

Date: 29 Jan 2023

Scripture Passage: Amos 9:11-15

Title: The Restoration Of True Israel

Introduction

- The book of Amos has been a message of condemnation. But now we see a message of hope, a restoration of Israel. But in what sense? Which Israel?
- The true Israel will be restored and preserved to eternity.

I. A review

- Amos was a sheep bearer and a dresser of Sycamore tree from Taca. He ministered to the northern nation of Israel. The nation was prospering at that time, but in less than 30 years they will be completely devastated by the Assyrians.
- The spiral of judgement (Ch 1-6). All the nations will be judged. But more so Israel & Judah. Assyria will attack Israel, Babylon will attack Judah. The principles of relative accountability & of cause & effect were explained.
- The five visions of judgement (Ch 7-9). Vision of (i) locusts (7:1-3); (ii) fire (7:4-6); (iii) plumb line (7:7-9); (iv) basket of ripe fruits (Ch. 8); (v) the Lord destroying the altar of Israel (9:1-10).

II. The prophecy

- What is prophesied? The last vision ended with promise of remnant being saved (v9-10).
 - a) Return of exiles to rebuild & plant (v11, 14).
 - Israel will be destroyed by the Assyrians. Judah will be destroyed by the Babylonians. The remnants were allowed to return to rebuild the nation under Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah.
 - “On that day” Used ~200 times in the Old Testament. Here refers to the time when judgement happens. Or “after this”. Amos was preaching of judgement, then saying “on that day”. It is like saying Israel you will be doomed unless the booth/tabernacle of David is restored. It was a sign of God’s protection under the sovereignty of David.
 - b) Non-Jews to become part of Israel (12), leading to abundance (13).
 - V12. All the remnants will be part of Israel, even the remnants from Edom. Gentile nations (Chinese, Indians, Mexicans....) or non Jews will be part of Israel. Why Edom? Edom was the direct descendant of Esau. Jacob I have loved, Esau I have hated. Esau has always been a thorn to the people of Israel. 2Sam 9. Those that are “called by my name” are from all nations including those from Esau! Israel’s blessing will extend to those of Edom.
 - V13. This will lead to an abundance. The harvest is so good that you need to plow. There is no need to wait for seasons anymore. No need to wait for the reaper. A trader of grapes himself will be sowing seeds while he is trading. There will just be an abundance. The mountains will drip with sweet wine.
 - c) A divine work, lasting forever (15).
 - While men are involved, God is the one who blesses. It is a divine work of God. This blessing from God is not just a short period. “No longer shall they be pulled up?”. It is going to last forever.
- The 10 tribes in the northern nation are no more. The southern nation of Judah upon being conquered by Babylon were in exile for 70 years. The remnants returned under Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah. But was that the fulfillment of this scripture passage? No it was not. It did not last forever. So how will this be fulfilled, if it was not fulfilled in return of exiles.
- This passage is not about the political people of Israel. This is not about the blood descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is about the true spiritual descendants of Israel. Who are they?

III. How the prophecy is fulfilled.

- Acts 15:12-17 quotes Amos 9:11-12 to refer to Gentile conversions in the New Testament age. The apostles in Acts 15 are saying that Amos Chap 9 is being fulfilled. The church of Christ will be filled with Gentile believers. The church of Christ is being built up. That is the fulfillment.
- The booth/tabernacle of David is currently being rebuilt. 1 Chronicles 29:22-23, What is the significance of the throne of David? Solomon sat on the throne of the Lord! (1 Chr 29:23) That old testament throne of David was

symbolic of God's heavenly throne. Proof is that the Holy Spirit is poured out on all nations. The Holy Spirit could not be poured out if the Messiah was not on his throne. The prophecy is fulfilled that you possess the Spirit.

- Gentiles & Jews brought together by faith in Christ (Gal. 3:29; Eph. 2:14; 3:6). The Jews and Gentiles have always been at enmity against each other. But through faith in Christ the wall of separation has been broken. We become fellow heirs of the Jews.
- Christ Himself announced this (John 10:16). Who is the one Shepherd? It is Jesus Christ. Who is the one flock? This one flock is made of Jew and Gentile believers.
- The true Israel are the believers in Christ (Rom. 11:25-26; Gal. 5:6; 6:16). "All Israel will be saved", until the fullness of the Gentiles have come in. True faith in Christ is what counts. No more whether you are Jews or Gentiles. Walk according to this rule, that "neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything. But a new creation" (Gal 6:15-16). Faith in Christ! The Gospel! It cannot be the physical Israel when it is talking about both circumcised and uncircumcised. It is both the Jews and Gentiles that have come to faith in Christ. Believers of Jesus Christ are the true Israel.

IV. Summary and applications

- True believers are the remnants that make up the true Israel of God. This church of Jesus Christ will be abundantly blessed. Fulfillment began with coming of Christ to save. Will end with coming to judge, leading to eternal states.
- Christ has come. Salvation in Him alone. It is not based on your effort, but only by repenting and believing in Christ. Reconciliation with God in Him. And you will be part of the true Israel.
- The church of Christ will be built. The church will never be destroyed. The church is not the building, it is God's true people. Where is the kingdom of God? It is within you. Those who have faith are part of God's kingdom. God is calling out the remnant, and in that way His kingdom is expanding. The gates of Hades will not prevail against it (Matt 16:18). The gospel will extend to the ends of the world, and Christ church will be built up and will extend to eternity.
- Judgement is certain. Separation occurs leading to final fulfilment. The world deserves to be judged. There is no turning back. It is certain. God promised that he will not judge the world by water, but by fire (2 Pet 3). It doesn't mean God will not judge the world, it is the manner at which God will not judge again by water. Are you ready for it? Are you clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ? Let this be a call for you to repent from your sins, from your self will, and trust in Jesus Christ for your salvation. Otherwise there is no hope for you.