

☞ A Powerful Restoration

Amos 9:11-15

This is primarily a prophecy about Israel. Israel is still God's people and he has a plan for them. However, I also believe this prophetic word can be applied to us today. There are seasons in everyone's life and there are seasons in a church's life. There are times when the enemy gets the upper hand, but it's only temporary. There are times when we aren't walking as closely with God as we should, but hopefully it's only temporary. And, there are times, in his ultimate wisdom that God limits his activity in individuals and in the church, but it's only temporary. God has a plan for restoration.

1. ☞ God's Promise

"In that day..." – there is a future that God has promised. He promised the nation of Israel that he would restore them to their land. After centuries of being in exile, Israel became a nation again in 1948. God has a promise for us all.

☞ "I will restore" – this is God's promise and it is God's work.

"David's fallen tent" v. 11

David was a man after God's own heart. He loved the Lord wholeheartedly and served him with zeal. For many in this room it's the same. We have loved the Lord and served him, but perhaps that zeal has waned over the years. God wants to restore us to **a heart after his** very own.

David led the Israelite kingdom while it was still unified. After his son Solomon, the kingdom divided. For some, there has been division between you and other believers. This is not God's desire. He wants his people unified and he will work to bring **unity to all believers**. That was the theme of Jesus' prayer in John 17. God loves unity.

David also expanded the kingdom while he was in charge. God's plan and desire has **always** been for his people and his kingdom to **increase**. Here in America it seems that the church has lost momentum and our influence for God's kingdom has decreased. But God wants to restore us to a place of influence to expand his kingdom. This also was a personal promise to BOBC when God supernaturally highlighted Isaiah 54 for us.

☞ Isaiah 54:2-3

"Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. **3** For you will spread out to the right and to the left;

David's fallen tent also probably refers to the temporary tabernacle he built for the Ark of the Covenant before his son Solomon built a permanent temple. In that tent, there was non-stop worship of God. David arranged it so that there were priests worshipping God 24 hours a day. Also, that tent was open and visible. People in the area could see the priests doing their thing and they could see the presence of God. It wasn't hidden. For many there was a time when you virtually worshipped God non-stop and people around you could see God in you, but perhaps over the course of years that has diminished and God isn't so visible anymore. God wants to restore that to your heart.

He promises to restore David's fallen tent and give us hearts after him. He promises to restore unity to his people and build his kingdom. He wants us to grow and be filled with the Spirit and let his glory shine through us. God says, "I will restore..."

☞ **"I will raise up** its ruins"

When I think of ruins there are two images that come to mind. One is ancient cities like the Mayan's left behind in South America. It was once a great civilization but now there are only remnants left. In the church there have been great movements and great outpourings at various times in history, but now there are only ruins and old memories.

☞ God wants to raise up those old ruins and he promises **more great outpourings** in our near future.

The other thing that comes to mind regarding ruins has to do with home maintenance. There's always something that needs attention when you own a home and if you don't keep up with the maintenance things will degrade and eventually fall apart in ruins. For some, there are things that have been neglected and your spiritual life is falling apart. God wants to raise that up.

☞ **"I will repair** its broken places"

For some, the enemy has gotten the upper hand and you feel broken. For others there is simply the wear and tear of life in a fallen world. God promises to repair.

☞ **"I will rebuild** it as it used to be"

We've talked often about that first love that many believers have lost.

Revelation 2:4

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.

God wants that first love restored and rebuilt and he promises to take the initiative to make it happen.

☞ Then in verse 14 God promises to **reestablish**...

“I will bring back my exiled people”

“I will plant Israel in their own land”

For some, your walk with God has diminished so much that it feels as though you’ve been exiled. You feel rejected or that you’ve been put on the back-burner. But God promises to bring back his people. He promises to plant in such a way that there will be no more uprooting.

☞ For many the spiritual life has been **dull** and **dry**, you’ve been **divided** from other believers. Your spiritual temple is **dilapidated**; life has caused you to feel **disappointed** and **discouraged**. Your life is in **disarray**. The enemy has brought **destruction** and you’ve been **delayed** or feel **discarded** or perhaps even **disconnected** from God. But, take heart! God promises to **restore, raise up, repair, rebuild, and reestablish!**

2. ☞ The End Product

“the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman” v. 13

“the planter by the one treading grapes”

These two phrases both speak of abundance. Normally there’s a gap between sowing and reaping and even between that and when the cycle starts again. The plowman catching the reaper indicates there is so much to harvest that it takes so long that it’s time to plant ☞ again before you’re done harvesting. God’s vision is for **productivity** and **plenty**.

☞ John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly. NKJV

It’s part of his restoration plan. Remember, the “sweat of your brow” to produce a crop was part of the curse after Adam and Eve sinned. God’s original plan was for us to be productive and experience abundance. He promises to restore that to his people.

“New wine will drip from the mountains...” – this speaks of God’s blessings.

☞ New wine is a reference to the filling & **capability** of the Holy Spirit. Cf. Ephesians 5:18.

☞ It's also a reference to **celebration**. In the OT treading wine was accompanied by shouts of joy and wine was part of any celebration.

☞ New wine also refers to **cleansing**. Wine is used in communion as a symbol of Christ's blood which has supernatural power to cleanse us.

☞ Finally, new wine is a reference to a **crop**. It's associated with the harvest.

☞ God promises new wine in the spirit. For many, your spiritual life has been **depleted** and you've allowed yourself to become **dirty** (unclean spiritually). Perhaps it has seemed like a long season of **drought** and life has become **dull** and **dreary**. But take heart! God promises **productivity** and **plenty**. He will **cleanse** us and give increased **capability** to bring in a **crop** that leads to **celebration**. He will pour out his spirit once again.

3. ☞ Our Part

"they will rebuild..." v. 14

This is where we started in verse 11 saying that God would rebuild. So, here we see yet another example of God wanting to **partner** with people. We will rebuild together **with God!**

Ezekiel 22:30

"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap..."

"the ruined cities"

Those things that once were great in our spiritual lives need to be revitalized. Let's do our part in this restoration.

☞ Revelation 2:5

Remember the height from which you have fallen! **Repent** and **(re-)do** the things you did at first.

Remember when you were walking wholeheartedly with God? Remember those "good old days?" Do the kinds of things you were doing then! Rebuild!

"they will plant vineyards"

This speaks of evangelism to me. The scriptures refer to God's people as his vineyard. So if we are planting vineyards spiritually it means we are sowing **(plant) seeds of the kingdom**. This has always been part of God's call for his people – share the Good News!

“and drink their wine” - There will be fruitful results from evangelistic efforts.

“they will make gardens and eat their fruit” – this represents diligence and careful work.

☞ **Perform the work of ministry** and keep doing good for God's kingdom.

Galatians 6:9-10

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. **10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

☞ Don't give up! **Persevere** in your walk with God.

A man, toolbox in hand, rang the doorbell. “Good morning, ma’am, I’m the plumber. I’ve come to fix the pipe.” “But I didn’t call a plumber.” “You didn’t? Aren’t you Mrs. Foster?” “No, she moved away a year ago.” “How do you like that? They call for a plumber, claiming it’s an emergency, and then they move away!” Sometimes it seems as if God responds to our emergencies like that plumber responded to that call. He makes us promises, but we have to wait for the fulfillment.

Don't give up! God's promises always come true. Abraham had to wait 25 years after God's promise for Isaac to be born. But Abraham got his son. There were hundreds of years between the prophecies and the birth of Christ. But he was born. There were centuries between the promises and the reestablishment of the nation of Israel. But Israel exists today. There are some things God has spoken to me that are yet to be fulfilled. It can be frustrating, but I try to remember that God's promises never fail. They always come through!

Our part is pretty simple: Partner with God to rebuild. Do what you did at first when you were on fire for God. Plant seeds and evangelize to build God's kingdom. Do the work of ministry. God does the heavy lifting; we simply partner with him. There's an old western comedy where two brothers get into a fight with a room full of men. The older, bigger of the two brothers says, “You better take on your fair share this time.” So, the younger brother fights and defeats one guy and leaves all the rest to his larger counterpart. It's a humorous way to show the strength of the older brother, but it's an apt analogy for our

partnership with God. He wants to partner with us, but he definitely does most of the work. And, even the work we do take on is empowered by him.

☞ Sometimes we are tempted to **discard** God's promises and begin to **despair** and even **despise** God's word to us. For some the temptation may even reach the level of **denying** the faith. But let's hold on to those promises and trust God.

Be encouraged today! The best is yet to come! God has great plans in store for us. He is ☞ going to **restore** and **rebuild**! He promises a great **cleansing** and **celebration**. So, let's **partner** with God and **plant** seeds of the kingdom. Let's keep on **performing** the work of ministry and **persevere** in our walk with God.