

# **Saying Things People Don't Want To Hear**

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## Amos 7:1-9

Amos 7:1-9, “Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me; and, behold, he formed grasshoppers in the beginning of the shooting up of the latter growth; and, lo, it was the latter growth after the king’s mowings. And it came to pass, that when they had made an end of eating the grass of the land, then I said, O Lord GOD, forgive, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small. The LORD repented for this: It shall not be, saith the LORD. Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me: and, behold, the Lord GOD called to contend by fire, and it devoured the great deep, and did eat up a part. Then said I, O Lord GOD, cease, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small. The LORD repented for this: This also shall not be, saith the Lord GOD. Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand. And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more: And the high places of Isaac shall be desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste; and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

God brings to Amos a vision of terrible destruction — the destruction of the northern kingdom, Israel — Amos 7:1-9.

Israel had failed to measure up to God’s standard. They were no longer straight. They were no longer true. They were like a leaning wall ready to collapse. All because of their persistent idolatry and its associated sins.

Amaziah, a priest of the idols of Israel, protested Amos’ message. Amos 7:10-13, “Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land. Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there: But prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it is the king’s chapel, and it is the king’s court.”

He accuses Amos of being disloyal. He states that people can’t stand listening to him.

He thinks Amos is better off going south into Judah (we don't want your kind here).

Amos was forbidden to speak in Bethel because it was a seat of government.

## **The life of a prophet was hard because the message was often unpleasant**

Amos wasn't the only one. Amos 2:11-12, *“And I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites. Is it not even thus, O ye children of Israel? saith the LORD. But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophesy not.”*

David complained that his words were distorted. Psalms 56:5-6, *“Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil. They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul.”*

Jeremiah once wanted to quit. Jer. 20:7-10, *“O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived; thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me. For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily. Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay. For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, say they, and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, saying, Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him.”*

## **People will assign their problems to the bearer of bad news**

### **Ahab accused Elijah of stirring up trouble.**

1 Kings 18:17-18, *“And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.”*

## **People want Jeremiah dead.**

Jer. 26:8-11, *“Now it came to pass, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak unto all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people took him, saying, Thou shalt surely die. Why hast thou prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate without an inhabitant? And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. When the princes of Judah heard these things, then they came up from the king’s house unto the house of the LORD, and sat down in the entry of the new gate of the LORD’S house. Then spake the priests and the prophets unto the princes and to all the people, saying, This man is worthy to die; for he hath prophesied against this city, as ye have heard with your ears.”*

## **Jeremiah was accused of ruining the moral of the troupes.**

Jer. 38:3-4, *“Thus saith the LORD, This city shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon’s army, which shall take it. Therefore the princes said unto the king, We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: for thus he weakeneth the hands of the men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words unto them: for this man seeketh not the welfare of this people, but the hurt.”*

## **Jesus was accused of treason.**

John 19:12, *“And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar’s friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.”*

## **Paul was accused of upsetting the whole world.**

- Acts 17:6-7, *“And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.”*
- Acts 24:5, *“For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.”*

## The prophets had to tough it out

### **Isaiah set his face like flint.**

Isa. 50:7, “*For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.*”

### **Jeremiah needed to fortify himself.**

Jer. 1:17-19, “*Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them. For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land. And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.*”

### **Ezekiel had to be tough.**

Ezek. 3:8-9, “*Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads. As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.*”

### **We can never be embarrassed about the message.**

Rom. 1:16, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*”

### **Instead we glorify God.**

1 Pet. 4:16, “*Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*”

## The treasure of God doesn't always come in bright packages.

### **Amos was a herdsman and a producer of animal feed.**

Amos 7:14-15, “*Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit: And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.*”

### **Moses had difficulty speaking.**

Exo. 4:10, *“And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.”*

### **The apostles were uneducated men.**

Acts 4:13, *“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.”*

### **The purpose was to place focus on the message and not the messenger.**

2 Cor. 4:7, *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”*

## **Why bring this up?**

### **People don't want to hear rebukes.**

2 Tim. 4:1-5, *“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”*

When James Robinson, an avowed and openly homosexual man, was made a bishop in the Episcopal church, the archbishop of Nigeria in that same organization denounced the appointment saying, “It would be an abomination for this man to be an appointed Bishop.”

Robinson's response was, “I am not surprised or angry about what the Bishop of Nigeria said, I don't doubt his sincerity or faith to our Lord, in fact he is being true to his own journey to God – so am I. I don't know if any of us can do any more than that, I have no doubt that we can believe exactly opposite things, each walking our faithful journey with God; for our walk is imperfect. My hope is that somehow we can keep coming to the communion rail together until we get it figured out. I am going to continue coming to the communion rail, and I hope that the Primate of Nigeria would come as well.”

What a response! He claimed that people can believe exactly opposite things and still serve God!

He is so much like Israel in the days of the Judges. Judges 21:25, *“In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”*

Paul warned us. Eph. 4:17-20, *“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ;”*

In Canada the courts ruled that speaking against homosexuality is “hate speech.” It is forbidden.

We cannot be cowards. We must speak the truth. Sin remains sin.

1 Cor. 6:9-10, *“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”*

## **When Jesus told us to be lights, consider that light contradicts darkness.**

Matt. 5:14-16, *“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

It is why the world rejected Jesus. John 1:4-5, *“In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”*

Too often we are timid to tell people that they are living sinful lives. Who then is hiding the light of God?

Eph. 5:11-17, *“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprovèd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the*



*time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."*

The righteous will contend with the wicked. Prov. 28:4, "*They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.*"

## **Rejoice in standing for the truth.**

Matt. 5:10-12, "*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*"

## **Conclusion**

Oh, and what ever did happen to Amaziah?

Amos 7:16-17, "*Now therefore hear thou the word of the LORD: Thou sayest, Prophecy not against Israel, and drop not thy word against the house of Isaac. Therefore thus saith the LORD; Thy wife shall be an harlot in the city, and thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the sword, and thy land shall be divided by line; and thou shalt die in a polluted land: and Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of his land.*"





