

EMBRACING GRACE
AMOS 7:7-15

⁷This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb,[Ⓜ] with a plumb line[Ⓜ] in his hand. ⁸And the LORD asked me, "What do you see, Amos?"

"A plumb line," I replied.

Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.

*⁹"The high places of Isaac will be destroyed
and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined;
with my sword I will rise against the house of Jeroboam."*

¹⁰Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: "Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. ¹¹For this is what Amos is saying:

*"Jeroboam will die by the sword,
and Israel will surely go into exile,
away from their native land."*

¹²Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. ¹³Don't prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king's sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴Amos answered Amaziah, "I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. ¹⁵But the LORD took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

DISCUSS:

1. What are some modern-day "plumb lines" or standards that society or individuals often use instead of God's Word?

2. Reflecting on Amos' message to Israel, how do people typically respond to being confronted with their sin? Why do you think this is the case?

3. How does Ephesians 1:3-14 highlight God's grace in contrast to the judgment discussed in Amos?

4. Share a personal experience of how God's grace has transformed your understanding of sin and righteousness.

5. The sermon contrasts two responses to confronting sin: running away from God (like Amaziah) or repenting and seeking God's grace (like the call to return to God through Jesus). Reflect on your own experiences. When faced with sin or moral failure, what are some practical steps or attitudes that help you turn towards God rather than away from Him?