

April 27, 2025
Return: Hope Restored
Amos 9:11-15
Vernon Advent Christian Church

Introduction...follow-up to Resurrection Sunday...

Have you ever been a part of restoring something? (Clothing, furniture, a car, etc.) Not too long ago, the most popular reality shows on tv were the ones that had to do with home renovations. Shows like Fixer Upper, Love or List It, and Flip or Flop were all wildly popular and led many people into the belief that they could do it too and everybody was running to Home Depot or Lowes to make their transformations.

Now, there is great satisfaction in restoring something to its original beauty, isn't there? It is gratifying to fix something broken and make it functional again. I have never redone a whole house, but I have taken a few cracks at smaller projects, like pieces of furniture, and the process and results were sweet and satisfying.

You know, the same is true of people. It's heartwarming to hear stories about broken relationships finding forgiveness and reconciliation. It is amazing to witness lives that have been shattered by sin experience redemption through Jesus Christ. And wouldn't it be absolutely amazing to be a part of a nation that has been restored after being ripped apart along political, economic, social, and racial lines?

Well, thankfully for us, God is in the restoration business. Ever since sin entered the world through the fall in the Garden of Eden, God has set out on a mission to rescue and restore his creation to its original beauty. Throughout the Bible, we can read about God's plan of redemption to restore what has been ruined by the curse of sin. A couple of years ago we did just that when we took two years and followed the redemptive arc of the entire Bible under the theme, "God's One Story."

This year, we have been thinking about God's call to his people in the minor prophets to return to a right relationship with him and how that should reflect itself in our lives to the people around us and we have arrived at the final section of the Book of Amos. And its here we catch a glimpse of God's plan to restore our broken world. After nine chapters of mostly bad news about God's impending judgment on the Northern Kingdom of Israel, Amos now gives us five verses of good news about God's future restoration of Israel, but not just for Israel, but for the whole world.

Unfortunately, since Israel refused to humble themselves before the Lord and repent of their sin, we know from history that God did send judgment on his people. But thankfully, this wasn't God's final word. In a verse that comes just before the passage we're going to read from today, in Amos 9:8, God says that even though judgement is coming, he would not "utterly, or completely, destroy the house of Jacob." Even though he had the power to do so, he would once again be faithful to his promises and fulfill his side of the covenants he had made with Israel by showing the extent of his compassion and grace.

And the remnant who would survive the judgment had this incredible promise to encourage them to persevere during their exile. For them, this promise was something they looked forward to in the future. And it was this hope, that God would send his Messiah to

rescue them, that was passed down from generation to generation and was found in those waiting for its arrival when Jesus was finally born in Bethlehem.

Now, for us, the promise is still being fulfilled, as the Messiah has come and the Kingdom of God has been established, but it awaits a full and final consummation when Jesus comes again and God's mission of restoration is complete, and this is our hope, the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Well, let's look at these beautiful words of a hope restored that God gave to Amos as a final word to his prophecy. If you are able, please stand with me and let's take a look at God's beautiful promise of restoring hope in Amos 9:11-15. [Read]

Although the word kingdom is not mentioned in these verses, it's what is ultimately being described here with the connection to King David. And the first promise given here, after all the bad news, is that the coming Kingdom of God will be a rebuilt, expanded kingdom vs. 11-12.

Although God's judgement will send the dynasty of David into chaos and ruin, the Lord will raise it up and rebuild it. Long before the time of Amos, the northern kingdom of Israel had split with the southern kingdom and rejected the royal house of David. They set up their own king and kingdom with their own temples of worship that led them far from God's intentions and into idolatry and false worship. This would lead to God handing them over to the Assyrians for judgement. But here, God promised to restore David's royal line in the future which, we know, ultimately was fulfilled in the Messiah, Jesus, who is of the line of David as Matthew makes it a point to begin his Gospel this way, "This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham." (Matt. 1:1)

Now, the word "Booth" in vs. 11 refers to a temporary, simple dwelling place. The word is used to describe the same structures the Israelites were told to build around Jerusalem to live in temporarily during the Feast of Booths to remember God's protecting them in the desert after they left Egypt. It's also the same word used for the structure Jonah built for himself on the outskirts of Nineveh to give him shade as we looked over the city to see what God was going to do.

But notice, that Amos speaks of restoring the booth, or the tent, of David instead of the house of David as an example of the current state of things in Israel. This is meant to show us that the 'house' of David had become nothing more than a dilapidated shack made of sticks and branches. The Davidic dynasty had fallen so low that it could no longer even be called a house.

But God was going to do something about that. In other words, the Lord is saying he will bring them back to the status they had with him under David's reign. And, now we start to get a glimpse of why so many during the time of Jesus missed who he truly was. With all these prophecies speaking of the Kingdom of David being restored by a future descendent of David, it's easy to see why they were looking for a strong military king who would bring Israel back to her glory days and not a poor, homeless, carpenter from Nazareth. But God's point was that a greater kingdom was coming that would be all others pale in comparison.

Now, notice the "I will" statements here: "I will repair," "I will raise up," and "I will rebuild." And not just in these first few verses, but notice there are more throughout the passage as a whole. "I will restore..." (vs. 14) and "I will plant..." (vs. 15). Who is performing the action here? It's the LORD. The Lord is going to bring about all these things because of

his covenant faithfulness. Yes, judgment is coming, but it's like a parent who has to discipline a child and tries to convince them that it is for their own good. The pain of discipline was necessary and God was pointing them toward a Kingdom to come where a future descendent of David would take upon himself the judgment of God once and for all for his people, to once and for all deal with the sin that separated them from God, and this Kingdom would have no end.

But even more than being rebuilt, the kingdom will also be expanded to count more than just the nation of Israel. Here's where we come in. It says in vs. 12, "they shall possess the remnant of Edom." What does that mean? Remember Edom? The Edomites were a neighboring nation and they were the descendants of Esau, the twin brother of Jacob. We remember the story back in Genesis, that all the promises of God through Abraham and Isaac went to Jacob and the two nations that came from each brother became bitter enemies throughout their histories. They were also one of the nations Amos pointed out when he began his message of judgment (Amos 1:11-12).

But Edom, here, is not speaking about the literal nation of Edom, but as a representative of all the defeated nations that God will deal with in the future. And Amos declares that even among them there will be a remnant of God's people when he says, "all the nations who are called by my name." The Lord is going to ensure that the promises he gave to Abraham are fulfilled in this restored kingdom when God said to him, "Through your offspring all the nations on the earth will be blessed (Gen. 22:18) and "you shall be the father of a multitude of nations (Gen. 17:4) with Jesus as the fulfillment of these promises.

And so, this future son of David will take possession of a heritage that will include all the nations. Years later, at the Jerusalem council in Acts 15, James, the brother of Jesus and the leader of the early Church, quotes this passage to speak of the expansion of the kingdom to include Gentiles which we heard read this morning in our New Testament reading. But notice the difference between the two, which is significant. James replaces the word "Edom" in Amos' prophecy with the word "mankind." James makes it absolutely clear that what they were seeing with the conversion of Gentiles during the ministry of Paul and the other apostles is the fulfillment of Amos' words that we read today. The point is, that God has made a way of salvation not just for the Jews, but for everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord. Again, that's you and me.

And this work kingdom expansion remains ongoing until John's vision in Rev. 5:9-10 comes to pass in the new heavens and new earth. John wrote, "And they (those gathered around the throne) sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you (Jesus) to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

This is the hope of our mission here in our communities and around the world. Our work will not be in vain because we know a remnant of God's chosen people exists among every people group. It's why we share the gospel with our neighbors. It's why we support missions around the world. God is expanding his kingdom and we can be a part of it.

Amos goes on to describe what God has shown him not only as a expanded kingdom, but also as an abundant kingdom in vs. 13-14. And he uses agricultural terms to do so. He describes the kingdom as so abundant, that as the previous harvest is still being

brought in, the workers are ready to begin their work of turning up the soil to plant again. The one treading out the grapes and making wine, will continue to do so when the season of planting comes around again. Essentially, the people will be unable to keep up with the overflow of crops.

The abundance of blessings described here give us a picture of the paradise of Eden restored. The consequences of the Fall will be reversed. Remember, this has been God's plan all along and we see it beautifully pictured here. One of the curses God pronounced during his dealings with Adam and Eve and the serpent in Gen. 3, was that even the ground would be cursed because of sin. And we know this to be true when we're out in the yard pulling weeds and trying to cut back, or even get rid of the thorn bushes without impaling ourselves.

Because of this curse of the ground from the Fall, physical famines were used in scripture to picture the spiritual poverty of God's people. We have seen this even in the Book of Amos in ch. 5. But this picture of the land cooperating with the people testifies of a God who is no longer at enmity with them, the curse of the ground will be broken. Not only are they now at peace, but there is forgiveness, reconciliation, and provision.

In the promise of an abundance of blessings to be poured out upon a people once considered enemies, we also witness the heart of God. No longer his enemies, the remnant, this people from every tribe nation and tongue, who were once separated from God, will be adopted as his children by faith in Christ. Paul makes this connection in the book of Ephesians when he says in Christ, God has blessed us with "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places," (Eph. 1:3). Those who believe have entered into this season of harvest that will continue to bring an abundance of fruit in, and for, God's Kingdom.

Finally, Amos concludes with the promise that this kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom in vs. 15. God's promise to his people is that they will inhabit a land from which they will never again be removed. As we have already spoken about this morning, this promise is not limited to the nation of Israel. Paul would write to the Romans about the remnant that existed in their time speaking about the gentiles being grafted in to God's family when he said, "So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace." (Romans 11:5)

It is to this expanded remnant, to the Church, as believers, what the Apostle Paul calls the true Israel of God, that these promises belong, to all who believe on the Lord Jesus. Peter writes of the hope we have of an eternal inheritance in 1 Peter 1:3-5: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

The ultimate enjoyment of this security is found in the hope of the new heavens and new earth, where God will dwell with his people. Listen to the words of John in Rev. 21, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a

loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (Rev. 21:1-4).

So, what does this mean for us? It means that Jesus, David’s greater Son, has established a greater kingdom, even greater than his father David, that will enjoy an everlasting abundance of blessings. The fulfillment of God’s kingdom will reach its ultimate consummation at the return of Jesus, when every believer, including those of us here, will gather with a people from every tribe, tongue, and nation at the throne of their Lord. When our enjoyment of the reward of every physical and spiritual blessing will be ours in Christ Jesus. And when God will wipe away every tear from your eyes and death will be no more and we will reign with him forever and ever.

Amos’ final word of promise ends with a common but remarkable phrase “says the Lord your God.” We have a God who is not indifferent to his creation. He is a personal God. There is only one question left to answer, Is He your God? These promises of God’s Kingdom, and the joy of being a part of it, are only true for those who have put their faith in Jesus and made him Lord of their lives. This good news that we have spoken about is only good for those who follow Jesus. For the word of God is very clear that those who reject God’s salvation through his son Jesus are still under the penalty of sin and the condemnation of God. But praise be to God that “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 8:1) If you’re not sure if today that these promises of hope belong to you, today would be a great day to make sure. You say, “Pastor, I how do I do that?” Well, the altar is always open and if come there are people who would love to talk and pray with you about that. Or, we love to talk with you at any point either after the service or during the week. The important part is that you obey the voice of God and return to him through the avenue he’s already given, his son, Jesus. Let’s pray.

Benediction: “May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your heart and strengthen you in every good deed and word.” Amen. (2 Thess. 2:16-17)