

Date: 22 Jan 2023

Scripture Passage: Amos 9:1-10

Title: Judgement At Last

Introduction

- Volcanoes that have accumulated maximum heat will erupt. Wrath of God building up: His love spurned, patience taxed, long-suffering laughed at, will act in judgement (Gen. 15:16 – the iniquities of the Amorites are not yet complete).
- The judgement of the world is certain. God has been giving warning after warning that he will judge. Are you taking things for granted? Has God already begun judging us? Are you in a spiritual famine?
- Judgement will come in full force, to display God's glory in His justice and mercy.

I. The vision described (v1-4)

- This vision is of the Lord standing by the altar shaking the door post until it collapses, Samson (Judg. 16:29). The purpose of the vision is to show the inescapable nature of the judgement to come. Two things about Israel: (i) Trusted in their religion (8:14, 5:5); (ii) Took pride in being God's covenant people (8:7). For 150 years, the prophets have sounded the warning to Israel. But they have not taken heed. Instead, they have provoked God.
- There is no escape from God's judgement. (i) Not the grave, nor heaven (v2); (ii) Not Mt. Carmel, nor the bottom of the sea (3). (iii) Even exile, under Assyrians & Babylonians, no safety there.
- The terrifying words of v4. I will set my eyes on them for harm and not for good. Similar words in v8. God says that I am going to set my eyes on you with the intent of doing you harm. Proverbs 15:3 "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good". It is not a picture of an omnipresent God, but it is a picture of God's gaze to do harm on you, to judge you. God fixes his gaze upon the nation of Israel with the intention of destroying them. Psalm 34:16. Think of who God is. You cannot get away from God when His eyes are fixed upon you. For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand? Rev. 6:15-17.
- Judgement day is certain, destruction not by water but fire (2 Pet. 3:5-9). God is not bound by time. This message is to the covenant people of God. Just as it is to us today, this message is to God's people who profess to be believers. Do not trust in your religion, your baptism, your profession of faith. Work out your salvation and trust in Jesus Christ and Him crucified for the atonement of your sins. Do not be like the Israelites who relied on their status (Matt. 7:21-23).

II. Judgement executed (v5-7)

- Israel had failed to reckon with who God really is (5-6). The illustration of a boxing match may help. The resume of the fearsome fighter is read out. The reading of that resume will terrify me. What more God's resume in v5-6 who is saying that He will judge? He is the all-powerful God who (i) melts the earth at a touch (v5); (ii) turns fun & jollity turn to mourning; (iii) controls the upheaval of water (River Nile swells & subsides cf. 8:8); (iv) created the sky & the earth, the sea & the land (v6). Do you not fear?
- Israel is like the children of Ethiopia to God (v7). God is saying that Israel is like the people of Ethiopia who do not have the word, who reject the true God. You have become to me like any other nation. Don't think that you are the special covenant people of God. Just because you are descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, it does not matter. Don't think that you can sin with impunity. Rom 2:28-29, Rom 9:6-8.
- The people of Israel were undeserving like Ethiopians, yet they were taken out of Egypt. We are just as undeserving of God, yet He has shown grace to us through his son Jesus Christ. Salvation is by grace, through faith in Christ alone. We are all privileged. We have the word of God being explained to us today. With privilege comes accountability.

III. The remnant preserved (v8-10)

- Only the remnant will be spared, because they are clothed in the righteousness of Christ (v8). The message of judgement was to Israel as a whole, but there were only a few remnants. Judgement will fall upon the church, and only a few will be among the remnant. Only the kernel will not be lost. Only remnants will not perish (v9). Just as Israel will die by the sword, professing Christians perish under judgement on the last day (v10).
- There will be many casualties in sacral churches on judgement day. Are you one of those that attend church, but yet are not saved? Have we looked back on our life and see how God is truly good to us. We are so undeserving, but because of His grace and His mercy, we are sustained till this day. Salvation is in the death of Christ alone. May we live our days to sing His praise.