

December 27, 2009

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## **Monday**

Amos 6:6 Who drink wine from sacrificial bowls While they anoint themselves with the finest of oils, Yet they have not grieved over the ruin of Joseph.

Amos brings warning to those who live at ease, enjoying the goods of prosperous times while failing to see the sickness and sinfulness of their own society. God is both amazed at and angered by the indifference religious people exhibit toward sin in their midst. Why does it not grieve us as it does our God? As we approach a new year, ask God to grieve your heart over grievous things. Ask Him to show you the ways that you can enter into His ministry, His purposes with Him. Spend time in prayer today asking Him to direct your life and your nation.

## **Tuesday**

Amos 7:8 The LORD said to me, "What do you see, Amos?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "Behold I am about to put a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel. I will spare them no longer.

Judgment is never a pleasant subject, but one certainly appropriate to the end of a year. The plumb line is a measure against which the true and straight is judged. So God is judging His people against the standards of His righteousness. Take time today, right now, and let God "plumb" you. Are there areas of your life that are out of kilter? Are there foundations that need to be torn out and replaced? Be honest before God. Fight the tendency of excuse making or blaming others. What are the walls of your life that need straightening? Let the line fall and walls be straightened.

## **Wednesday**

Psa. 118:1 Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;  
For His lovingkindness is everlasting.

God is so good! Look back at your past year. There may have been setbacks to your agenda or plans, yet still you found God to be faithful and true. Think upon the things that God has done for you, the privileges of ministry or protection He has provided you. Think of the food you have tasted and the moments you have enjoyed. Ponder the fellowship that has enriched you. Rejoice in the moments of worship that have transformed or inspired you. Give thanks to the Lord for His mercies and grace, His benefits and blessings. Take time to rehearse the blessings of the past and affirm your faith in God for the future.

## **Thursday**

Amos 8:11 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the LORD.

Can you imagine such a famine as this? When the word of God is not preached or present, when it is unread and unproclaimed? What a horrible judgment. Yet, it may be a judgment self-inflicted. Pray today for the proclamation of God's word. Pray for ears to hear (yours and others). Pray for power-filled preaching in the new year. Ask God to give you a hunger for His word. Consider how you will give the word of God priority in your life this year. Will you spend time daily in its pages? Will you meditate upon it, memorize it, read it through?

## **Friday**

Amos 9:13 "Behold, days are coming, When the plowman will overtake the reaper And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; When the mountains will drip sweet wine And all the hills will be dissolved.

Oh, what glorious days the Lord has prepared for His faithful. Days of prosperity and joy, of labor rewarded, of overflowing harvest. Rejoice in God's plan for His people and pray that this fullness might come to His church in 2010. Let's pray for the harvest blessed of God. Let us rejoice in prospect of the New Year!