

## Becoming The Revival, pt.5

### Amos 7.7–9

Intro. 1. Amos 9.13a; 2. The study of Amos is for us to deal radically with sin so we can become the revival & bring transformation; 3. The Argentinian revival – 1990 to present. 4. The context of Amos & previous messages.

### Read Text

#### The Plumbline's Purpose

- Its purpose is to measure verticality (vertical to the horizon) or depth.
- **It's unbiased & completely fair.** You can't bribe or influence it
- **It's a true standard & always correct.** You can't adjust it.
- It is a fair standard for **everyone.** IOW, you don't have one standard for one group & another from someone else. It judges the castle & the chicken coup equally. **It's impartial.**

#### God's Plumbline

- God placed a plumbline before & in Israel & we have them too.
- Conscience – Ro.2.14f., Deut.30.11–14. Everyone has it on their heart. No one stands innocent before God. It's only when we reject the conscience, that the standard begins to change. It's not environmentally produced (but it is enviro reinforced); it has its origin in God.
  - Gov. of NY caught in prostitution ring
- The written Word – Deut.31.24–26. Many have the Word; it acts as a witness & a teacher; it's shows us our need & encourages us to move towards God (Gal.3.19).
- The Living Word – John 14.26; 16.13
  - Believers have all three plumbines & they corroborate;

#### Personal Plumbines

- For the unbeliever – Conscience & the written Word

- w/o the Living Word these two ultimately don't bring life, but condemn (2 C.3.6)
- They call us up to a standard that we can't maintain. We remain silently frustrated or quit listening to them.
  - Ill – It's like we are given blueprints & pictures to build a huge house...were inspired & excited, but then realize we have few resources & little expertise.
- For the believer – conscience, written Word & Living Word
  - We have more than our conscience & the Word pointing to the standard we have the Helper to live the standard. Our conscience & the Word show us the standard & our failures; the Spirit shows us how to live above the standard.
  - The Spirit does more than sin suppression but sin eradication & a heart transplant. The plumbline is on the inside of us making us line up.
    - Ill – Given the pictures, blueprints, foreman (HS) & skilled labor (believers, experiences) to build the house. Here is what you should do & here is how it's done.
  - The core of the Christian life is Matt.7.21, 24; John 5.19
  - Living the Christian life is simple but not easy.
    - Simple means it's not complicated & understandable.
    - Easy means it requires little effort, which isn't true. It doesn't require as much effort from the childlike (trusting, innocent & quick obedience).
    - It's complicated for the person who tries to justify why they can move the plumbline
  - More to this topic, and I'll address it in May.
- Adjusting the plumbline
  - Pride, unbelief & rebellion & immorality always challenge the plumbline. Pride decides it will make its own plumbline; unbelief says the plumbline isn't important; rebellion resists the plumbline; immorality says it needs no plumbline

- They call it old & archaic & belittle the plumbline. “It’s outdated technology.”
- They come up with their own standard; in fact, they encourage everyone to have their own standard; when the true standard begins to demonstrate how crooked everyone is they reject it.
- They reject those who use the standard, and marginalize them
- Amos 7.10–13: Sometimes they even attack those who hold up the standard and portray them as the evil ones.

### National Plumbines

- Amos 1 & 2 – God was judging the nations of Syria, Edom, Philistia, Tyre, Moab & Ammon for not living according to a moral standard.
- The book of Jonah is about a plumbline that hung over the city of Ninevah. They repented, but destruction swept over them 60–80 years later(Nahum).
- Dan.4 & 5 – God judges King Nebuch & Belshazzar based on their pride.
  - Dan.4.30
  - Dan.5.22–24
- Matt.24 – Jesus predicts judgment upon Israel b/c they rejected God’s plumbline
- Matt.25 – he judges the nations based on how they take care of the needy.
- Acts 12 – God judges King Herod Agrippa for his pride
- Hanging over America is a plumbline. How do we measure up?
  - We can either submit to that plumbline or be brought into submission. We will either humble ourselves or be humiliated.
  - God will not allow arrogance, moral pollution, unbridled greed and the oppression of the vulnerable to go unchecked.
  - We have moved so far from the standard that we are legislating against His plumbline.

- We are so afraid to call people to a standard that's in them...that we will offend some group who isn't in line with the standard that we tell them to develop their own standard;
- God says, "Go ahead & change it...I'll still discipline you based upon my standard."
- I believe since 9.11.01 this nation has been under the discipline of the Lord & unless there is a major movement towards the Lord and his standard we will see an acceleration of discipline." God always desires to show mercy & He is giving us time to respond. He sees His righteous ones crying out for mercy & he has relented, but it won't be for ever.
- When will stop kidding ourselves into believing that there will be spiritual transformation in our nation w/o the church returning to the plumbline. God always desires to show mercy but we must return to him on his terms. The church in America is like the child who says, "I want to win the game, but I don't want to follow the rules."
- What God wants is a mighty flood of justice & an endless river of righteous living flowing from us.

### Commitment

- **Are you living up to this plumbline?**
- **Are the crooked places becoming straight in your life because the Living Word in You?**
- **Let's pray that America would return to God's plumbline!**