

Amos 7:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.

Analysis

And the LORD took me as I followed the flock (וַיִּקְחֵנִי יְהוָה מֵאַחֲרַי הַצֹּאן, vayikacheni YHWH me'acharei hatzon)—the verb לָקַח (lakach, 'to take, seize') suggests divine compulsion. Amos didn't volunteer; God took him from shepherding. **And the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel** (וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלַי לֵךְ הִנָּבֵא אֶל-עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל, vayomer YHWH elai lech hinave el-ami Yisrael)—God's direct command (לֵךְ, lech, 'go!') and claim ('my people') authenticates Amos's message against Amaziah's opposition (7:10-13).

This verse defends prophetic authority: Amos prophesies not by professional training but divine commission. The same pattern appears with Moses (Exodus 3:10), Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:7), and New Testament apostles (Galatians 1:1)—God's call, not human credentials, validates ministry. True preaching flows from divine sending, not self-appointment.

Historical Context

Amaziah the priest of Bethel commanded Amos to stop prophesying (7:12-13), claiming prophetic ministry required institutional approval. Amos responds by affirming his divine commission—God's authority trumps human religious hierarchies. This conflict between institutional religion and prophetic truth recurs throughout Scripture.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's calling provide authority independent of institutional approval or professional credentials?
2. What's the difference between self-appointed ministry and being 'taken' by God for His purposes?
3. How should churches respond when God sends messengers who lack traditional credentials but speak His word faithfully?

Interlinear Text

וָקָחַ נִי	יְהוָה ה	מֵאַחֲרַי	הַצֹּאֵן	וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵלַי
took	And the LORD	me as I followed	the flock	said	H413
H3947	H3068	H310	H6629	H559	
יְהוָה ה	לִי ה	הַנֶּבִיא א	אֶל	עַמִּי	יִשְׂרָאֵל:
And the LORD	H1980	prophesy	H413	unto my people	Israel
H3068		H5012		H5971	H3478

Additional Cross-References

2 Samuel 7:8 (References Lord): Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:

Jeremiah 1:7 (References Lord): But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

Matthew 9:9 (Parallel theme): And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.

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