

Series: Now More Than Ever  
Title: A Reason to Hope  
Passage: Amos 8:1-9:15  
June 22, 2014

Overview: In these final two chapters of Amos, the prophet sounds the warning one more time concerning the impending judgment of God on Israel, but then offers a beautiful picture of hope for the future. The chapters begin with a reminder of the sin of Israel as expressed by their callous indifference to the poor and marginalized. The finality and the scope of God's judgment are described in graphic terms. Then Amos reminds us that despite the failures of Israel and the judgment that is coming, God's promises of salvation and restoration will be fulfilled. The sovereign God of the universe will accomplish his purposes and the earth will be filled with his glory. Even the sinfulness and rebellion of Israel could not stop God. The promise to Abraham that through him all the nations will be blessed will be realized. In this we continue to hope as we are invited into the fulfillment of these promises.

Engaging with our lives

1. If you could change one thing about the world what would it be and why?

Engaging with the Bible

1. In Amos 8:1-8 we are reminded of the core expression of the sin of Israel, their selfish and callous disregard for others. Beginning in verse 9 and continuing all the way to Amos 9:7 we have a graphic description of the Lord's intention to bring judgment. What are some of the facets of this judgment? What do you think it means that there will be a "famine of the word of God?"
2. In Amos 9:8-9 we have the first glimpses of hope. How would you describe that hope?
3. In Amos 9:11-12 Amos gives us a promise of restoration. These verses are quoted in Acts 15:16-18 in the context of whether Gentiles would be required to be circumcised when they come to faith in Jesus. What is the implication of the verses in Acts for this restoration?
4. Amos 9:13-15 completes the restoration picture. Read Rom. 8:18-21. How do these two passages compliment each other? What do they point to in God's assured future?

Engaging with our lives

1. What are some of the most significant ways the brokenness of this world impacts your life?
2. When you consider your own life and the world in which we live, what gives you hope?
3. How should hope in God's assured future be reflected in our lives?