

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

AMOS 7-9

Novelist, JR Tolkien, author of the Lord Of The Rings series, once wrote, "It does not do to leave a dragon out of your calculations, if you live next door to him."

I'd imagine living beside a fire-breather can present some problems. It's hard to "*just do whatever you want*" with a monster on the other side of the duplex.

I would think *a dragon can be a drag* on your plans.

If you live next door to a dragon and ignore his existence you're likely to get *torched* and *scorched*.

And Tolkien's quote is a reminder to us all. We all live in God's neighborhood. *And He is a monster!* He's a merciful monster granted, but a monster nonetheless.

God is *the biggest on the block*. He's a fire breather. God is not afraid of imposing His will on others. He is a a God who deserves our respect and our obedience.

And when you live next door to such a God you can't just do *what you want, when you want* - you can get torched. If you rebel against Him, and make a mockery of Him, He loves you enough to drag down your plans.

The nation Israel was proof. The Hebrews lived in God's hood for 700 years, yet they tried to ignore Him.

For the last 200 of those 700 years the northern tribes lived in blatant rebellion to God and served idols.

Amos was sent by God to warn them that God is a fire-breather - unless they repent they'll get scorched.

In the last three chapters of Amos, the prophet sees five visions: **the locust, the fire, the plumb line, the summer fruit, and the destruction of Bethel.**

Chapter 7 begins, “**Thus the Lord God showed me: Behold, He formed locust swarms at the beginning of the late crop; indeed it was the late crop after the king’s mowings.**” There were two harvests in Israel - one in the spring and one in the fall. The first fruits of the harvest were offered to God, then the second portion were paid as taxes to the king - they were the king's harvest, or as labeled here “*the king's mowings.*”

Thus, the early harvest contained minimal provision for the people themselves. They depended on the later harvest. Yet it's the later harvest that gets threatened by this plague. God is about to *bug* Israel's people.

He's going to get the people's attention by ravaging the land with an invasion of the dreaded locust.

Swarms of locust have the potential of consuming every bit of vegetation in sight. They have a ferocious appetite. The ancients called them “**hunger incarnate.**”

Verse 2, “**And so it was, when they had finished eating the grass of the land, that I said: “O Lord God, forgive, I pray! Oh, that Jacob may stand, for he is small!” So the Lord relented concerning this. “It shall not be,” said the Lord.**” God heard the prophet's prayer.

In Amos' vision, after the green grass was gone - *but apparently before the crops were damaged* - Amos interceded on behalf of his people, Israel - and the Lord spared the nation total devastation and starvation.

That was vision #1 - it had a hopeful message.

Verse 4, a second vision, “Thus the Lord God showed me: Behold, the Lord God called for conflict by fire, and it consumed the great deep and devoured the territory.” Due to severe drought, brush fires erupted all over the northern Israel, devouring thousands of acres.

It’s similar to what’s happening in North Georgia right now. For a week, we’ve been living in a smokey haze.

The fires Amos saw in his vision were so intense they “consumed the great deep” - in other words, not even water from the sea could extinguish their flames.

“Then I said: “O Lord God, cease, I pray! Oh, that Jacob may stand, for he is small!” Again, the Prophet Amos intercedes for God’s rebellious people.

Verse 6, “So the Lord relented concerning this. “This also shall not be,” said the Lord God.” It’s amazing, but what water couldn’t put out, prayer extinguished.

Often when it’s not within our power to help someone, we try and comfort them by saying, “Well, all I can do is pray for you.” But what you don’t realize is the “all you can do” is in fact the “the best you can do.”

The greatest way to help a needy person is to pray. Never underestimate the power of intercession.

It reminds me of the Congressman who walked through the White House several days in a row, and each day he saw an old man sitting on a bench, crying.

Finally, the third day, the Congressman asked him if he could help. He wanted to see President Lincoln. His son had been court martial-ed for a crime he didn't commit and was sentenced to be shot the next week.

The Congressman took him to see the President.

When he told Lincoln his story, the President shook his head, "I'm sorry, General Butler sent me a telegram this morning asking me not to pardon any of his court-martial-ed soldiers. He's trying to maintain discipline."

The father's grief was palpable. Lincoln could see the heartbreak written on his face. Suddenly he took a pen and jotted a note. It read, "Job Smith is not to be shot until further orders from me. - Abraham Lincoln."

The dad said, "*I thought you were issuing a pardon. What if you order him shot next week?*" Lincoln answered, "Well, my old friend, I see you are not very well acquainted with me. If your son never looks on death till further orders come from me to shoot him, he will live to be a great deal older than Methuselah."

And this is the heart of God. If you know Him, you realize He loves mercy. And He responds to the pleas of a heavy heart. This is why our prayers matter!

It's been said, "God warms His hands at man's heart when he prays." God does respond to our intercession.

Israel deserved a severe punishment. God had planned *the locust* and *the fire*, yet because of Amos' intercession the Lord had withheld His judgment.

The people of Israel should've been thankful. Mercy should've caused a repentance, but the people ignored God's benevolence and continued to live in their sin.

Thus, verse 7, **“Thus He showed me: Behold, the Lord stood on a wall made with a plumb line, with a plumb line in His hand.”** A plumb line was a carpenter’s tool. It was an ancient level. A plumb was a string weighted on one end. Drop the plumb alongside a wall, and it let you know if the wall was level or crooked.

I have a friend who’s rather plump. He always asks, *“How do you know a man is on the level?”* He rubs his belly and replies, *“When his bubble is in the middle.”*

Here God uses the ancient plumb to determine whether Israel is *on the level*. He measures them up to see if they're shooting straight, or if they’re crooked!

“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 not pass by them anymore.

The high places of Isaac shall be desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste. I will rise with the sword against the house of Jeroboam.”

The first two visions ended with mercy. God relented of His judgment. But not the third vision. God refuses to remove His plumb. Morally and spiritually Israel was found *“out of plumb”* with the will of God. And it’s dangerous to leave a wall standing that’s crooked or leaning. It can do real damage. It requires demolition.

And this was the problem with Israel. The nation had gotten so far "*out of plumb*" with God's covenants and commandments that she was now dangerous. She was past being straightened or pulled back into line, it was now necessary that the nation be torn down.

We, as God's people today, need to be careful that we don't drift, or lean - and get "*out of plumb.*"

Yes, God accepts us *just as we are* - crooked and all bent out of shape - but He doesn't leave us that way.

God's Spirit straightens out what was twisted by sin.

In fact, Christ is the plumb line. His holiness and purity and wisdom is the standard. As Christians we're called to be like Jesus - be His followers. That means Christians discipleship involves holding every area of my life up to the standard. The goal is to resolve the divergence between *what I am* and *what Jesus is*.

And if I'm not subject to correction... if I'm resistant to change... and continue to lean further and further out of plumb - eventually I'll be dangerous to the people around me. I'll be a bad witness, and God will tear down my life. *This is what happened to Israel...*

Verse 10 tells us, "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."

Amazing, here is the only response Amos gets to his visions and warnings. He has trumped the judgments of God; prayed for his people, and pleaded for mercy.

Yet what does he get for his faithfulness to Israel?

How about opposition, persecution, accusation. The clergy of the day, Amaziah the priest, who should've been his ally, comes out and calls him a conspirator.

It's been written, "Throughout church history religious leaders from popes to pastors have sometimes been the least responsive to revival or reform. Renewal movements threaten their vested interests."

And this was the case with Amaziah, the priest of Bethel. His purse, and prestige, and power were intertwined with the false religion he propagated.

He rejected the truth not because Amos' call was not clear, or his arguments were not convincing, but because the truth threatened his own selfish interests.

We wonder why everyone doesn't embrace the truth.

Why false prophets don't repent and recant of their false teachings. It's not because the truth isn't convincing, or its spokesmen are not articulate, it's because false prophets profit from their falsehoods.

Their reputation, and wealth, and influence depends on the system they've created. Embracing the truth would mean trusting God - something they won't do.

Verse 11, "For thus Amos has said: 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive from

their own land.” Amaziah is putting words in Amos' mouth. The prophet hasn't **conspired** against the king, he was **inspired** by God. It shows how *"out of plumb"* Amaziah and the religious establishment was that it tried to silence the one man who spoke for God.

“Then Amaziah said to Amos: “Go, you seer! Flee to the land of Judah. There eat bread, and there prophesy. But never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is the royal residence.”

Amaziah is running Amos out of town, *“Go back from where you came - go home to Judah.”* When he adds, *“There eat bread”* - he means *let them pay your salary.*

“Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah: “I was no prophet, nor was I a son of a prophet, but I was a sheepbreeder and a tender of sycamore fruit.”

Remember we noted in Chapter 1 that originally Amos was a cowboy and a farmer - he had a ranch that raised both cows and sheep. He also grew figs.

Amos was a country boy - from Tekoa - a remote settlement between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. He cared little for the social graces of the big city snobs.

He spoke his mind. Amos was a straight-shooter.

Amos' reply is in essence his way of saying, *“Nobody pays me! I'm not a professional. God called me! I'm here because I love God, and I love His people.”*

Amos was an **amateur**, and knowing the meaning of the word I'm sure he wouldn't mind the label. It's a French word which means *“for the love of it.”* This is why Amos did what he

did - not for the bread, but because he was dead to his desires and alive to God.

Oh, how we need men like Amos today! **Men who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God.**

Men and women who have counted all things loss, for the excellence of the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

We need pastors who speak truth without worrying about its ramifications on attendance, or the offering, or even their own employment. We need men like Amos who serve the Lord not for a buck, but for the love of it!

“Then the Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to My people Israel.’ Now therefore, hear the word of the Lord: you say, ‘Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not spout against the house of Isaac.” The Hebrew word *“spout”* means **“to drip.”** In telling Amos not to speak, Amaziah is trying to turn off what he considers a leaky faucet.

Amos is flabbergasted. He replies, ***“God tells me to go and prophesy and you say shut-up and go home?”***

“Therefore thus says the Lord: ‘Your wife shall be a harlot in the city; your sons and daughters shall fall by the sword; your land shall be divided by survey line; you shall die in a defiled land; and Israel shall surely be led away captive from his own land.’” Wow, how’s that for a rebuttal. Rather than drip, Amos gushes. He pronounces heavy judgment on this so-called priest.

Chapter 8, “Thus the Lord God showed me: Behold, a basket of summer fruit. And He said, “Amos, what do you see?” So I said, “A basket of summer fruit.”

Then the Lord said to me: “The end has come upon My people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore.”

In this vision, Amos sees a basket of “*summer fruit*” or ripened fruit. It’s a symbol that Israel was ripe and ready for judgment. The Hebrew word “*summer fruit*” or “*qayits*” and the word “*end*” or “*qets*” sounds alike.

He uses two homonyms, or words with similar pronunciations, to grab his listener's attention. God is showing Israel it is ripe for judgment - the end is near!

Notice the last line of verse 2, “*I will not pass by them anymore.*” This harkens back to the exodus.

Because of the blood of the sacrifice spread on the doors of the Hebrew houses, the death angel passed over God’s people. Judgment was averted. But they will not be passed over this time. Judgment is coming!

Verse 3, “*And the songs of the temple shall be wailing in that day,*” says the Lord God - “*many dead bodies everywhere, they shall be thrown out in silence.*” The day is coming for the northern kingdom when the worship band will play funeral dirges.

“*Hear this, you who swallow up the needy, and make the poor of the land fail, saying: “When will the New Moon be past, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may trade wheat?”* Amos highlights the people’s greed. Rather than enjoy the feasts and the Sabbath, they couldn’t wait for it

to be over so they could get back to business and pad their pockets.

“Making the ephah small and the shekel large, falsifying the scales by deceit...” The “*ephah*” was a volume measurement. A “*small ephah*” was something that appeared more or heavier than it really was.

“*Making the ephah small*” was the equivalent of putting a few potato chips in a bag, then filling it with air to make the bag look bigger... Or giving you an order of small fries in a large fry container - and charging you for a large fry... Or making a loan, then tacking on frivolous charges to squeeze more money out of you.

These are all ways to cheat the customer.

Sir Burton once said, “A business must have a conscience as well as a counting house.” Business ethics is more than just how can I appear conscientious and still increase my bottom line. It’s actually sensing a responsibility to the people that support my business... And for the Christian it even goes further, its doing all that I do, to the glory of God.

Amos says, “that we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals - even sell the bad wheat?” There were business people deliberately taking advantage of the poor and oppressed.

The rich in Israel had created a system that insured the people’s failure, and trapped them in poverty. They devised a system that perpetuated an *underclass* that serve the *upperclass*. They were exploiting the poor.

Amos is saying, “God is against the filthy rich.”

Verse 7, “The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: “Surely I will never forget any of their works.” What an ominous statement for God to make. We know that under the blood of Jesus our sins have been forgotten.

God casts our sins into the depth of the sea. They’ve been take away as far as the east is from the west.

But here God says He will never forget their sins. It should make us appreciate our blessings in Christ!

“Shall the land not tremble for this, and everyone mourn who dwells in it? All of it shall swell like the River, heave and subside like the River of Egypt.” He’s talking about the ebbs and flows of the flooding of the Nile. Likewise, Israel will be flooded with trouble.

“And it shall come to pass in that day,” says the Lord God, “that I will make the sun go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in broad daylight; 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 mourning for an only son, and its end like a bitter day.” Here God’s judgments sound like those predicted in the last days.

Cataclysmic judgments that shake the planet.

Verse 11, “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord God, “that 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.” Here is the worst of all possible judgments - a famine,

a drought - but not of food, or of water, *“but of hearing the words of the Lord.”*

And notice the problem is **not having** the words of God, but **not hearing** the words of God. In most homes today you can find two or three Bibles - turn on the radio, or go on the internet, and you'll hear Bible teaching 24/7. We have the Word, but we don't hear it.

Like Israel of old, we've had it for so long, and yet we've rejected it so often - we've stopped hearing it!

Once, two men were talking when one said to the other, *“My wife talks to herself a lot.”* The other man replied, *“Mine does to, but she thinks I'm listening.”* We have God's word, we hear it, but we don't really listen!

This means we hunger for truth - we're starved for truth - and we've got the answers right at our fingertips, but because we don't hear God's Word and take it to heart, we're always searching and never finding...

I read an interesting story that took place during the administration of President Roosevelt. At the time, White House receptions were so full of smiles and politeness and meaningless pleasantries no one really listened to each other. Roosevelt was tired of saying the charade, so he decided to see if anyone was really listening. At one of the big receptions, he approached person after person, flashed his big smile, and said, *“Hi, I murdered my grandmother this morning.”*

People responded automatically with comments like *“How lovely”* - *“Keep up the great work, Mr. President.”*

No one noticed what the President had really said, except one foreign diplomat. When FDR greeted him, he replied, *"Well, I'm sure she had it coming to her."*

God is speaking to us, but are we really listening!

We read a few obligatory Bible verses from time to time - listen to a sermon on occasion, that we brush off by the time we get home - *but are we listening to God?*

If you don't listen, God will eventually dull your ability to hear or He'll take the opportunity from us altogether. It was said of Israel, *"a virus of unresponsiveness had debilitated the audio nerve in the souls of the people."*

This can happen to us. When folks don't want to hear God's word, He eventually honors their desire. He removes the opportunity. Israel suffered a famine, because they neglected the truth they'd been given.

Verse 12, *"They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, but shall not find it. In that day the fair virgins and strong young men shall faint from thirst."* You've seen the starving kids on the late-night infomercials - their emaciated bodies, their protruding ribs, their swollen stomachs, their sunken eyes...

This is how Amos saw Israel's young people of his day - they were dying of spiritual malnourishment...

And if we could see through spiritual eyes this is how we would see our contemporaries today. Their soul is shriveled from lack of spiritual meat. They listen to what tickles their ears, rather than what feeds their soul.

And if you've moved about the country lately, and have looked for a church that faithfully teaches the Bible, you'll understand Amos's statement... *"They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but shall not find it."* Churches that teach the whole counsel of God are becoming fewer and fewer.

There is a famine in our land.

Here's a message I got the other day from a fellow who tried to find a church closer to his home, but has recently come back to Calvary... *"Sandy: I would like to say thank you for being a man of God, and a man of the Word. After spending four years trying to plug into a local church and seeing the state of the church and its shallow teaching, and lack of discernment, these last few weeks of sermons have been water to a man dying in the desert. If anything positive has come of this experience it's been to drive me to understand the Word better, and to learn to discern all the bad teachings, teachers, and false doctrines popular today in evangelical circles. The saying, "you don't know what you have till it's gone" applies to my wife and I when it comes to your teaching. God bless you!"*

I don't share his letter to brag. What I do from week to week shouldn't be exceptional or unusual. You should be able to go to any church and hear the Bible faithfully expounded. Yet sadly, that's not the case.

And this creates a church-full of spiritually anemic Christians. Today's biblical illiteracy is shocking. If all you get is sermonettes for Christianettes you dry up.

And there are some churches that believe the Bible - even fight for its inspiration - they just don't teach it...

There is a famine in our land. Souls are starving.

The chapter closes, "Those who swear by the sin of Samaria, who say, 'as your god lives, O Dan!' And, 'As the way of Beersheba lives!' They shall fall and never rise again." Those who followed the false gods, the idols of the north, have fallen and they'll never get up!

Chapter 9, "I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and He said: "Strike the doorposts, that the thresholds may shake, and break them on the heads of them all."

The altar was the center of the national life of God's people. This is where they offered their sacrifices.

The beginning and ending of their relationship with God was at the Temple, by the altar. Yet the northern kingdom had introduced idols into their Temple.

Their worship was no longer pure. God will topple their temple... He says, "I will slay the last of them with the sword. He who flees from them shall not get away, and he who escapes from them shall not be delivered."

"Though they dig into hell, from there My hand shall take them; though they climb up to heaven, from there I will bring them down; and though they hide themselves on top of Carmel, from there I will search and take them; though they

hide from My sight at the bottom of the sea, from there I will command the serpent, and it shall bite them; though they go into captivity before their enemies, from there I will command the sword, and it shall slay them. I will set My eyes on them for harm and not for good.”

This passage reminds me of Psalm 139. It reads, “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.”

God is inescapable. And as the psalmist puts it this is a great comfort. But as Amos puts it this also is a serious warning. As we mentioned last week, God is saying to the sinner, “You can run, but you can't hide.”

None of us can escape the scrutiny of God.

Frances Thompson was reared in a Christian home. He even studied for the ministry, but he wasn't willing to surrender his all to the Lord. He ran from God into the world of drugs. He did anything for his daily fix.

Thompson was a fugitive from God. But he did have a way with words and he submitted one of poems to a London newspaper. The publisher and his wife were so moved by the poem they searched all over London for its author. They finally found Frances Thompson. He had no shirt on under his rumpled coat. His shoes had holes in them. He had no gloves to protect his hands.

What he'd written spoke of the impossibility of escaping the inescapable God. Eventually Thompson became a Christian and the poem he wrote, entitled “The Hound of Heaven,” has become a classic.

Listen to a few of his lines... "I fled Him, down the nights and down the days. I fled Him, down the arches of the years. I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways. Of my own mind, and in the mist of tears.

I hid from Him under running laughter. Down Titanic glooms of chasm-ed fears. From those strong Feet that followed, followed after. But with un-hurrying chase and unperturbed pace. Deliberate speed, majestic instancy they beat, and a voice beat - more instant than the Feet - "All things betray you, who betrayest Me."

What a line, "All things betray you, who betrayest Me." Are you tired of nothing going right in your life - of all your plans ending in disarray and disappointment?

Are you tired of searching for peace, and it slipping from your fingers like a greased pig. Like Jonah, are you tired of setting sail, and always winding up in the belly of a fish. Could it be that you're running from God, and the Hound of Heaven is running you up a tree?

God loves us and will chase us to our grave, but He won't catch us until we are willing to be caught.

It's been said, "God will never pass the picket line of the will." Don't you think its time to surrender to God?

TS Eliot once wrote, "At the end of all our exploring, will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." There's a feeling of coming home when you come to God. There's a quiet rest. We know, "I'm back where I belong and was always meant to be."

God is in pursuit of us. At the moment He chases us to help us. But if we resist His overtures of grace, the day will come when He'll catch up to us for judgment.

Verse 5, “The Lord God of hosts, He who touches the earth and it melts, and all who dwell there mourn; all of it shall swell like the River, and subside like the River of Egypt.” Again, Amos is saying the land will sink and rise as does the water level of Egypt’s Nile River.

The Prophet is speaking of end time judgments when the Earth will convulse. God will touch the Earth for judgment, and its fragile ecosystems will melt.

“He who builds His layers in the sky, and has founded His strata in the earth...” You might wonder what does Amos, a backwoods prophet living in the 8th century BC, know about the geological column?

Apparently a lot! He knew it wasn’t the result of millions of years of uninterrupted sedimentary deposits. He saw it as the work of God - He founded the strata.

And Amos even knew the mechanics of God’s work.

“Who calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them out on the face of the earth - the Lord is His name.” What founded the earth’s geological layers, or strata, was NOT the principles of uniformitarianism, but the flood of Noah’s day. God poured water on the earth.

Verse 7, “Are you not like the people of Ethiopia to Me, O children of Israel?” says the Lord. “Did I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt, the Philistines from Caphtor, and the

Syrians from Kir? “Behold, the eyes of the Lord God are on the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth; yet I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob,” says the Lord.”

Since God brought the Hebrews from Egypt, they thought they were immune from His judgment. But God also brought the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir - that didn't give them an executive pardon. Here, God calls Israel *“the sinful kingdom.”*

But in verse 8 a ray of light shines into the darkness.

Even though the sinful northern kingdom will be destroyed, God will save a remnant of His people. There were Israelis who survived Assyria's invasion.

Today, their ancestors live in the land again. Modern-day Israel is the fulfillment of many OT prophecies.

Verse 9, “For surely I will command, and will sift the house of Israel among all nations, as grain is sifted in a sieve; yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground.” After the fall of Samaria in 722 BC, Israel was scattered. Their sifting has lasted the last 2000 years.

But in the end Israel will not be lost. They will not fall to the ground - or lose their identity. The return of the Jews in our day, and the rebirth of the modern state of Israel, is proof of the fulfillment of this prophecy.

“All the sinners of My people shall die by the sword, who say, ‘The calamity shall not overtake nor confront us.’ I've heard it said, “The greatest sin of all sins is the sin of saying 'I have no sin.'” Israel denied their sin, thus God was unable to

help them. Always remember, *the only sin God won't forgive is an unconfessed sin.*

The prophecy of Amos closes with five verses and five promises, each verse declaring a promise.

In fact, we could spend the next five weeks on how God is fulfilling these promises to Israel in our day, but tonight we'll just read the text and note the promises...

- 1) The **restoration** of the Davidic dynasty.
- 2) Israel's **domination** of her enemies.
- 3) The **cultivation** of the land.
- 4) The **accumulation** of the exiles.
- 5) The **perpetuation** of the nation.

Verse 11, **“On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old...”** This could be a reference to the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. And certainly, the construction of its implements has already begun.

More likely though, this is a reference to the Davidic dynasty. God promised David he would never lack a son to sit on his throne. This is why Jesus Christ was born of the lineage of David. Jesus is the rightful heir to the house of David. And when He returns He'll re-establish the David's throne and rebuild his kingdom.

Verse 12, **“That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,”** says the Lord who does this thing.”

When Jesus returns, Israel will rule the world. She will no longer be a pawn in the hands of the Gentiles.

Israel will reign over the Gentiles, including Edom.

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “when the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.”

“The plowman shall overtake the reaper” - in other words, the harvest will be so plentiful by the time you’ve gathered it all in it’ll be time again for sowing.

Mountains dripping with wine is an idiom that speaks of prosperity. Like a land flowing with milk and honey.

“I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.”

When Jesus returns and re-establishes the Davidic kingdom the Jews that have been scattered all over the world will return to their homeland of Israel. We see the beginnings of this return happening today!

Modern Israel has guaranteed Jewish exiles [the right of return](#). No Jew can be denied entry to his homeland.

And then verse 15, “I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,” says the Lord your God.” And this is what clearly places these promises in the last days.

After Assyria and Babylon displaced the Hebrews in 722 and 586 BC, the house of Jacob was restore to the land and Jews occupied Israel for another 600 years.

Until 70 AD when they were uprooted by Rome.

This verse though, speaks of a permanent planting of Jews - when they'll *"no longer be pulled up from the land."* Since this didn't happen in the past, it obviously is referring to today - or to a planting still in the future.