

Correction & Kindness

Amos 8 & 9

At best we are but clay, animated dust; but viewed as sinners, we are monsters indeed. Let it be published in heaven as a miracle that the Lord Jesus should set His heart's love upon people like us.

-Alistair Begg

I. Ripe for Judgment

II. Removed in Justice

III. Restored to Relationship

Into the Bible

1. Does God ever leave His people? God speaks to the Children of Israel at the edge of the Promised Land through Moses in Deuteronomy 31:6-8 promising never to leave them or forsake them. Yet their sinful failures led to the loss of the Ark of the Covenant in battle and a son named Ichabod as a result (The Glory of the Lord has departed). Much later with the imminent capture of Jerusalem by Babylon Ezekiel sees the Shekinah glory depart from Solomon's temple. (Ezekiel 10:18-19) Does our sin similarly create a distance between ourselves and a holy God? Why do we not feel His presence with us at these times?

2. God's omnipresence and omniscience (Psalm 139) make it impossible for Him not to know of our sinful failures making His mercy and forgiveness even more extraordinary. Romans 3:10-12 says that none of us seek God in order to close the distance between us, but beginning with Adam in the Garden, God seeks us. How do the following verses reassure us when we feel God's absence more than His presence? (Ezekiel 34:11, John 10:27, Luke 19:10)

Application

3. Upon the return from exile in Babylon, Ezra and Zerubbabel led the construction of a replacement for the temple of Solomon which had been destroyed. This time at this dedication there was no Ark of the Covenant to place inside and no Shekinah glory came down to fill it. But God sent the prophet Haggai to reassure them that in time the glory would return to the temple in Jerusalem. (Haggai 2:3-9) Read Revelation 21:22-22:5 for the real “Return of the King” to Jerusalem.

For Families

4. Talk with your children about the times God seeks us and why.