

AMOS

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Introduction

1. Amos lived during the days of the divided kingdom (discussed in 1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 17). He prophesied during the reigns of Jeroboam II of Israel and Uzziah, king of Judah (see 1:1; 2 Kings 14, 15; 2 Chron. 26).

Prophets	Time	Spoke To
Jonah→ Amos → Hosea	Pre-exilic	Israel
Obadiah→ Isaiah→ Micah→ Nahum→ Habakkuk→ Zephaniah→ Jeremiah	Pre-exilic	Judah
Ezekiel→ Daniel	Exilic	Judah/ nation
Haggai→ Zechariah→ Joel→ Malachi	Post-exilic	Judah

2. The name *Amos* comes from the Hebrew root *amas*, “to lift a burden.” Amos had to carry the burden of declaring judgment to rebellious Israel.
3. Amos was not raised to be a prophet (See 1:1; 7:11-17). He was a shepherd (1:1) and tender of sycamore fruit (7:14). He was from Tekoa in Judah, 12 miles south of Jerusalem, six miles south of Bethlehem. He had to travel north into Bethel of Israel to prophesy (7:13). This was the location of king Jeroboam’s residence and a center of idolatry. Amos was not very popular with the people to whom he was speaking (see 7:10-13). Notice Amos predicts the 722 B.C. Assyrian captivity of Israel (7:11).

Outline

1. Introduction (1:1-2)
2. Eight Judgments against eight nations (1-2)
3. Three Sermons against Israel (3-6)
4. Five visions of judgment (7-9:10)
5. Five promises of restoration (9:11-15)

Main Purpose, Themes and Applications

1. The main purpose is to announce the coming doom of the northern kingdom of Israel (3:2; 4:12,13; 5:1,2).
2. Amos was a foreign missionary pronouncing a message of judgment. Each of the eight oracles of judgments in chapters 1 and 2 begins with the statement, “*for three transgressions...and for four.*” Each nation had committed many iniquities. The problem was that they had committed one too many. There was the judgment on Damascus (1:3-5), Gaza (1:6-8), Tyre (1:9, 10), Edom (1:11-12), Ammon (1:13-15), Moab (2:1-3), Judah (2:4-5), and then finally judgment on Israel (2:6-16).
3. The righteousness of God is also a major theme (2:6-8). God’s righteousness is a foundational theme to Amos’ prophecy. In every way it seems God’s standard of righteousness is rejected. Judgment is sure—God says he will even take Samaria away on meat hooks because they have rejected his holiness (4:2). Consider how God’s righteousness is abandoned in our day. What are the consequences?
4. The sovereignty of God is another theme. God is the creator and sustainer of life (4:13). He brings famine (4:6) and prosperity (9:13). God does not just control individuals who submit to him. He controls the destinies of nations and all those within them (2:9; 6:14). How do we live or fail at living God’s sovereignty?
5. Also in Amos is the theme of injustice towards others: slavery (2:6), oppression of the poor and the needy (4:1), heavy rent on the poor (5:11), reveling in materialism and affluence (6:4-6). Are we guilty of any of these sins Israel committed. What law of God do we violate by committing these sins?
6. Lastly, Amos speaks of a promised restoration through repentance. Repentance is illustrated by the phrase, “seek the Lord” (5:4, 6, 14). The fruits of repentance will be brought forth if they learn to hate evil, love good and establish justice (5:15). How should repentance be seen in us?