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GOD'S PLUMB LINE.

A SERMON

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What seest thou? A plumb line.—Amos vii. 8.

THE prophet Amos (from whose writings we have taken our text), flourished in the days when Uzziah was king of Judah, and Jeroboam the son of Joash was king of Israel, or about eight hundred years before the birth of Christ. He was a native of Tekoa, a fortified town among the hills of the south of Judah. His occupation was among the herdsmen, and the influence of his native mountains is seen plainly in his writings. He was the peasant prophet, as Isaiah was the prophet of culture and of the court. He shows a knowledge of the prophecy of Joel and of the writings of Moses. He prophesied against Israel for her idolatry and vice which flourished under the prosperous reign of Jeroboam. Syria, Philistia, Egypt, Ammon and Judah were successively rebuked, but his greatest judgments were directed against Israel. For his fidelity to the religion of Jehovah and his denunciations against Israel, he was compelled to flee, by the influence of Amaziah, a priest of the image worship established at Bethel.

In the earlier chapters of this prophecy we have terrible judgments pronounced against the Israelites for their idolatry and impenitence. We have exhortations to seek the Lord, and instances