

THE BOOK OF AMOS

Introduction and Chapters 1-2

Teacher: John M Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Wednesday Adult Class

INTRODUCTION :

1. AUTHOR: Amos

- a. His name means "burden" or "burden bearer."
- b. His hometown is Teokoa (in a rugged area six miles south of Bethlehem, twelve miles south of Jerusalem); he is a southerner, and a herdsman and dresser of sycamore trees.
- c. He is not a prophet by occupation (7:14), and has been described as "The Great Reformer"; he is a stern prophet of justice and righteousness.

2. DATE: 755 BC

- a. Amos writes to the northern kingdom (Israel), which will go into Assyrian captivity in 722 BC.
- b. He prophesies in the days of Jeroboam II (13th Northern King -see 2 Kings 14:23-29) and Uzziah (South -also known as Azariah -see 2 Kings 16 and 2 Chronicles 26).

3. HISTORICAL SETTING:

- a. During the 9th Century Assyria had been increasing in power and influence; however during the period 805- 755 BC Assyria had weakened, due to weak leaders-this same period, just before Amos writes, was a time of prosperity for both Israel and Judah.
- b. However, when TIGLATH-PILESA ascends the Assyrian throne in 745 BC, the situation changes, and Assyria again becomes strong, setting out on a course of conquest -this will lead to her invasion of Israel and the fall of Samaria in 722 BC.
- c. By the time Amos writes, Israel has become spoiled by prosperity and filled with moral and religious corruption (see 2 Kings 14:24-25) -calf worship, mingled with Baal worship, is prevalent (2 Kings 17:18-20).
- d. Amos message is that God will judge the nations and God will also judge Israel!

4. THEME: Justice and righteousness (5:24)

5. PURPOSE: To warn Israel of God's coming judgment! Israel needs to be reminded to have a proper concept of Jehovah (God Himself) and Israel (God's nation).

6. PRACTICAL LESSONS:

- a. Justice between men is the Divine foundation for society.
- b. Favored nations and individuals have corresponding responsibilities.
- c. Ease, luxury, and idleness can lead to open sin.
- d. Worship is an insult to God if it doesn't involve keeping His commandments.

7. SHORT OUTLINE:

- a. JUDGMENT AGAINST THE NATIONS, chapters 1-2
- b. JUDGMENT AGAINST ISRAEL, chapters 3-6
- c. VISIONS, chapters 7-9

CHAPTERS 1-2

I. THE AUTHOR & HIS MESSAGE, 1:1-2

- A. The author = Amos
- B. His message = the Lord will roar from Zion!

II. JUDGMENT AGAINST THE NATIONS, 1:3-2:16

A. Prophecy Concerning Damascus, 1:3-5

- 1. Damascus was the capital of Syria
- 2. These people were guilty of inhuman cruelty

B. Prophecy Concerning Philistia, 1:6-8

- 1. Gaza was a city that trafficked in slaves, selling many Israelites into slavery to Edom, their bitter enemy.
- 2. God will punish the Philistines.

C. Prophecy Concerning Tyre, 1:9-10

- 1. Tyre had made a covenant with David and Solomon (see 2 Samuel 5:11; 1 Kings 5:1-12; 9:13), yet they broke this agreement and were selling Israelites into slavery to Edom.
- 2. God will devour Tyre's palaces (citadels; fortresses).

D. Prophecy Concerning Edom, 1:11-12

- 1. The Edomites were descendants of Esau, and had great hatred for Israel.
- 2. "Teman" is another name for Edom (see Jeremiah 49:7; Obadiah 9), and Bozrah was one of Edom's principle cities.

E. Prophecy Concerning Ammon, 1:13-15

- 1. The Ammonites were descendants of Lot.
- 2. They were guilty of inhuman cruelty (see 2 Kings 8:12)

F. Prophecy Concerning Moab, 2:1-3

- 1. The Moabites were also descendants of Lot.
- 2. God will overthrow her capital and leaders.

G. Prophecy Concerning Judah, 2:4-5

- 1. Religious apostasy was rampant in Judah.
- 2. God will send a fire!

H. Prophecy Concerning Israel, 2:6-16

- 1. Apostasy also characterized Israel, leading to other sins.
- 2. Sins rampant in the land include injustice, oppression of the poor, immorality, ruthlessness, and idolatry.
- 3. God had cared for and provided for Israel, yet she had disregarded Him.
- 4. Therefore, judgment is announced!

THE BOOK OF AMOS, Lesson 2

Chapters 3-4

Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Wednesday Bible Class

INTRODUCTION: *Chapters 3-6 are commonly referred to as "The Sermons of Amos."*

I. ISRAEL'S DOOM, chapter 3

A. This is the "word that the Lord hath spoken" against the whole family of Israel.

1. God had a relationship with Israel: He cannot let her sin and unfaithfulness go unpunished.
2. Israel is no longer walking together with God -she had broken His covenant!

B. Israel's sin had separated her from God.

1. The illustrations: lion, young lion, bird, snare, trumpet.
2. The point: God's judgment is coming -God will announce His judgment through His prophets.
3. Ashdod and Egypt are called to witness the wickedness of Samaria.

C. An adversary is coming (Assyria!).

1. This adversary would surround the land, bring down the nation's strength, and plunder the palaces.
2. The severity of judgment is illustrated ("shepherd taketh out of the mouth of the lion") to show only a small remnant of Israel would be left.
3. Israel's idolatry would be cut off, and her wealth would perish.

II. ISRAEL'S DEPRAVITY, chapter 4

A. Amos addresses the "kine [cows] of Bashan" (a district east of the Jordan).

1. He addresses pleasure-lovers who are living in luxury while oppressing the poor and crushing the needy (Bashan was known for its fat cattle -see Psalm 22:12).
2. But these wicked rich shall be taken captive like fish by a fisherman!

B. God's judgment is coming:

1. Amos tells the people to "come to Bethel and transgress" -he is employing irony and sarcasm here to describe their idolatry (on Bethel, see 1 Kings 18:32-33).
2. What God will give them: famine, drought, blasting & mildew, pestilence, and the overthrow and burning of their cities.
3. The message: "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel."

THE BOOK OF AMOS, Lesson 3

Chapters 5-6

Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Wednesday Bible Class

INTRODUCTION: Recall that chapters 3-6 are commonly referred to as "The Sermons of Amos"

I. THE RUIN & REBUKE OF ISRAEL, chapter 5

A. Take up a lamentation against Israel: God's judgment is coming! , vv .1-17

1. The kingdom of Israel would be brought to an end.
2. God calls upon the house of Israel to seek Him to live!
3. The nation hates righteous judges and is guilty of manifold transgressions.
4. The message is one of repentance!
5. There will be wailing in the streets because God will pass through!

B. The rebuke, vv. 18-27

1. The day of the Lord is coming: a day of darkness (because it is a day of judgment!).
2. The emptiness of their worship is pointed out: their feast days, solemn assemblies, burnt offerings, meat offerings, peace offerings, songs, and viols.
3. The message is to "flood" the nation with judgment and righteousness!
4. The people are guilty of idolatry; therefore they will go into captivity.

II. THE REPRIMAND OF ISRAEL, chapter 6

A. Woe against the revelers!, vv. 1-6

1. Woe to them at ease in Zion -they are complacent toward the impending danger posed by Assyria.
2. Notice their description in verses 4-6.

B. Captivity is coming, vv. 7-14

1. They will go into captivity, for God is against the boasting of Jacob!
2. Destruction and death will befall them.
3. Their mixed-up moral standard is obvious, and God will raise up against them a nation that will afflict them.

THE BOOK OF AMOS, Lesson 4
Chapters 7- 9

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The Visions of Amos

I. THE VISIONS OF CHAPTER 7

- A. A Vision of Devouring Locusts, vv. 1-3
- B. A Vision of Devouring Fire, vv. 4-6
- C. A Vision of a Plumbline, vv. 7-9
- D. Opposition to Amos from Amaziah, vv. 10-17

II. THE VISIONS OF CHAPTER 8

- A. A Vision of Ripe Fruit, vv. 1-10
 - 1. The end had come upon Israel!
 - 2. The hypocrisy of their religion is exposed.
- B. A Famine in the Land, vv. 11-14
 - 1. The great famine is a famine of the Word of God!
 - 2. A great lesson: behind any nation's moral, social, and political decay is religious decay! (cf. Psalm 9:17; Proverbs 14:34; 16:12).

III. THE VISIONS OF CHAPTER 9

- A. A Vision of God Judging, vv. 1-10
 - 1. The Lord stands on the altar, ready to smite!
 - 2. None shall escape God's judgment.
- B. A Vision of Future Blessing, vv. 11-15