

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

July 2014

Amos

Lesson #6: Israel's Destruction

INTRODUCTION

Do you tend to face up to a problem and get it over with or put it off as long as possible?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Amos 9:1-4

Note: In this fifth and final vision (9:1–4) Amos tells us that he saw 'the Lord', rather than 'the Sovereign LORD' (as in 7:1). This different word translated 'Lord' (Adonai) indicates that God is 'the one who rules over all';²⁸ this indicates that there is now a changed relationship between God and Israel. The whole of this section shows that there would be no hope of deliverance for Israel (apart from one glimmer of hope in verse 8). Israel's doom is sealed, because they persisted in their mistaken belief that as God's chosen people they could behave as they liked.¹ The capitals were the knobs or ornaments on the pillars that supported roof of the temple.

1. Why were the people "worshipping"? What is the significance of God destroying them even there?
2. If they escaped the temple destruction, where were the people going to try to get away from God? To what end? Psalm 139:7-12

Read Amos 9:5-6

Note: This small section is actually a song of praise that shows God's power, creativity and control. To fully understand it one must know the original titles used here – The Lord (Adonai), the Lord (Yahweh) Almighty and the Lord of Hosts (controls angels and creation). The Hebrews terms of His actions are He who touches, He who builds and He who calls. It shows God's sovereignty even in the midst of judgment.

3. What is the value of understanding just how powerful and great God is?
4. What does this say about the wind-up watch theory of who God is... that God created the universe and walked away like someone winding a watch?
5. If the destructive powers of tsunamis and earthquakes are under His control, how do you respond to victims of "natural" disasters?

Read Amos 9:7-10

6. Arrogant Israel counted on their covenant relationship with God to overshadow their sins. How were they like the heathen nations?
7. What "class" of presumptuous sinners were assured of destruction? Vs 10b
8. Why does the house of Jacob (mostly the nation of Judah) get the hope of grace? Vs 8b

APPLICATION

How does this vision of God's judgment confirm, contradict or expand what you know of God? Rom 8:38-39

No one can prevent the Lord from doing all He has decided to do, whether for judgment or blessing. Since we serve a sovereign God, we should never think of ourselves as victims of our circumstances.²

¹ Bentley, M. (2006). *Opening up Amos* (p. 106). Leominster: Day One Publications.

² Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Am 9:2). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.