

July 14, 2024
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost
Scripture Reading

Amos 7:7-15 (IB)

7:7 This is what the Sovereign YHWH showed me: God was standing by a wall, a plumb line‡ in hand.

7:8 “What do you see, Amos?” YHWH asked me. “A plumb line,” I said. Then God said to me, “Look, I am going to measure my people Israel by plumb line. I will no longer excuse their atrocities.

7:9 The high places of Isaac are going to be ruined, the sanctuaries of Israel destroyed. With sword in hand, I will attack the House of Jeroboam.”

7:10 Amaziah the priest of Bethel then sent the following message to Jeroboam ruler of Israel: “Amos is plotting against you in the midst of the House of Israel. The country can no longer tolerate what he keeps saying.

7:11 For this is what he says, ‘Jeroboam is going to die by the sword, and Israel is going into exile from its land.’”

7:12 Amaziah told Amos, “Go away, seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there. Do your prophesying there. 13 We want no more prophesying in Bethel. This is the royal sanctuary, the national Temple!”

7:14 Amos answered Amaziah: “I am no prophet. Nor am I the disciple of a prophet. I was a shepherd, and gathered figs for food.

7:15 But YHWH took me from herding the flock, and said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’

Mark 6:14-29 (IB)

6:14 Meanwhile Herod, the ruler of Judea, had heard about Jesus, whose reputation had become widespread. Some people were saying, “John the Baptizer has been raised from the dead, and that is why such miraculous powers are at work in him.”

6:15 Others said, “He is Elijah”; still others, “He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.”

6:16 When Herod heard of Jesus, he exclaimed, “John, whom I beheaded, has risen from the dead!”

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6:17 Now it was Herod who had ordered John arrested, chained and imprisoned on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, whom Herod had married.

6:18 For John had told Herod, “It is against the Law for you to have your brother’s wife.”

6:19 As for Herodias, she was furious with John and wanted to kill him but was unable to do so.

6:20 Herod feared John, knowing him to be good and holy, and kept him in custody. When Herod heard John speak he was very much disturbed; yet he was moved by John’s words.

6:21 Herodias had her chance one day when Herod on his birthday held a dinner for the court circle, military officers and leaders of Galilee.

6:22 When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, this delighted Herod and the guests so much that he told the young woman, “Ask me anything you like and I will give it to you.”

6:23 And Herod swore an oath, “I will give you anything you ask, even half of my entire realm!”

6:24 She went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?” Herodias replied, “The head of John the Baptizer.”

6:25 The woman hurried back to Herod and made her request: “I want you to give me the head of John the Baptizer on a platter.”

6:26 Herod was deeply distressed by this request, but remembering the oath he swore before the guests, he was reluctant to break his oath to her.

6:27 So Herod immediately sent one of the bodyguards with orders to bring John’s head. The guard beheaded John in prison,

6:28 then brought the head in on a platter and gave it to the young woman, who gave it to her mother.

6:29 When John’s disciples heard about this, they came and took the body away and laid it in a tomb.