



RESTORE & REJOICE

Lesson 7

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DEVOTIONAL

"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, that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by My name," declares the LORD who does this."

—Amos 9:11-12

Several years ago, I was in a resale shop in Chicago and saw this old, beat up buffet in the corner of the store, covered up, worn out and in pretty bad shape. The back had been ripped off and there was a deep gash on the top of it. I had seen one similar in the house of an older member in the church and it was beautiful, but this one, it was one step away from the trash heap. I inquired of the price, felt it was reasonable, and then purchased it. It was quite large and was a bit of work to get it home. I put in my basement where I worked on it for months. I stripped it down, took off all of the broken pieces, built new shelves and a new back for it. I sanded out the gash and slowly put it back together. The finished product was absolutely incredible. Fully restored it was more beautiful than I could have imagined. It still sits in my home today as a center piece in my dining room.

My buffet is a picture what God was going to do to Israel and for us. Israel had rebelled against the Lord, failing to obey His commandments, giving themselves over to selfish indulgence and heartless ritual. Amos' message was about God's coming judgment that would be terrible, unrelenting, full of sorrow and grief, destroying everything that they knew and held dear. The book of Amos is made up of 9 chapters divided into 146 verses. 141 of those verses are devoted exclusively to judgment in one form or another, but the last five verses are filled with an incredible hope that extends far beyond the judgment that would be exerted upon them. God promised to rebuild and restore the "booth of David that is fallen." Normally, God didn't refer to David's kingdom or heritage as a "booth" but a "house" (cf. 1 Samuel 21:16; 2 Samuel 3:1, 6; 7:18; 1 Kings 12:19; et. al). The fact that it is referred to as a "booth" indicates how bad things had become and that David's "house" had become dilapidated. God was going to restore and rebuild it—raise it up and make it beautiful in ways that they could not imagine.

If God was going to restore the "booth of David," then how does it affect us? One of the principal leaders of the early church was James, Jesus' half-brother. An issue had come up in the early church that needed attention—how were Gentiles saved? Did they need to perform the purity laws of the Old Testament? The early church leaders came from their respective places to gather in Jerusalem to discuss the matter. The meeting, recorded for us in Acts 15, became known as the Jerusalem Council, with James presiding over it. Normally, converts to Judaism would have to conform to all of the Old Testament laws, but after hearing Paul and Barnabas testify of the Holy Spirit coming upon Gentiles who knew nothing of the Old Testament law, something seemed to be different. After hearing about what God had done through Paul and Barnabas, James spoke to the assembly and cited today's verse as a partially fulfilled prophecy—God had already foretold that David's house would be restored in an incredible way—because of Jesus, who

came from the lineage of David, He would enable all kinds of people to become spiritual recipients of God's amazing salvation. This means that God had foretold to Israel some 750+ years before that God would save those who had been previously outside the covenant community of God—which is us! God would give us an opportunity to be part of His people! He would restore the honor and prestige of David's spiritual lineage by enabling Jesus to be the promised King and us become part of that everlasting and incredible kingdom! That restoration means rejoicing!

God's restoration of the promises that were made to David also show us that He can restore the worst. Not only are we now included in God's amazing salvation, we can also see that no matter how bad things might be, God can do great things—He can restore a dilapidated house and He can restore a broken person. He is about transformation and restoration—and if He can transform an entire people, He can restore any person. He can restore those who are broken. Let's praise the God of Amos, who prophesied of our inclusion, who holds our life in His hands and promises us something greater than we can imagine—eternity forever with Him!

OPEN IT

1. **What is the most expensive thing you have ever broken?**

READ IT

Amos 9:11-15

EXPLORE IT

2. **When does God promise to raise up the booth of David that is fallen in v. 11?**
3. **What will the people possess in v. 12?**
4. **What does God promise to do in vv. 13-15?**

APPLY IT

5. God promises to raise up, repair, and rebuild David's spiritual house that had become broken down (Amos 9:11). What is one thing in the church today that needs to be raised up, repaired, and rebuilt?

6. If you could ask God to repair one part of your life, what would it be and why?

WHAT IS GOING ON IN VV. 11-15?

This final promise of hope contains two salvation oracles that introduce positive promises about Israel's "day" of restoration: Verses 11-12 discuss the coming day when the kingdom of David is restored, while verses 13-15 deal with the restoration of the land. The first paragraph focuses on first-person action that God will do, while the second describes what will happen to the fertility of the land when God pours out his abundant blessing on it. Ruins, desolation, and breaches are replaced by building, planting, and possessing the land to demonstrate the great reversal that will take place in the future.^[1]

7. **Knowing that God's promises will ultimately be fulfilled in His time, does that give you encouragement? If it does, what does it encourage you to think/do?**

8. God promised King David a house or dynasty (cf. 2 Samuel 7:16) that would continue on forever. Despite times of disobedience and judgment, God would still bring forth His promise (Amos 9:11). How does it make you feel to know that God will still accomplish His purposes even when we fail (cf. 2 Timothy 2:13)?

9. What is a promise that God has made in His Word that is special to you?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

"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."—Amos 9:11

"The word 'tent' (sukkah) refers to a rude shelter (a 'hut') and pictures the 'house' of David that was becoming a dilapidated shack; in Amos's time the Davidic dynasty had fallen so low that it could no longer be called a house.

The continuation of the Davidic dynasty is envisioned in prophecy as continuing in the Messiah, who is often referred to in Davidic motifs (Isa 9:6-7; Jer. 33:15, 17; Mic. 5:2). Amos thus affirmed what other prophets affirmed, the perpetuity of the Davidic house. The national upheaval that ultimately led to the fall of Judah and Israel and the overthrow of the Judahite monarchy could not vitiate God's promise. The royal offspring would yet come. David's dynasty would be perpetuated in David's greater Son. He would uphold God's gracious promise."^[2]

10. James quotes Amos 9:11-12 in Acts 15:16-18 to show that God had already planned to include Gentiles in His plan of salvation. God didn't have to include us; nevertheless, He chose to graft us in (Romans 11:11-12). Knowing that we were brought into God's plan (and not originally a recipient of it), does that make you look at God's salvation differently?

What Does It Mean?

"...that they may possess the remnant of Edom."—Amos 9:12

The united kingdom under its Davidic King will then become the source of blessing to all Gentiles. Edom, a nation perpetually hostile toward God's people (cf. Num. 20:14-21; Ps. 137:7. Obad. 1), and therefore representative of all Israel's enemies, will become a sharer in the promises to David: Israel will possess the remnant of Edom (cf. Obad. 19). In fact, all...nations will be brought under the dominion of the Davidic King, for they too bear God's name. To "bear someone's name" meant to be under the suzerainty and protection of that individual (cf. Deut. 28:9-10; 2 Sam. 12:26-28; 1 Kings 8:43; Isa. 4:1; 63:19; Jer. 15:16; Dan. 9:18-19). All nations belong to God (cf. Amos 1:3-2:16; 3:9; 9:4, 7) and therefore will be included in the blessings of the future kingdom.^[3]

11. Eventually, every knee will bow in homage to Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:10). Does that give you any comfort? Why? How should that motivate us to evangelize and pray now?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

"...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." —Amos 9:13

The abundant productivity of the restored land, under the blessing of God, will be so amazing that the land does not need to lie fallow for a moment, but as soon as the reaper has harvested one crop, the plowman comes right behind planting another one, and as soon as someone sows the seed, the grapes grow so rapidly that the treader of grapes comes to pick the ripe grapes and gather them for the winepress. This is a beautiful poetic image of a land like the garden of Eden—with productivity that is free from the curse (Gen. 3:17–19; cf. Amos 4:6–10) and with greater abundance than anything currently known. Some interpreters apply this passage, which in its immediate context describes the fruitfulness of a renewed land of Israel, to a wider renewal of the whole earth in a future age (cf. Rom. 8:19–21).^[4]

12. The whole earth will be made new, and the curse of the Fall of man will be removed. What do you look forward to about that day?

13. How should eternity be a motivator to do ministry and missions now?

14. While God does judge, He loves to restore (cf. Amos 9:14). How should we be looking at people who need restoration? Is there anything we can do to help them? If so, what?

15. What have been the highlights of Amos? What have you learned about God as a result of it? What has God shown you that He wants to do in your life?

[1] Gary V. Smith, "Amos," *The NIV Application Commentary*, p. 410.

[2] Thomas E. McComiskey, "Amos," *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, p. 329.

[3] John E. Walvoord, Roy B. Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary Old Testament*, p. 1451.

[4] *ESV Study Bible*, p. 1675.

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