

KING OF KINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH



Amos 9:11-15

The Coming of Christ Brings Endless Blessings

“In that day I will restore David’s fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be, so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name,” declares the Lord, who will do these things.

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills. I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,” says the LORD your God.

Sometimes, we lose sight of the wonderful blessings that are around us. The family we dearly love begins to annoy us. The job that allows us to use our gifts and provides for our family becomes annoying. School that is preparing us for the future becomes a burden. As problems accumulate or arrive, we tend to focus on them, which keeps us from looking at the blessings we have.

If this happens with tangible, visible blessings, imagine what can happen when the blessings can only be seen by faith. We cannot see forgiveness of our sins. We cannot see God sitting beside us to assure us that he’ll help us through the latest troubles. Could we lose sight of the blessings that are before us? Could self-pity and a negative attitude affect our outlook on life? Or worse, could we get upset with God because we lose sight of his goodness?

Our text is the final words in the book of Amos. In the book, God was calling his people to repent of their sins and turn back to him in faith. For all the warnings and threats, God ends the book with a beautiful picture that points to the coming of Jesus and the wonderful blessings that come from Jesus.

“**In that day**” looks ahead to the coming of Jesus. But the coming of Jesus would be when the great family of David, the greatest king of Israel, was only a “**fallen tent.**” It would have “**broken places,**” and a “**ruins.**” In the book of Isaiah, who lived at the same time as Amos, God spoke

of a “**stump of Jesse.**” The powerful family, that lived and ruled when Amos was writing, would be reduced to a weak, insignificant family.

How true the prophecy would be as Mary laid her son into a manger! The mighty family that ruled Israel and had acquired massive amounts of wealth was giving birth to a child in a barn. But from that humble beginning, God was going to restore greatness to the family. David and his descendants ruled over a small nation; the One who would come “in that day” would put his name on all nations.

Then Amos described what life would be like after the Savior came. He used physical illustrations to show the blessings that come from Jesus. “**The reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes.**” The picture is of such abundance that the people couldn’t keep up with all the blessings. The harvest was so massive that the workers hadn’t brought it all in before the time came to start planting for the next season. The mountains and hills would drip with wine. Exiled people would be brought back. Cities and vineyards would be rebuilt and would overflow with blessings. God’s people would be established and never again uprooted.

Here’s where we need to think about what we see in our own lives. Have we grown so accustomed to the message that Jesus came and died for our sins that the impact of that message is lessened? Do we realize the blessings that God

has poured into our lives? The picture in Amos is of abundance. Huge harvests coming in at record speeds; wine pouring down like a river.

Because of Jesus, that is what we have. It would look like we live in a world where we are captive to sin and the horrible consequences of our sins. Selfishness flows through us causing us to unjustly lash out in anger or ignore the real needs of others. Pride puffs us up in our own eyes and allows us to ignore our own faults. Greed makes us think that the best things in life are the things we can own — or find under a Christmas tree.

Because of these and countless other sins, it would look like death is our master, slowing and relentlessly consuming all. Death brings an end to life and creates holes in our hearts. Death comes to all who sin and was God's sentence on the world as a punishment for sin.

But Christ has come and so the blessings of God have been poured into our lives. Sin has been taken away by Jesus. The baby would grow up to be the ***"Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."*** Your guilt is gone. With guilt gone, death too is crushed. Jesus' resurrection defeated death's power in our world.

This is no small, insignificant blessing to be lumped in with "have a nice day." The true and only God has taken away your sins and declares that he forgives you. To all who believe he gives the promise of eternal life and the comfort of

knowing that their guilt is gone. This is a life-changing message. Our thoughts can be guided by the love of Christ. Our doubts about God's wishes for us are erased by a cross on which he died for us. Amos was foretelling what you have because Jesus is your Savior.

You are not a captive to sin, but your life overflows with opportunities to serve others. Sometime we lose sight of these blessed opportunities because our sinful nature clouds our vision and attitudes. Your mind belongs to Christ. So does your time and your talents. Use them joyfully to serve others.

Don't let the on-going disappointments and troubles of this world cloud your view. Don't let your sins rob you of the joy of knowing God's love; your guilt is gone. Christ's coming means that you live surrounded by the love of God. Every moment counts because you have been made into a holy person.

This the joy of the Christmas season. God loved you enough to save you. Abundant spiritual blessings are yours because of Emmanuel has come for you. Soak in the message of Christmas and Christ's coming into your heart. This is what bring joy and real blessings to life. Amen.

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