

- Amos series #6; read Amos 9:7-15

## Introduction

- SAD?!
  - (Seasonally Affective Disorder!!!)
- Amos as a black, heavy, serious book?
  - AAD?! - Amos Affective Disorder!!!
  - AARGH! - Amos is Always Really Gloomy and Heavy!!
  - have you wanted to say to him "lighten up!!"?
- Look at these last 5 verses of the book in a bit of detail, then try and see how they, and the thrust of the whole book, apply to us today.

## Exposition

- One of the key things we learned in an earlier study of Amos (5:18) was that the "day of the Lord" was not necessarily going to be a pleasant experience for everyone.
  - Amos warns those who act unjustly, greedily, selfishly that it will be a "day of darkness and not of life. It will be like a man who runs from a lion and meets a bear!"
- What Amos was trying to do was to balance the picture that his listeners had of the day of the Lord - re-emphasise judgement, righteousness and repentance.
- For his main purpose he didn't need to labour the other side of the coin.
- But here, as he closes, he takes time to remind his listeners of that other side of the coin, that great day when God comes to bring his full reign to bear on all life!
- So, Amos sketches in five features of the day of the Lord:
  - a layered picture of perfection.

### The King (v.11)

- GNB: The Lord says, "A day is coming when I will restore the kingdom of David, which is like a house fallen into ruins. I will repair its walls and restore it. I will rebuild it and make it as it was long ago.
- The end of the eclipse:
  - restoration of the Davidic ideal (OT sees both flaws and intended ideal as it looks back!); a God who acts to restore; word "booth" (via link to festival of Booths) implies a perfect kingly mediator; Messiah as second David.

### The Nations (v.12)

- GNB: And so the people of Israel will conquer what is left of the land of Edom and all the nations that were once mine," says the Lord, who will cause this to happen.
- The end of the separation:
  - all nations brought under God's control and favour; Edom often symbolic of everything associated with the world; end of opposition; following conquest is equality of citizenship; not merely a smoothing away of differences, but all marked as God's.

### The Earth (v.13)

- GNB: "The days are coming," says the Lord, "when corn will grow faster than it can be harvested, and grapes will grow faster than the wine can be made. The mountains will drip with sweet wine and the hills will flow with it.
- The end of the curse:
  - Messiah not only second David, also second Adam - so restoration of the perfection of Eden; earth as it was meant to be, all energies of nature poured

into bringing goodness and glory to God's feet.

### The People (v.14)

- GNB: I will bring my people back to their land. They will rebuild their ruined cities and live there; they will plant vineyards and drink the wine; they will plant gardens and eat what they grow.

- The end of disappointment:

- not so much the abundance itself, but the enjoyment of it; cf.5:11 (Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine); mansions - security; vineyards - satisfaction; sin brings disappointment and frustration; looks forward to day when sin's power will be destroyed...

### The Land (v.15)

- GNB: I will plant my people on the land I gave them, and they will not be pulled up again." The Lord your God has spoken.

- The end of insecurity:

- people who have been delivered from the presence (v.13), power (v.14) and now penalty (v.15) of sin - they cannot be robbed of their inheritance (sin robbed them of land; if land is theirs forever, penalty for sin is gone).

## Application

- An amazing picture - for people of that day a better world they could not imagine!
- Every problem answered, every fear removed!
- Does it have any relevance to us, 2700+ years later?
- **YES!!!**
- Same God who made those promises then as we worship and serve today - and he hasn't changed!

### **And that means that the Christian life IS worth it!**

- sometimes we get distracted by the hardness of life, the pressures that bear down on us, the evil around us - whether big or small...
- and lose sight of the hope that we have in Christ;
- but just because we can forget, or lose sight of it, doesn't change what God has promised for those who follow him - perfection, with an abundance of good things, the removal of all that is bad, and most of all life in His presence!
- That's a tremendous encouragement and reassurance each day as we seek to live for him.

### **It also reminds us that its out of repentance that life comes!**

- whole book of Amos has been a call to repentance;
- here at end is the promise of what happens when we do!
- Jesus' first recorded words in Mark's gospel are: "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"
- He also said: "I have come that [you] may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)
- And so, if we want to enjoy this full life that Jesus promises, we need to start with repentance.

### **Is all this too good to be true?**

- would be, if it were only an ideal;
- but it is a pledge from God - so guaranteed, not by us but by the eternal, Holy, awesome, promise keeping God!
- last words are "The Lord your God has spoken"!