



Repeated Refusals to Repent

July 30, 2017

Amos 7:10-17

“But the LORD took me from tending the flock and said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel’” (Amos 7:15).

After King Solomon died, his heir was a disastrous king; therefore, Jeroboam I established the Kingdom of Israel. To keep his subjects from going back to Jerusalem to worship the LORD, Jeroboam I set up a temple in Bethel (meaning “House of God” after Jacob first met the LORD there) and another temple in Dan. In each temple, Jeroboam I placed an idol in the shape of a bull, like the idol Aaron created as the Hebrews wandered in the wilderness and their pagan neighbors worshiped. God raised up many prophets within the Kingdom of Israel to call the king, priests, and people to repent of their sins and return to the LORD. But from this evil beginning, and no matter how many prophets God raised up within the kingdom, the Kingdom of Israel never repented. In the days of Jeroboam II, God again showed His love for these rebellious Israelites by sending Amos from the southern Kingdom of Judah to Bethel in the northern Kingdom of Israel. Amos was neither a professional prophet nor the son of a prophet; he was a shepherd, but God prepared him and sent him to give His people another opportunity to repent. However, the priests in the temples of the king accused Amos of conspiracy and commanded him not to preach, but Amos continued to obey God and warn that if the people did not turn from their oppression of the poor and unjust ways then God would send them into exile. Again, they refused to repent, so the Kingdom of Israel was destroyed and the empire became “the ten lost tribes of Israel.”

Thinking Further

1. Why did God send Amos, from the Kingdom of Judah, to preach in Bethel?

2. Why did Amaziah accuse Amos of preaching a conspiracy against Jeroboam II?

3. Compared to other prophets, what kind of a prophet was Amos?

4. What did Amaziah tell Amos to do?

5. What did Amos say would happen to Amaziah and his family?

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