AMOS 7:10-17

10 Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. 11 For thus Amos has said, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land."

12 And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; 13 but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

14 Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, 15 and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

16 "Now therefore, hear the word of the Lord. You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel, And do not preach against the house of Isaac.'

17 Therefore thus says the Lord: 'Your wife shall become a prostitute in the city, and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be parcelled out by line; you yourself shall die in an unclean land, and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land.'"

1. This passage stands between Amos's third vision (7:7-9) and the fourth (8:1-3). Why has it been placed here? (Hint: note v. 9)

2. What difference exists between the oracle against Jeroboam reported in v. 11 and that of v. 9? What relationship do these two oracles have to the report of 2 Kings 14:29 that "Jeroboam slept with his ancestors" [i.e. he died a natural death]? Cf. 2 Kings 15:10, which reports the assassination of Jeroboam's son, Zechariah.

3. What is Amos denying in v. 14 (N.B. the footnote in the NRSV indicating that, in both cases, "am" could be "was")? Is he saying to Amaziah "You misunderstand me if you think I am a prophet, because I am not" or "I am not a prophet by profession"?