

FAMISHED



Prophetic Word of Amos

January - March 2010

This Book Belongs to _____

MARCH 7

Plumb Line, Plum Lying

Amos 7:1-9

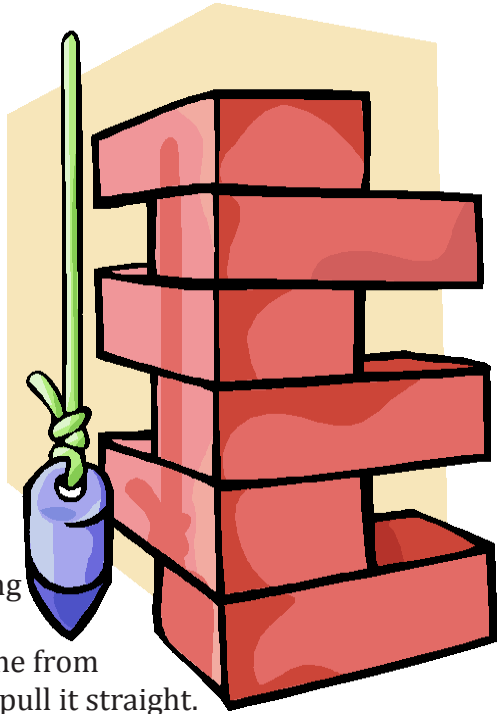
Introduction

Amos uses word plays to make sure his message hits home. A “*plumb line*” is used to check whether a wall or structure is coming up from the ground at the right angle. You drop the line from above and allow gravity to pull it straight.

Using this technique can prevent a common problem in most homes: walls that aren’t straight and corners that aren’t true. When a wall or structure is built at the right angle, it is called, “*true to plumb.*”

In Amos 7, God says He’s putting a plumb line in the midst of Israel. Why would he do this? Because, spiritually speaking, the people are “*plum’ lyin’*” (as stated by a good Southerner). The problem is that you can’t lie to God – He always knows the truth. You can only lie to yourself and to others.

We want to always make sure that as Christians we are “*true to plumb*” – knowing that we will always fall short, but always willing to look at God’s line and adjust accordingly. As a church (a collection of Christians who become a united community in Christ), we also want to be true to Christ who is our plumb line in life.



Sermon Notes

God can handle our _____ talk when it
_____ His nature in us.

God is a _____ who wants to see if His children
_____ and are _____ to plumb.

What is the standard for God's people? What draws the
_____ of heaven?

- Legal _____
- Economic _____
- Religious _____
- Luxurious _____
- Unselfish _____

Principle: Work on the major _____ while
giving apt attention to _____. When we are
_____ about "church" but _____ about
_____ we are not in plumb with God.

Word of Thought

When I was a kid, my parents used to have a "measuring wall." They would have us back up against the end of one unfinished wall, stand straight, and they would mark our height. It was fun to see how we were growing. What kind of measurements did your parents use to help mark your growth? Have some fun learning about the family traditions of the other people in your group.

Word of Study

Amos 7:1-9 is our primary text for this lesson. However, read the entire chapter for your study this week.

Why does the Lord change His mind or “relent” in this passage? What do we learn about God from this?

Why is God so set on punishment and discipline for the people of Israel and Judah? What from our weeks of study have you gained about God’s “measuring tape” that helps you understand what people need to do in order to be “in line” with God?

What are the “high places” that God intends to destroy?

In the Bible, the “sword” of God is referenced several times (Amos, Hebrews, Revelation, etc.). What does the “sword” usually reference?

Word of Discussion

1) The Bible Knowledge Commentary mentions five categories of sin that prevent the people of Israel from pleasing God (chapters 3 – 6). They are: legal injustice, economic exploitation, religious hypocrisy, luxurious indulgence, and boastful complacency. If these five displease God, then what five positive qualities would please Him? Write down in your own words what the opposite of these displeasing qualities would be and discuss them with your group.

Negative Quality

Legal injustice

Economic exploitation

Religious hypocrisy

Luxurious indulgence

Boastful complacency

Positive Characteristic

2) When you think of God hanging a plumb line next to you, do you think of only His judgment? How can God's spiritual plumb line next to us be an expression of love, mercy and grace?

Word of Action

How are you going to incorporate the five characteristics you wrote down and discussed into your “being.” After all, this can’t be just about doing. How can you “do” these things in such a way that it begins to change who you are as a person and follower of Christ?

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