

# When God Calls The Common: Amos

## Amos 9:13-15

### **Amos 9:13**

(KJV) *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.*

(NIV) *"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills,*

This verse is a continuation of the vision of Amos from last week. A true *reversal of God!* God is so powerful, only He can cause great reversals in our lives. He commands not only His justice and discipline to be exacted over the nations and people but also, thankfully, His grace and mercy. He can redeem and restore, dear one in Christ!

### **Joel 2:25**

*And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.*

*Shall.* Definitive word sprinkled throughout this verse in Amos. The vision of Amos *shall* come to pass, even as it is certainly irreversible. Note that we still regard the vision of Amos in future tense—it has not yet happened but it *shall* happen.

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: How does the surety of the text in Amos fortify your faith? Do you believe *all of your Bible*? What portions of Scripture give you pause? Are these passages of essential doctrine or peripheral doubt? Does it matter? Why or why not?

\*STUDY POINT: Survey the Old Testament and find the most definitive statements of promise from God to His children. How does He make them emphatic? Apart from faith, would just anyone be able to say *yes and amen* to these promises. Why or why not?

Then Amos plants the most glorious word picture in our minds. Think *abundant harvest*. Think *supernatural overflow!* Imagine a harvest so plentiful that it extends right into the next planting season, overtaking it! Israel would have never seen such an epic display of God's undeserved favour. Then imagine fruit so abundant that it falls off the grape plants, raining a grape juice typhoon down the side of the mountain. We know this to be the result of fruits trees growing down the side of the mountain. Still, the overflow can only be attributed to God's supernatural abundance. And such is our Lord—the Father of lights—when He sends down good and perfect gifts to His children. These are not gifts with conditions but rather expressions of His perfect grace and love. No trickery here—no variableness or shadow of turning:

**James 1:16-17**

*Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

And we would be remiss if we did not soberly recall the seasons of leanness when God withheld blessing from the Israelites as punishment.

**Amos 1:2**

*And he said, The LORD will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither.*

You may call it mercy when He brings seasons of lack into our lives—God simply desires that we would cry out to Him for forgiveness. However, remember that He would not be mocked—Israel had sown great wickedness. They were simply being paid back for their sins (Galatians 6:7-8; Romans 6:23). And so it is, beloved, that God still loves us fully, but His justice demands that He parent us perfectly with painful discipline (Hebrews 12:3-17) when we depart from His ways and His Word.

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Have you ever despised God's discipline through hardships? How did you respond to His seeming distance from you and His withheld favour? Afterward, when forgiveness was requested and graciously granted, did you then better understand the depth of His love for you?

\*STUDY POINT: Find two passages in the New Testament in which the central character was being disciplined for a time and purpose. Observe the outcome and any character development gleaned through their experience.

**Amos 9:14**

*(KJV) And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them.*

*(NIV) and I will bring my people Israel back from exile. "They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit.*

**Amos 9:15**

*(KJV) And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.*

*(NIV) I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them," says the LORD your God.*

Though God would carry out a thorough uprooting of the Israelites and their land and their possessions—causing great terror and foreboding—He would ultimately honour His promise to prosper a holy remnant. These verses speak of a rebuilding, a replanting

of the people—who would then rebuild and replant their cities, their gardens, their vineyards and experience God’s provision once again.

Note well, dear Christian, that this divine restoration project was God’s idea—indeed, it was His *promise to Israel*.

The tone of excitement is palpable in Amos 9:14 and 15.

*I will do this*, says the Lord.

And know that He will accomplish great reversals in your life—and why?

Because God is good!

Amen.

~ Reverend Darren McClelland