

“Buried”

Amos 9:1-6

Amos records, arguably, the most harsh words ever spoken by God. When God pours out His judgment, there is no escape; there is no hope; there is no silver lining in this cloud. The temple will be shaken. The threshold will be shattered. The place where God dwells will be torn down. That was the message of Amos to the Israelites.

There is no escape for the guilty. Guilt is a terrible thing. Guilt makes our stomach churn. Guilt keeps us up at night. It is guilt that brings the wrath of God. It is guilt that brings death. It is guilt that has brought darkness to this day.

We find our refuge in another Temple. This Temple would also be struck down and broken by the wrath of God. This Temple's name was Jesus. Because of your sin and mine, the Father poured out His judgment upon the One who was guilty. He took our guilt. He took our punishment for us: the thorns, the nails, the spear, the darkness, the pain, and worst of all the hell of being forsaken by God the Father. With His love being absent, there can be no joy, no hope, no escape, no silver lining.

It is all “crucified, dead, and buried.” Nothing is as lifeless as a grave. Nothing is as hopeless as the tomb of one who is guilty. Smell the stale air, the odor of blood, the stench of death. See the darkness.

That is what guilt brings. That is what comes with the wrath and judgment of God.

There is no escape. The harshness and wrath of God's judgment recorded by Amos is what Jesus endured. Even the place where God dwells will be torn down. But in three days it will be built once again. Amen.