

FAMISHED



Prophetic Word of Amos

January - March 2010

This Book Belongs to _____

MARCH 21

Weeding Out the Burrs

Amos 9:1-10

Introduction

When I was five, my family purchased some land out in the country and started to build a house. It was exciting and difficult work. One of the greatest challenges was the weeding. Picking weeds is difficult enough. When you have sticker burrs growing throughout the weeds and grass, it's not only difficult, it hurts.



To accomplish the task, my Dad offered every kid in the neighborhood a penny for every sticker burr they picked. Since there was a seemingly endless supply of the stickers, we could score some valuable coinage practically everyday.

Getting the weeds out of the plants is always necessary, but it's also hard work. For the weeds, it's a destructive process. But, for the healthy plants it brings life and the ability to really grow and expand. Every now and then, God has to weed the garden of humanity. When His people are the weeds, it especially breaks His heart.

Sermon Notes

The Lord is by nature _____ but is also _____ and _____ when our actions demand a response.

As amazed as we are with God's _____, we should also be impressed with His _____. This is the _____ of the Lord we read about.

In the words of the comedian, "I brought you into this _____ and I can take you _____."

The _____ of the Lord are on the _____ then and now.

Amos 9 speaks of God's _____: This is a _____ but _____ process.

No one should feel beyond the _____ of God.

Word of Thought

If you've ever weeded a garden or cleared a field, you know how hard and rewarding it is. What makes it so hard and why is it so rewarding?

Word of Study

Read Amos 9:1-10. What do we learn about the power of the Lord in this passage? What history is referenced?

What is the physical position of God as Amos 9 opens?

Why does God say Israelites are just like Cushites (vs. 7)? What is God saying?

Word of Discussion

1) How relentless is God in His pursuit of people? He is relentless when it comes to salvation, but He is also determined when it comes to punishment. Describe these two powerful pursuits of God. Is one greater than the other? Support your answer with scriptural references from Amos and from other Biblical writings.

2) When you harvest a crop, how much *fruit* do you get compared to the waste you end up with? Why is this an often-utilized image in the Biblical texts?

3) If God keeps an eye on sinful nations, does He watch a nation the same as He watches our lives individually?

4) People who are about to suffer judgment by God often have the attitude, “Disaster won’t overtake or meet us.” What’s the difference between our confidence in Christ and the arrogance of sinful, oppressive people? If we are called to confidence, how can we be sure we haven’t become overconfident and ignorant of our own sinfulness?

Word of Action

Confess something to your group. We say that “confession is good for the soul,” but seem to avoid confession like the plague. If confession is good for us, we should do it more and more. Go around the room and invite everyone to confess one thing. It’s a good discipline to practice.

15555 15th Avenue NE
Shoreline, WA 98155
www.nwchurch.net
206.364.2275



NORTHWEST
CHURCH

*embracing **real** life*