

Hello? /We will begin our 17th lecture on the Minor Prophets. /Amos chapter 7 is about prayer and Israel's exemption from certain punishments. /Verses 1-3: God listens to Amos's request to exempt Israel from the plague of locusts. /Verses 4-6: God listens to Amos's request to exempt Israel from the punishment of fire.

/Verses 7-8: God predicts Israel's fall through the vision of a plumb line. /Verses 10-13: Amaziah requests that the king drive Amos out. /Verses 14-17: The prophet Amos replies to Amaziah and prophesies to him.

/The first half of the chapter is about Amos's three visions, and the second half is about Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, and his disturbances and Amos's reply to Amaziah.

/Verses 1-3. Please read. /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. 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!"

/During this time period, the king had the special privilege of mowing the plants in the field before the others. /After the king made his mowings, the locusts came upon the sprouts and ate all of them, leaving none for the people.

/In reality, this means that Israel will fight a big war and will lose its power, only to fight another war after the first. /If Israel fights two consecutive wars, it will become weak and will not be able to handle it. Therefore, Amos prays to God about Jacob's weakness.

/God listens to this prayer, and he does not send the plague of locusts. /Amos declared God's judgment, but he also prayed to God for his people. /This is the conduct of a true prophet. /In verses 4-6, God says he will spare the people from the punishment of fire.

/Verses 4-6. /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. Then I said, "O Lord GOD, please cease! How can Jacob stand? He is so small!" The LORD relented concerning this: "This also shall not be," said the Lord GOD.

/Fire is more dangerous than locusts. The fire devoured the great deep and was eating up the land as well. / "The great deep" refers to the foreign world, and "land" refers to Israel. The forces of war destroy the foreign world and tries to devour Israel as well.

/During this time, Amos again prayed to God, and God refrained from his judgment by fire. /It may be easy for us to think that disasters happen by chance. /However, God's word says that every war happens when God allows it to happen. /Verses 7-9 are about the vision of the plumb line.

/Verse 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.

/The LORD stood beside a wall built with a plumb line and he held the plumb line in his hand. /Israel may seem like a firmly built wall, but now, because of their sin, God holds the plumb line in order to destroy Israel. /When God's judgment begins, his judgment works with the fairness that is similar to the accuracy of measuring with a plumb line.

/Verses 8-9. /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; 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."

/After Amos saw the vision, there was no prayer, but destruction as the word says. /Even with an intercessor, God's people cannot be spared from judgment when they worship idols and walk down the path of lies.

/The people went against God's righteousness and truth. /This applies to us as well. /If we sin without knowing, we may receive God's mercy.

/But if we know God fundamentally but continue to disobey him, we cannot be rescued until we repent. /Those who adopt a false faith are bound to be rebuked by God.

/However, those living in truth will receive a great reward in the presence of God. /Verses 10-17 are about Amaziah's sabotage and Amos's prophesy about Amaziah's family.

/Verses 10-11. /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. For thus Amos has said, "'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'"

/Because Amos spoke the appropriate words of criticism and warning, the false prophet Amaziah was perturbed. Amaziah falsely told the king that Amos was committing treason. /False prophets tend to have close ties with political powers, and they stand against God's true servants.

/On the other hand, true prophets do not fear the powers and kings of the world, but they deliver God's will in its entirety.

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

/The false prophet Amaziah accused Amos in the presence of the king. He told Amos to flee to the land of Judah and prophesy there. /He threatens and appeases Amos by telling him to stop prophesying in Bethel of the North.

/Whenever there is a true prophet, there is always a false prophet who stands against him. /God's will may seem to put us in a dangerous place, but God protects his servants. /That is why Amos, although threatened, did not leave the place.

/Verses 14-15. /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. But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

/Amos says his occupation is not that of a prophet, and that he is not a prophet's son. /He is a herdsman, a dresser of sycamore figs, who was called by the LORD to prophesy to Israel.

/Amos was not made through people or by people, but he was raised as a true prophet through God. /This kind of prophet has a true passion and a heart that loves souls.

/Verses 16-17. /Now therefore hear the word of the LORD. "You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac.' 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.'"

/When Amaziah disturbs Amos's work as prophet, he is disturbing the work of God. /As a result, Amaziah is punished—his wife becomes a prostitute, his children die by the sword, his land is divided, he dies in an unclean land, and Israel surely goes into exile away from its land.

/We can see the significance of the sin of disturbing the work of declaring the words of God. /Going against a man of God is the same as going against God. /God's word always comes true, but when someone tries to disrupt God's work, he is challenging God and will face the judgment of God.

/The house of the false prophet becomes corrupt, and it eventually is destroyed. /Those who go against God will see their own selves, their spouse, their family, their children, and their society perish. /We need to fear God, and be at a place where we always obey him.

/We will continue with Amos chapter 8. /The title of chapter 8 is "Famine and hunger." /Verses 1-3: The prediction of Israel's end through the vision of the basket of summer fruit. /Verses 4-6: Those in power exploit the people and the people suffer. /Verses 7-10: God's judgment. /Verses 11-13: The time for a famine of words will come. /Verse 14: Those who worship idols will fall.

/Verses 1-2. Please read. /This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, a basket of summer fruit. 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.

/By showing Amos the basket of summer fruits, God lets Amos know that the end has come. /Like the summer fruit that has ripened, Israel’s sin has ripened and judgment is upon them.

/God says, “I will never again pass by them,” which means that he had been forgiving and patient until now. /We need to see if God is forgiving and patient with something in our lives as well. /We need to do this because if we continue sinning, God’s punishment may begin.

/Verse 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!”

/It is the day of disaster, the day of the LORD’s judgment. /Right now, the people may sing in the temple, but those songs will become wailings, and the dead bodies will be thrown everywhere. /They enjoyed life without God, and their lives will end in emptiness.

/Also, the pleasures they enjoyed will eventually end in sadness. /Verses 4-6 speak about those with power who exploit the people and make them suffer. /God rebukes these people.

/Verses 4-6. /Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, 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, that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?”

/Israel’s people in power and Israel’s rich people exploited the poor and trampled on them. /They were supposed to worship God at the start of a new month and to benefit spiritually, but they thought it to be annoying.

/Those who trampled on the needy were rich people who in their appearance worked hard and remembered both the Sabbath and the new moon. In their hearts, however, they manipulated the poor to earn their money.

/In the last days, people should build on their faith, but these people built their treasures on earth. /This is the same for our generation. /We believers need to be honest in every aspect of our lives.

/Also, believers need to have a heart of respect for humankind. /Verses 7-10 say that God will punish these people.

/Verses 7-8. /The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: “Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. 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?”

/The LORD says he will not forget their deeds but will punish them. /When he does punish them, the land will tremble and shake. /It is a disaster coming from the heavens, and no one will be able to avoid it. /God’s wrath rises like the waters of the Nile and brings fear to the people.

/Verses 9-10. /“And on that day,” declares the Lord GOD, “I will make the sun go down at noon and 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 the mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day.

/The good times change into a dark period of hardships. /The feasts turn into mourning, and the songs become lamentation. /Sackcloth will be on every waist, and baldness will be on every head. Through the disaster to come, they will experience pain and shame.

/Later on, they do encounter the days of hardship. /We need to remember God’s punishments and live far away from sin. /Verses 11-13 are about the upcoming famine of the word.

/Verse 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.

/Because Israel had sinned, God says there will be a famine of the words of the LORD. /The biggest punishment that God could give is a famine of his words.

/In the last days, there will be great difficulties. /During these times of hardship, people will not be able to hear the words of God, which means there is a famine of words. /Also, in the end of days, false prophets will emerge, and people will be hit with a spiritual famine.

/When false prophets arise during the last of days, they mess up the word of God, and because people cannot listen to God’s voice, they are in the midst of a famine.

/Furthermore, Christianity will become more secularized in the last days, so there will be a famine. /Pastors will preach according to human values rather than the Bible’s values, so It will be harder to find words of truth.

/Verses 12-13. /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. “In that day the lovely virgins and the young men shall faint for thirst.

/In the last days, people will wander from sea to sea, from north to east to seek the word of the LORD, but they will not find it. /Before such a famine hits us, we need to learn the Bible, digest it, and count it as life. /Verse 14 explains what will happen to those who worship idols.

/Verse 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.”

/Those who worship false gods will fall and be destroyed. /When God sends his fire, they will fall and never rise again.

/Here are some lessons we can learn from chapter 8. /Anyone whose sin ripens like the fruit in a summer basket will receive punishment from God. /Those who torment the needy are treating God with contempt.

/Therefore, we must not abuse the needy, but we must help them. /Also, the greatest hunger will be the hunger for God’s words, which will not be heard. /We need to eat God’s word and bring our souls to life daily.

/There will come a time when those who stand against the LORD crave the word of God, but they will not hear it. /Therefore we must seek the word of God and receive it. /Today, when the end is near, we need to prepare our faith through prayer and the word.

/We will continue with chapter 9. /The title of chapter 9 is “There is no refuge.” /Verses 1-4: Israel will not avoid hardship. /Verses 5-6: God controls the entire world with his power.

/Verses 7-10: God punishes the nations that sin, but he does not completely destroy Israel. /Verses 11-15: God will restore Israel. /Here, we have our hope.

/Verse 1. Please read. /I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and he said: “Strike the capitals until the thresholds shake, and shatter them on the heads of all the people; and those who are left of them I will kill with the sword; not one of them shall flee away; not one of them shall escape.

/God stands beside the altar and shows himself destroying the temple and the kingdom. /Because Israel’s offerings to God were not acceptable, God punishes Israel.

/The Lord is the fountain of blessings, but he appears as a judge to those who do not abandon sin. /Because the believers did not properly behave, God destroys the church as well.

/Verse 2-4. /“If they dig into Sheol, from there shall my hand take them; if they climb up to heaven, from there I will bring them down. If they hide themselves on the top of Carmel, from there I will search them out and take them; and if they hide

from my sight at the bottom of the sea, there I will command the serpent, and it shall bite them. And if they go into captivity before their enemies, there I will command the sword, and it shall kill them; and I will fix my eyes upon them for evil and not for good.”

/No one can avoid God’s judgment. /A sinner who does not repent may flee and hide somewhere far away, but God’s work is upon that person wherever he is, and he is punished.

/If a person sins and hides somewhere in the world, he cannot avoid God’s eyes, and he will not avoid God’s judgment. /We need to realize that we will only be saved when we repent of our sins and return to the arms of God. /Verses 5-6 say that God in his mighty power controls the entire world.

/Verses 5-6. /The Lord GOD of hosts, he who touches the earth and it melts, and all who dwell in it mourn, and all of it rises like the Nile, and sinks again, like the Nile of Egypt; who builds his upper chambers in the heavens and founds his vault upon the earth; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth—the LORD is his name.

/God holds great power, and he watches over the world. /God judges those who do not believe in the Almighty God and trust in other things. /God will flood the rivers so they destroy everything.

/God can also send tsunamis as a form of punishment. /In this way, God controls the heavens, earth, and all of creation, and he uses all of them to carry out his judgment. /Therefore, we human beings must be humble before God and fear him. /In verses 7-10, God judges Israel, but Israel does not completely perish.

/Verse 7. /“Are you not like the Cushites to me, O people of Israel?” declares the LORD. “Did I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt, and the Philistines from Caphtor and the Syrians from Kir?

/Israel became dirty because of its sin, and it lived in the darkness. /Because Israel lived for such a long time in sin, they had become like a foreign tribe that God did not know.

/God brought Israel out of Egypt, but he also guided the Philistines and the Syrians. /God is rebuking Israel for its pride in having special privileges through its bloodline.

/Verse 8. /Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the surface of the ground, except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob,” declares the LORD.

/God destroys nations or individuals that sin through his law of fairness. /However, God does not completely destroy the house of Jacob, but he says he will make them repent and then rescue them. /God treats his chosen people with mercy. /This is the reason why we have been able to live until now.

/Verse 9. /“For behold, I will command, and shake the house of Israel among all the nations as one shakes with a sieve, but no pebble shall fall to the earth.

/A “sieve” is a tool that sorts grains. /In this way, God shakes Israel. /He scatters the people of Israel among many nations, and he shakes them with hardships as one would shake with a sieve.

/In the middle of hardship, God does not abandon the true believer, who is like a piece of grain. /The nation may perish, but the individual believer may not.

/Verse 10. /All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, who say, ‘Disaster shall not overtake or meet us.’

/Those who say, “Disaster shall not overtake or meet us” are the ones who are punished. /God judges those who do not keep their faith while saying disaster is far away, and he punishes those who are violent and wild. /We need to know when hardships are near so that we may prepare for them.

/Also, the believer must be determined to face obstacles when they protect their faith. /In verses 11-15, God promises Israel’s restoration. /This message is a promise of restoration for the chosen descendants.

/God speaks about his judgment, but he also predicts a future, restoration, and blessing for his chosen people.

/Verses 11-12. /“In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old, that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name,” declares the LORD who does this.

/This message is saying that through David’s descendant Jesus Christ, the spiritual line of David will be continued. /After God punishes Israel, he says he will restore them.

/At the same time, he is talking about Jesus Christ coming to earth and starting a movement of salvation in Holy Israel, which is to occur during the period of the church in the New Testament. /And the joy of salvation from this New Testament era will be upon everyone.

/Verse 13. /“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.

/In the days of the New Testament, sweet wine will drip from the true church. /The wine refers to God’s work of life. /Because the true church is made of truth and inspiration, the people who receive grace will see the overflowing work of life.

/The “hills” are the believers. /In the New Testament period, believers will deny themselves before God, lose their pride, and serve God with pure hearts.

/Verses 14-15. /I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them,” says the LORD your God.

/The people of Israel will be freed from imprisonment, and they will return to their motherland to live stable lives. /Also, God’s people will go from unhappiness to salvation, and they will enjoy their spiritual blessings.

/This symbolizes the Gospel movement that will happen through Jesus Christ. /The prophecy was partly fulfilled when the people return home from Babylon. It also represents the prosperity and blessings of the kingdom of Christ in the New Testament.

/The prophecy will be completely fulfilled when Jesus comes for a second time, when Israel and the foreign nations will be saved. /We have studied up to chapter 9 of the book of Amos. /We can take away several lessons.

/We need to understand that the sinner will not find a way out. /Also, a believer’s true faith is revealed during times of hardship.

/Today, we who were once foreign people are able to participate in worship in God’s abundant grace made possible through Christ’s grace. /During this New Testament period, we need to serve God with all our hearts, and we need to live according to the truth.

/This concludes the 17th lecture on the Minor Prophets. /Thank you.