

Readings

Scripture

^{7:1} This is what the Lord God showed me: behold, he was forming locusts when the latter growth was just beginning to sprout, and behold, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings. ² When they had finished eating the grass of the land, I said, "O Lord God, please forgive! How can Jacob stand? He is so small!" ³ The Lord relented concerning this: "It shall not be," said the Lord.

⁴ This is what the Lord God showed me: behold, the Lord God was calling for a judgment by fire, and it devoured the great deep and was eating up the land. ⁵ Then I said, "O Lord God, please cease! How can Jacob stand? He is so small!" ⁶ The Lord relented concerning this: "This also shall not be," said the Lord God.

⁷ This is what he showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸ And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them; ⁹ the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

¹⁰ Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹ For thus Amos has said, "'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'"

¹² And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, ¹³ but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴ Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, "I was no prophet, nor a prophet's son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. ¹⁵ But the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' ¹⁶ Now therefore hear the word of the Lord. "You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac.'

¹⁷ Therefore thus says the Lord: "'Your wife shall be a prostitute in the city, and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be divided up with a measuring line; you yourself shall die in an unclean land, and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land.'"

^{8:1} This is what the Lord God showed me: behold, a basket of summer fruit. ² And he said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the Lord said to me, "The end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass by them. ³ The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day," declares the Lord God. "So many dead bodies!" "They are thrown everywhere!" "Silence!"

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, ⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, ⁶ that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

⁷ The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. ⁸ Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who dwells in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?"

⁹ "And on that day," declares the Lord God, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. ¹⁰ I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on every waist and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day.

¹¹ "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord God, "when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. ¹² They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it.

¹³ "In that day the lovely virgins and the young men shall faint for thirst. ¹⁴ Those who swear by the Guilt of Samaria, and say, 'As your god lives, O Dan,' and, 'As the Way of Beersheba lives,' they shall fall, and never rise again."

- Amos 7:1-8:14 (English Standard Version)

Sermon Outline

Words to Live By...

Amos 7:1-8:14

Return With All Your Heart

Jeff Hooker

Do we thirst and hunger for God's Word the same way we do for food or water?

God's words can be hard to hear... (Amos 7:1-9)

And sometimes we reject God's words... (Amos 7:10-17)

But God's words give life... (Amos 8:1-14)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the *Serendipity Study Bible for Groups*)

- What was the most thirsty or hungry you have ever been?
- What do you think that God might be saying to us as individuals, the church, or our culture that might be hard for us to hear?
- What are some of the ways that God has spoken to you in the past? Where can you go to hear God's words to you?
- Have you ever experienced a time where you knew that God was speaking to you or you knew God's word on a matter and you rejected His word to do something different? Why do we reject God's word?
- What is your relationship with the Bible? Do you thirst for God's words in the Bible like you would if you were dying of dehydration? Why or why not? What keeps us from seeking God's words the way we should?
- What habits or rituals can you build into your life to seek God's words more? What is a step you can take this week in that direction?