

Amos 9:1-15

**Amos 9:1 – “I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and he said:
“Strike the capitals until the thresholds 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.**

1. 9:1-4 identifies five futile escape plans.
 - a. Two are in the cosmic realm (9:2) –
 - i. Underworld, or Sheol
 - ii. Heavens
 - b. Two are in the natural earthly realm (9:3) –
 - i. Mountain, or Mount Carmel
 - ii. Seas (like Jonah tried)
 - c. One is in the human world
 - i. Captivity by enemies in a distant land (9:4)
2. The Lord is again shaking (earthquake) that results in the death of people.
 - a. The temple, altar and capitals on the pillars that stood on the threshold may be:
 - i. Spiritual illustration
 - ii. Some pagan/false temple in Bethel or in Northern Israel
 - iii. The temple in Jerusalem.
3. The earthquake is followed by invasion and death.
4. The siege and invasion is followed by captivity and deportation.
5. The Lord is overseeing all of these disasters and there is no escape.

**9:2 – “If they dig into Sheol,
from there shall my hand take them;
if they climb up to heaven,
from there I will bring them down.**

1. “Sheol” is the Hebrew word for “Sheol” or *se’ol*.
 - a. The NIV always demystifies this word by translating it “grave”, but clearly this is in the spiritual realm in this and other context.
 - b. God’s authority reaches into the underworld.
2. “heaven” would refer (if not to the Lord’s abode) to some false religious concept such as Baal riding on the storm clouds

**9:3 – “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.**

1. Mount Carmel, the highest, fertile, holy site would not keep the Lord away
2. “serpent” or the great sea monster is from the Hebrew word *nahas* which also means “snake”
 - a. Verses explaining how the Lord conquered the “serpent”, “monsters”, “Leviathan” of the great chaotic sea appear in Scripture: Psalm 74:3; Psalm 89:10; Isaiah 51:9; Job 7:12
 - b. Was Jonah thinking something along this line?

**9:4 – “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.”**

1. God is setting his eye on them for evil. Some see here a reference to the “evil eye”
- 2.

**9:5 – “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;**

**9:6 – “Who builds his 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.**

1. “Upper chambers” refer to the Lord’s palace in Heaven
 - a. Psalm 104:1-4 – “You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent. He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters; he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind; he makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire.”
2. Bb

**9:7 – “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?**

1. In Amos’ day, 762 BC the Cushites inhabited the upper Nile (south, Ethiopia, Nubia) which is today Sudan.
 - a. In Amos’ day Cush was thought of as a distant land and insignificant in world history. Thus, it would be surprising that the LORD would actually have been observing a faraway land along with observing his chosen people.
 - b. 710 BC - Isaiah describes the Cushites about 60 years (700 BC) later in these words:
“Ah, land of whirring wings
that is beyond the rivers of Cush,
which sends ambassadors by the sea,
in vessels of papyrus on the waters!
Go, you swift messengers,
to a nation tall and smooth,
to a people feared near and far,
a nation mighty and conquering,
whose land the rivers divide.” (Isaiah 18:1-2)
 - c. 747 BC – Cushites expanded the territory into lower Nile (north) (747-664 BC)
 - d. 701 BC In 2 Kings 19:9 the Cushite pharaoh Tirhakah challenged the Assyrians at Jerusalem

2. Philistines from Caphtor, or Crete, is mentioned in Jeremiah 47:4.
 - a. This makes the Philistines relatives of the Greeks.
 - b. God was not only observing to the south, he was also observing to the West and guiding a people to a land where they would serve as Israel's enemies.
3. Arameans (Syrians) came from Kir which is in Mesopotamia near the Persian Gulf.
 - a. The Arameans lived to the North, but had come from the East.
 - b.

9:8 – “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.

1. “destroy it from the surface of the ground” means the contemporary nation will be eliminated from history
2. “not utterly destroy the house of Jacob” means the seed of the covenant people will endure under God's watchful eye.

9:9 – “For behold, I 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.

1. Shaking with a sieve separates the stalk, pebbles and trash from the good grain because the small, fine grain falls through the tiny holes of the sieve. God will use a “sieve” to purify this people and bring the good remnant back in future days.
2. Note the word “grain” is not in this illustration. The Hebrew word *seror* means pebble and never grain in the Hebrew.
3. While in captivity the Lord's shaking that would begin with the earthquake of 760 BC would continue processing his people until the time of the end.

9:10– “All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, who say, ‘Disaster shall not overtake or meet us.’

1. Again, the sinners in this culture who have rebelled against the Lord and ignored his word will die.
2. The false philosophy was “Disaster shall not overtake us” nor “meet us”. The truth was it would.

9:11 – “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,

1. “David's fallen tent” refers to the crumbled monarchy of David's united (12 tribes) Israel.
2. “as it used to be” is also used by Micah 7:14 to refer to the past days of prosperity and blessing.
3. “fallen” is the Hebrew word *nopelet* can also mean along with “fallen”, “is falling” since the land of Judah is in the process of falling.

Amos 9:12 – “that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name,” declares the LORD who does this.

1. “Edom” and “all the nations” indicates a future time after Israel has been restored that they will unify the Middle East, and more, the whole world.
2. The NT follows the LXX which here says, “that the remnant of men may seek the Lord” instead of “possess the remnant of Edom”
 - a. The word “Edom” is almost identical to “man” in Hebrew
3. Refer to Acts 15:12-21 to see how James interprets and applies this.

Amos 9:13 – “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.

1. This is great abundance and refers to the distant future.

Amos 9:14 – “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.

1. There is no way these verses are referring to the spiritual kingdom of the church.
2. These verses are explicitly saying there will be an earthly kingdom, as does the rest of the OT prophets.

Amos 9:15 – “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.

1. Notice in 9:14 “they shall plant vineyards” and in 9:15 the LORD “will plant them (Israel) on their land” permanently.