Many times God through the prophets warned Judah and Israel of their impending doom but they would not listen. Assyria eventually invaded the land of Samaria and took Israel captive, later Babylon's armies surrounded Jerusalem and after a bitter siege of a year and a half the city fell to Nebuchadnezzar and was destroyed. Zedekiah was blinded and carried to Babylon, and the great bulk of the population was taken there with him (587 B.C.).

Archaeologists have found that all of the cities of Judah were completely destroyed at this time, thus ended the glorious kingdom of David and Solomon. Observers would have said that the Hebrew nation was annihilated, and indeed, the other nations conquered by the Assyrians and Babylonians did cease to exist. But the prophets proclaimed a better hope for the chosen people. "A remnant shall return" Isaiah had said, and in time this remnant, purged and returned, became the basis on which a new Israel would be built.

## God's Judgment on Israel continued.

Amos 9:2-4 ----- <sup>2</sup>"If they dig into Sheol (the grave), from there shall my hand take them; if they climb up to heaven, from there I will bring them down. <sup>3</sup>If they hide themselves on the top of Carmel, from there I will search them out and take them; and if they hide from my sight at the bottom of the sea, there I will command the serpent, and it shall bite them. <sup>4</sup>And if they go into captivity before their enemies, there I will command the sword, and it shall kill them; and I will fix my eyes upon them for evil and not for good."

**Mount Carmel:** is often used as an illustration of a beautiful and fruitful place, but is also used to picture God's Judgment. God says, "He will fix His eyes on Israel to bring harm and not to bless." Israel has constantly been like a rebellious and wicked child, showing no respect to his or her parents and refusing to listen to their good counsel, eventually the parent is forced to discipline the child this has been the way of God's children before the LORD.

## God's Tremendous Power.

Amos 9:5-6 ----- <sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD of hosts, he who touches the earth and it melts, and all who dwell in it mourn, and all of it rises like the Nile, and sinks again, like the Nile of Egypt; <sup>6</sup>who builds his (God's) upper chambers in the heavens and founds his vault upon the earth; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth—the LORD is his name.

The words, "He who touches the earth and it melts" (v5) can refer to the literal earth and parts of it or to nations and governments or to people with great power and influence and the people of the earth being brought to ruin. The LORD may use natural disasters or nations to bring these judgments about.

**The Nile River:** is the longest in the world it covers some four-thousand miles from its sources in equatorial Africa to its divided mouth which open into the Mediterranean. During the annual rain season its waters would rise, overflow its banks and later recede, The LORD says, such will be the people of Israel.

## The LORD will not Utterly Destroy Israel.

Amos 9:7-6 ----- <sup>7</sup>"Are you not like the Cushites to me, O people of Israel?" declares the LORD. "Did I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt, and the Philistines from Caphtor and the Syrians from Kir? <sup>8</sup>Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the surface of the ground, except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob," declares the LORD.

**Cushites:** Nimrod is likewise said to be the son of Cush, but the word son probably means descendant, the site is probably in SE Babylon or Chaldea.

**Egypt:** Egypt appears in the Bible as a type of the ephemeral (short lasting), earthbound system called the world. Egypt's religion may be described as a complex polytheism, with many local deities of varying importance (i.e. Orisis and Isis and their son Horus a sun god).

**Philistines:** the Philistines worshiped the Semitic gods Dagon, Astarte and Baalzebub and were a major contender against the Hebrews for possession of Palestine. (Today they are called Palestinians).

**Caphtor:** is the place from which the Philistines originally came.

**Syria (Syrians);** is an abbreviation of Assyria, today it is called Iraq.

**Kir:** a place where the Assyrians took the captives of Damascus.

The LORD is telling Israel they are just like the Cushites who established Babylon and worshipped multitudes of God's. God reminds Israel that he brought them out of Egypt, Philistia, Caphtor, Syria and Kir all nations who worship idols and pagan gods, but they have become just like them.

**The sinful Kingdom:** (v8) refers to Israel they have become so corrupt that God has no choice, but to destroy them. This is the fulfilment of the Covenant Israel entered into with the LORD at Mount Sinai. God not only promised to abundantly bless their land and everything they put their hand to, but also promised to keep them in good health and make them the head and not the tail of all nations providing they remained faithful and obeyed His commands. The Covenant included punishments (called curses in Deut. 28) for turning from the LORD to other gods and for gross wickedness. The armies of Babylon are about to bring this punishment upon the land and people of Israel especially the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

**I will destroy it from the surface of the ground:** means God will not destroy the roots some will survive to rise again. These foreboding words of Amos were fulfilled through Assyria and Babylon. Babylon invaded Jerusalem and took its inhabitants (Judah) into captivity later Babylon conquered Assyria who had previously taken Israel (in the land of Samaria) captive. Israel and Judah were under Babylonian rule for seventy years. They went into captivity to Babylon as two rebellious nations who had turned from God to idols and who were even sacrificing their own children to pagan gods.

While in captivity God moulded them like a master potter moulds a beautiful clay jar. They went into Babylon as two unfaithful nations that had turned away from the LORD to idols and other gods. Seventy years later, Cyrus (King of Persia) who the LORD called His Shepherd (Isaiah 44:28) gave permission to Israel to return to Jerusalem. Under Ezra and Nehemiah God brought Israel back to their beloved City Jerusalem as one nation faithful to only one God, the LORD their God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob (Israel never turned to pagan gods again).

#### **The LORD will Shake Israel with a Sieve, but no Pebble shall Fall to the Earth.**

Amos 9:9-10 ----- <sup>9</sup>"For behold, I (the LORD) will command, and shake the house of Israel among all the nations as one shakes with a sieve, but no pebble shall fall to the earth. <sup>10</sup>All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, who say, 'Disaster shall not overtake or meet us.'

The people of Israel are so rebellious they do not believe the words of the prophets God has continually sent to warn them of impending doom if they do not repent. Sadly they continue in their gross sin and corrupt ways refusing to believe anything bad is going to come upon them.

This is an amazing prophecy the words, "I will command, and shake the house of Israel as one shakes with a sieve," is exactly what happened. The armies of God's servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon laid everything in the land of Israel wasted, destroyed the city of Jerusalem and the temple of God and not only took all the treasures and sacred vessels of the temple back to Babylon, but also took all the people of Israel into captivity for seventy-years.

A certain few Jews at Jerusalem "Did believe that this looming disaster that Amos is prophesying would not come upon them, they were slaughtered by the armies of Babylon. Anyone doubting the Christian faith should spend some time studying the prophecies that have been fulfilled; it is amazing how exactly the prophetic messages of the Old Testament prophets came to pass.

#### **Jerusalem will be Rebuilt.**

Amos 9:11-12 ----- <sup>11</sup>"In that day (the day the LORD shakes the house of Israel) (v9) I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old, <sup>12</sup>that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name," declares the LORD who does this.

The words, "In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old" refer to the entire seventy-years captivity, it is spoken of as one day, because it is one complete period of time that served one purpose. Israel went into Babylonian captivity as two rebellious nations (Judah and Israel) who had turned away from the LORD their God.

During that seventy-years God the Master Potter moulded them into one nation, of one faith longing to return to their beloved city Jerusalem and rebuild the temple to worship the LORD their God as one united nation (Israel never again worshipped pagan gods, sadly they did not recognise their Messiah when he came, but even that is in the eternal sovereign design of God and a glorious day of great Jewish sorrow and repentance is coming when they will recognise the Saviour and King whom they pierced on the bloodstained cross of Calvary.

The LORD through the prophet Zechariah said: -

- I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great each family shall mourn, the priests shall mourn and all the families of Israel shall mourn (Zech. 12:10-14).

**God's perspective of mortal death and eternal life:** the fierce armies of Babylon killed many Israelites yet the LORD says in this prophecy that though He will shake Israel with a sieve, no pebble shall fall to the earth" so what does this mean some may wonder? The answer to this question is glorious since it is shine a brilliant spotlight on God's attitude to mortal death. The words, "No pebble shall fall to the earth" means it matters not how lowly a person may be if they are faithful to the Lord God will raise them up to eternal life and everlasting glory.

**Edom:** is the father of Edom, (the people are called Edomites) the LORD promised Rebekah two Nations, later Isaac and Rebekah gave birth to Esau and Jacob his brother who became the two promised nations. Esau (Edom) land was in the land of Canaan the hill country of Seir.

### **Egypt My People, Assyria the Work of My Hands, and Israel My Inheritance.**

Isaiah 19:23-24 ----- <sup>23</sup>In that day (the day Jerusalem becomes a terror to the Egyptians) there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. <sup>24</sup>In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, <sup>25</sup>whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance."

The LORD says, "He will rebuild and raise up the ruins of David" (v11) this applies to Ezra Nehemiah and the rebuilding of Jerusalem. Judah and Israel were in captivity to Babylon for seventy-years, then Cyrus the King of Persia conquered the Babylonian Kingdom and gave written permission to the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their houses, the city and the temple of God. Ezra and Nehemiah led the Jews with tremendous joy and rejoicing back to their beloved city Jerusalem.

The words, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance," (v25) shine a spotlight on the truth that God uses nations to bring about His judgments and his eternal plans and purposes and the prophetic words, "There will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians," (v23) echo a new age to come. This glorious new age is spoken of in the notes following the next few verses.

### **Israel will Be Established in their Land Forever (an Echo of a Future Age).**

Amos 9:13-15 ----- <sup>13</sup>"Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. <sup>14</sup>I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. <sup>15</sup>I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them," says the LORD your God.

The words, "The plowman shall overtake the reaper" (v13) mean the harvest of whatever they do sow will be so abundant that they will have more than enough for every man, woman and child of Israel to see them through to the next season. God's promise that Israel will rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them clearly refers to the end of their seventy-years in captivity and with triumphant joy and rejoicing returning to their land and their beloved city Jerusalem and rebuilding it and the temple.

God's promise, "They shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them" has not been fulfilled, after Jesus death and resurrection Rome invaded the land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem and Jews for fear of persecution were scattered into Gentile nations. Now here is the brilliance of Bible prophecy many of them have a partial fulfilment for the people the prophet is speaking to, but contained in the language of the prophecy is a message for future generations and a future time.

The ultimate fulfilment of the words, "They shall never again be uprooted out of the land" (v15) refers to the Lord Jesus Christ return in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy city Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. It is during this glorious period of time that the following prophetic words of Isaiah's prophetic will be fulfilled: -

- There will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. <sup>24</sup>In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, <sup>25</sup>whom the LORD of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance" (Isaiah 19:23-25).

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

**For further information see titles: -**

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
  - The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.
- In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).
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### **The Commonwealth of Israel.**

It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew) this means that Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ (also called, a new man, a new creation, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God).

The Apostle Paul said: -

- Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—<sup>12</sup>remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). <sup>17</sup>And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). <sup>18</sup>For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone <sup>21</sup>in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit (Ephes. 2:11-22).

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

### **The practical application of what this means to you: -**

If you belong to Christ, all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to you. The book of Revelation states: -

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

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#### **FOOTNOTE.**

Eight things to notice in this prophecy of Amos.

1. There is no mention of Gog, the ten horned beast nations, the little horn, the false prophet or the false religious system known as mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations (Rev. 17:5).
2. The focus is upon God punishing Israel.
3. The enemy is God Himself administering punishment on the capitals of Israel.
4. The location is the Promised Land of Israel especially Jerusalem.
5. The time frame is prior to the Christ's millennial reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.
6. The battle victory is about God punishing sinning Israel and establishing them again in their land and in Jerusalem.
7. Israel does suffer by the hand of God and the sword meaning war (Amos in this prophecy does not say who God is using, but history shows it was Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon and his fierce armies).
8. Jesus is not involved it is God punishing Israel, but not utterly and then the prophecy focuses on God establishing Israel in their land forever.

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End