

AMOS BIBLE STUDY

THE LION HAS ROARED



Amos' World:

- 1) Amos speaks primarily to the northern kingdom of Israel. But he comes from Judah. Read 2 Chronicles 26 for the background on the king of Judah in the time of Amos. Describe the downfall of King Uzzaiah.

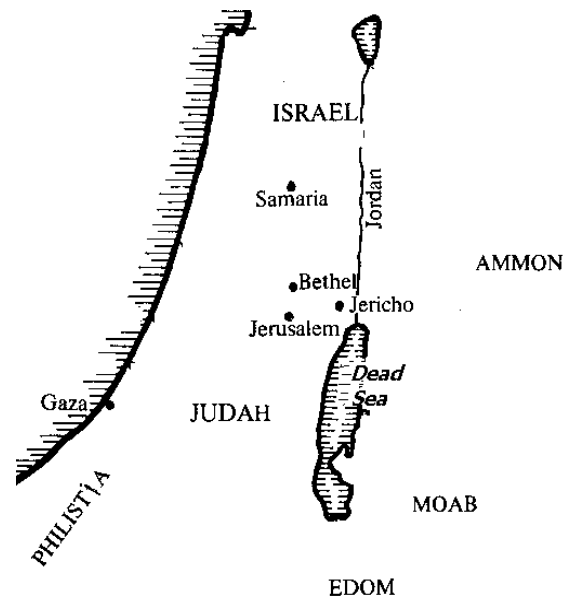
- 2) Jeroboam II is king in Judah. Contrast the spiritual and political climate of Israel at this time. 2 Kings 14:23-29 What was the status quo like during this time?

- 3) Why was time running short for both Israel and Judah? (Cf. Amos 8:1-2) What is the picture? How were they really “Ready for the picking”? (Cf. Amos 5:18)

Content of the book:

_____ % Law _____ % Gospel

General theme:



Amos 1-2 “The Lord Roars from Zion”

- 1) 1:1 What was Amos' occupation by trade? (also read Amos 7:14-15)
- 2) What do the sins of the Gentile nations have in common? (Amos 1:3-2:3)
- 3) How is the sin of Judah (the southern kingdom) different? (Amos 2:4-5)
- 4) Imagine you live in the northern kingdom of Israel. How would you feel about the first 7 oracles of judgment?
- 5) What makes the sins of Israel listed as so very blatant? (Amos 2:6-16)
- 6) 2:6 -> List some of the things of which God accuses Israel:
- 7) The people had violated the twin commandments of love. Explain.
- 8) The sins are piling up. Why is just one sin serious enough to bring God's judgment? How does this section lead us to see Jesus?

Amos 3 “The Lion Has Roared”

- 1) “Against the whole family...” (3:1) What are the implications for ... failing to see the spread of the guilt of sin? Leaving open sin unchecked in your church and family?
- 2) 3:3-8: Seven rhetorical “cause & effect” questions: The impending judgment won’t be accidental! Identify the main point here.
- 3) Explain the meaning of 3:12 “As a shepherd saves from the lion’s mouth only two leg bones or a piece of an ear, so will the Israelites be saved,”
- 4) What kind of sins are implied in 3:15? (Compare Luke 12:14ff) Explain how the gospel brings us through Jesus to overcome this temptation in our lives.

Amos 4 “You Cows ! ... prepare to Meet your God”

- 1) What group does Amos target in particular here?
- 2) 4:4-5 What are these sarcastic remarks driving at? (compare with Dt 14:28, 26:12) How is this same overtly self-righteous attitude exemplified in the Church today? What danger is there for ... you? ...visitors to our church? ... the young children?
- 3) 4:6 Note how the punishment fits the crime! List some of the things God was doing to bring them to repentance. What would it become if they refused to repent?
- 4) Discuss the difference between enduring God’s discipline and suffering his punishment. What is wrong with this statement when spoken by those who have faith in Jesus. “God is causing all this bad to happen in my life because I sinned.” (compare also Luke 13:1-9, Heb 12:1-12, Romans 8:28)
- 5) What sadly repeated refrain gives us the result of God’s call to repentance?
- 6) Can you draw parallels to the conditions in Amos’ time to things you observe in our modern Midwestern culture? What about your own life?
- 7) How can anyone be prepared to “meet your God.” (4:12)?

Amos 5 A Lament: Out of the lion's den and into the Bear's cave

- 1) Read Amos 5:1-17. This lament adds more than statements of indictment and judgment like the previous sections. What command/exhortation is found here? Identify the repeating refrain which shows God's grace.
- 2) 5:18-20 Why do you suppose they were still looking forward to the "Day of the Lord"? What really makes us ready for it?
- 3) 5:21 ff --> List some important reminders in this section about worship practices and attitudes:
- 4) 5:27 God hadn't sent them to exile because they weren't warned yet. Now they are! There are many metaphors and pictures in this chapter. Which leaves the deepest impression on you?
- 5) We too have a warning for today. (Luke 21:25-28) How can we feel about the coming "Day of the Lord"?

Amos 6 “What Are you So Proud of?”

- 1) 6:1-7. Chapter four was directed at the wealthy women. This chapter is directed at the notable men. What things were making people complacent in Amos' time? Explain how this is a temptation for men in every generation including yours?
- 2) Explain why you can't always automatically equate affluence with spiritual apathy. Can you list Scriptural examples of this truth?
- 3) Identify (1) the main point of this chapter (2) the main sin listed in this chapter.
- 4) What gives you the greatest pride? Would God ever need to take it from you? Why might you someday lose whatever it is you take pride in?
- 5) 6:13-14 Recall Israel was prosperous and strong up to this point of the reign of Jeroboam II. What would all the conquests and achievements of Israel amount to when God changes their pride to hopelessness? Who is included in facing the pending foreign oppression (6:14)?
- 6) How can we impress on the human heart the seriousness of God's judgment if we live in a complacent culture?
- 7) What is the literary effect of the questions and pictures of 6:12? List some ways that sin causes you and your world to go against reason and bring about terribly opposite results:
- 8) What did God do for us which went completely contrary to all human reason and brought about a totally unexpected result?

Amos 7 “From Farmer-Shepherd to Bold Messenger”

- 1) (7:1-9) Five vivid visions of Israel’s fate follow. The first three of them are listed right here. Note what Amos is able to accomplish twice by prayer. What does this teach us about God’s mercy... God’s justice... our prayers?
- 2) (7:10-17) What happens quite often when we confront someone for their unrepentant sinning? What reason does Amos give here for all he does and says? (Compare with Amos 3:8) How does this hold true for God’s called workers today?
- 3) God’s messengers go with authority but that doesn’t always given them popularity. Explain.
- 4) Why is it so important that God’s messengers not serve for personal gain? (Galatians 1:10)
- 5) Identify some truths can we learn about God’s calling from his call to Amos. List at least three other examples of God using the lowly to serve him and confront the proud of this world.
- 6) How does the Lord himself identify with what Amos faced?
- 7) Give some of the best reasons you can think of for honoring those whom God has called who are faithfully sharing his Word.

Amos 8 “A Famine from The Word of God”

- 1) (8:1-6) What issues addressed here help you see why Amos is called by some as “The Shepherd of Social Justice.”
- 2) (8:7-14) Explain why the worst punishment a people can receive is the famine described here.
- 3) Recall the previous chapter. How had King Jeroboam II asked for it? What attitudes ought to be cultivated to stave off such a famine (consider the attitudes towards the Word, Sacraments, Ministers of the gospel?) Do a quick analysis of your attitude, your family’s, your congregation’s. What would you like to see change?
- 4) Agree / Disagree “We are headed for a famine like this in our land.”
- 5) Have you noticed this “famine effect” as people around you have neglected God’s Word and eventually lose it altogether? Does the warning get sounded as it ought?
- 6) List all the things you can which demonstrate that God has given us in mercy and abundance of his Word even though we don’t in anyway deserve it.
- 7) How “thirsty” is our community? What role do you play in spreading the bread of life and sharing living waters?

Amos 9 “Restored, Repaired, Rebuilt, Replanted”

- 1) Describe the final vision of Israel's fate.
- 2) (9:7-9) How does God accomplish his task of sifting of the sacred and secular among all the nations?
- 3) (9:9-10) When is this finally fulfilled?
- 4) (9:10) Amos message was heard. The lion had roared. How did many receive it? God in grace still sent his messenger to them. There is grace and mercy behind his call to repentance and warning of judgment. This chapter reveals it fully.
- 5) (9:11-15) What was the imagery of “David's Fallen Tent” meant to convey? (see 2 Samuel 7) When is this fulfilled? (Luke 1:32-33)
- 6) Restate in your own words what promises are given here.
- 7) This prophecy was literally fulfilled to some extent. Yet its ultimate fulfillment is found only in Jesus and his kingdom. How can we rightly understand this promise in light of all of Scripture? Who is “Israel” and what is “their land”? How would they ever fully return with such joy? (cf. Romans 9:8, 25-27; Ezekiel 37:11-14; Heb 11:16)
- 8) After 95% law the book concludes with good news. How is this possible?

- 9) Read Acts 15:1-18 to see James' interpretation of what it really meant when God said he would restore Israel. How do these words encourage you?
- 10) What messages from the book of Amos do you find useful for your Christian life today?
- 11) Which of all the vivid pictures will stick in your mind when you think of Amos' prophecy?
- 12) Which messages or themes from Amos' prophecy would you like to reflect more on, share more in your life and home, and hear more often in your congregation's ministry?

The Lion has another roar to cry out: "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed." –Revelation 5:5