

## *The Book of AMOS*

When The Lord Roared From Zion

Key Verse: Amos 1:2

### I. Introduction to Amos

- A. **Author:** Amos 1:1 identifies the author of the Book of Amos as the Prophet Amos.
- B. **Date of Writing:** The Book of Amos was likely written between 760 and 753 B.C. You will note that the books are not laid-out chronologically according to their date of writing.
- C. **Purpose of Writing:** Amos is a \_\_\_\_\_ (7:14,15) and a fruit picker from the Judean village of Tekoa when God calls him, even though he lacks an education or a priestly background. Amos' mission was directed to Israel. His messages of impending doom and captivity for the nation because of her sins were largely unpopular and unheeded, however, because not since the days of Solomon have times been so good in Israel. Amos' ministry takes place while Jeroboam II reigns over Israel, and Uzziah reigns over Judah.
- D. **Brief Summary:** Amos can see that beneath Israel's external prosperity and power, internally the nation is corrupt to the core. The sins for which Amos chastens the people are extensive: neglect of God's Word, idolatry, pagan worship, greed, corrupted leadership and oppression of the poor. Amos begins by pronouncing a judgment upon all the surrounding nations, then upon his own nation of Judah, and finally the harshest judgment is given to Israel. His visions from God reveal the same emphatic message: judgment is near. The book ends with God's promise to Amos of future restoration of the remnant.
- E. **Practical Application:**
  1. Sometimes we think we Christians are not much to look at or listen to (7:14,15)! We think we are just a salesman, farmer or housewife. Amos would be considered a nobody by most people. He wasn't a prophet or priest or the son of either. He was just a shepherd, a small businessman in Judah. Who would listen to him? But instead of making excuses, Amos obeyed and became God's powerful voice for change.
  2. God uses nobodies such as shepherds, carpenters, fishermen all through the Bible. Whatever you are in this life, God can use you. Amos wasn't much. But he was a servant for God, and he impacted an entire nation for God!

### II. Study Outline of Amos

#### A. Amos' "vision" – what he "saw" (1:1)

1. This vision and prophecy was written 2 years before the famous earthquake described in Isaiah 6
2. The Lord will "roar from Zion" – will speak, OR APPEAR from Jerusalem!
3. A prophecy of the word of the Lord proceeding from the mouth of the Lord from within the walls of Jerusalem – Jehovah would literally come to Jerusalem, stand within the city walls, and pronounce judgments one day

#### B. Pronouncing Judgment Against the Nations (chapters 1-2). God's Wrath against Eight Nations:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (1:3-5) – a nation North of Israel. Lebanon
  - a. Judgment because of four sins
  - b. They had fought against Gilead
  - c. They as a nation will be burnt down and destroyed, and the people taken away as captives to Assyria



2. \_\_\_\_\_ (1:6-8) – located Southwest of Judah – a main city where the Philistines lived
  - a. Judgment also because of four transgressions again God
  - b. They helped trap and deliver God’s people into captivity – never delivered them from their enemies
  - c. A fire was coming against Gaza
  - d. All people and cities of the Philistines will be take captive one day
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (1:9-10) – located on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea in Lebanon
  - a. Because the inhabitants sinned over and over four times
  - b. And because they gave God’s people as captives over to Edom and forgot about the natural brotherly covenant between Israel and Esau (Edom)
  - c. God will burn this city to the ground
  
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (1:11-12) – a nation directly South of Judah
  - a. Sinned over and over
    - 1) Chasing Israel with the sword
    - 2) Had no pity on his brother Israel
    - 3) Anger against Jacob controlled him and tore at him
    - 4) Esau kept his anger continually – never let it go
  - b. So, God was going to burn all of Edom
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (1:13-15) – A Country east of Israel, on the other side of the Jordan River
  - a. Sinned over and over
    - 1) Tortured and killed pregnant women “ripped them open” – abortion!
    - 2) Killing people and destroying Judean lives so that THEY (Ammonites) could come into the lands and expand their own empire
  - b. So, God was going to judge and destroy the entire kingdom – and He did
  
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (2:1-3) – nation directly east, across on the other side of the Dead Sea
  - a. Mistreated the bones of the king of Moab – used them for building materials
  - b. So they will be burned to the ground
  
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (2:4-5)
  - a. They despised God’s law
  - b. Not kept God’s commandments
  - c. Lived by their lies
  - d. Just like their fathers did
  - e. So, the palaces of Judah will be burned with fire
  
8. \_\_\_\_\_ (2:6-16) – Northern ten Tribes
  - a. Sold the righteous for money
  - b. Sold the poor for a \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Were more interested in the dust on the head of the poor than on the poor themselves
  - d. They loved diverting the meek from their meekness
  - e. And father and son loved to have sex with the same woman (see 1Cor 5)
  - f. All out of disgust for the name and honour of the Lord
  - g. And they sleep on, and ruin the pledge clothes of people
  - h. And they drink the wine that was meant for the condemned, in their own pagan houses
  - i. And they have forgotten what all God had done for them (2:9-11)
    - 1) Destroyed the Amorite – their arch-enemy
    - 2) Brought Israel out of their bondage in Egypt

- 3) Led them forty years through the wilderness
  - 4) Put them in the land of the Amorite
  - 5) Raised up the people as Nazarites
- j. But God will judge you now (2:12-16)
- 1) Because you got your Nazarites \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) Because you stopped the prophets from preaching
  - 3) Because you squeezed God out of your lives
  - 4) So, your won't be able to run away
  - 5) Your strength to fight will be gone
  - 6) You won't be able to fight with a bow
  - 7) You will be totally defeated in battle

**C. Specific Judgments Against Israel (3)**

- 1. Against ALL Israel including Judah
- 2. God and you cannot walk together, because you won't agree with HIM (3:3)
- 3. This Judgment is not for nothing
  - a. Lions roar when they have their prey in view
  - b. A bird is only caught in a trap when there is a gin, a trap laid
  - c. No snare/trap is set without food in it to lure the prey
  - d. A trumpet is blown so that people fear
  - e. Troubles and evil in a city are because God is behind it
  - f. And all judgments by God are first revealed to His prophets
  - g. Proverb: If the lion has roared, everyone should fear. Well if the Lord hath spoken, shouldn't people prophesy and preach about it?
- 4. This judgment against Israel will be heard of in Ashdod, and even down in Egypt (3:9)
- 5. Because Israel doesn't even know HOW to do right
- 6. Therefore, Israel will be surrounded by an adversary and destroyed – by a LION (\_\_\_\_\_), and the devil)
- 7. A SHEPHERD (\_\_\_\_\_) will come and save out of the mouth of the LION (Satan)
  - a. Just two legs
  - b. Or a piece of an ear
  - c. Not the whole lamb (Israel)
  - d. In other words, what is left will be only bits and pieces of the once great people of God
- 8. Everything in Israel will be destroyed (3:14,15)

**D. The Captivity of Samaria – Northern Israel (4:1-13)**

- 1. Like cattle to the slaughter
- 2. God talks facetiously “this is like you”
  - a. Come to Bethel – the house of God – and sin – COME DO IT OUT IN PUBLIC at the most sacred place
  - b. At Gilgal – a place of sanctification and purity - sin much
  - c. Make sure you keep up your religious rituals (4:4,5)
  - d. Offer your sacrifices with \_\_\_\_\_ (4:5)
- 3. God reveals that His judgment has already begun
  - a. No food on their teeth because there was no food being eaten
  - b. Yet no one is turning back to the Lord
  - c. No rain
  - d. Yet no one is turning back to the Lord
  - e. Blasting (fungus) and mildew, and insects ruining all your harvests (4:9)
  - f. Yet no one is turning back to the Lord
  - g. Pestilences like those in Egypt

- h. Young strong men have been slaughtered
  - i. You have lost all your horses that you trusted in
  - j. Your army camps stink of rotting flesh
  - k. Yet no one is turning back to the Lord
  - l. Overthrown you like God did Sodom
  - m. Yet no one is turning back to the Lord
4. So, because none of that upsets you enough to get right with God...
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (4:12) the God who made you and everything else!

**E. Seek the Lord (5:1-21)**

- 1. You have fallen, and none can help you
- 2. You used to win, but now are 1/10<sup>th</sup> your old self
- 3. Don't go looking for help at Bethel, or Gilgal – they are ruined
- 4. Look to the Lord and live (5:6; Isa 45:22)
- 5. Or you will be judged, and die
- 6. Seek Him who...
  - a. Maketh (constantly creating) the seven stars (Pleiades)
  - b. Maketh \_\_\_\_\_ – a stellar nursery
  - c. Changes the shadow of death into morning light
  - d. And maketh the day into the darkest night
  - e. Controls the weather
- 7. The Lord, Jehovah is His name
  - a. He strengthens the conquered against the strong
  - b. He sends the kind of people against us that we hate – rebukers, and those that speak uprightly (5:10)
- 8. It is all because of how you treat Godly people (5:10-13)
- 9. God's Commands on getting right
  - a. Seek \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ the evil
  - c. Establish righteous judgment in the courts (the gate)
  - d. It “\_\_\_\_\_” that the Lord will be gracious
  - e. Or else there will only be ruin, and wailing
  - f. Don't look forward to the Day of the Lord (5:18-20)
    - 1) The day when God appears, passing through
    - 2) It is a day of darkness
    - 3) A day when people will flee from one danger and encounter a worse one
  - g. Don't trust in your ceremonial Rituals (5:21-24)
    - 1) God will not accept them from wicked hearts and hands
    - 2) God will reject your songs
  - h. But instead let righteous judgments flow like rivers
- 10. It has not been to Jehovah that you have been worshipping (5:25-27)
  - a. But to \_\_\_\_\_ (Lev 18:21) a god that demanded the sacrifice of children. Also called “Milchom” (1Ki 11:5,33; 2Ki 23:13)
  - b. Chiun – the star of Rempham (Acts 7:43) – a star-god
- 11. Therefore, to Assyria will your entire nation go into captivity!



**F. Assyria is Coming (6:1-14)**

1. Woe to all you who don't care
2. Who trust in your own strength and army
3. Go check on all the surrounding nations and see if they have withstood Assyria
4. Look at how you are ignoring God's warnings
  - a. Lie upon beds and couches of ivory – live wealthy
  - b. Eat best lambs
  - c. Make sweet music like David did
  - d. Drink bowls full of wine
  - e. Anoint yourselves with ointment
  - f. But are not grieved about the spiritual condition of Joseph (Northern ten tribes of Israel) (6:7)
5. You all shall take the lead in captivity (6:7)
6. God hates and abhors everything about Jacob's pride now
7. No one will be missed from judgment
8. No farming anymore (6:12)
9. Assyria is coming (6:14)

**G. Judgment of \_\_\_\_\_ (7:1-3)**

1. All the grass was eaten by locusts
2. Amos prayed for God to forgive the nation, or else Jacob won't be able to rise again
3. And the Lord DID repent, and did not completely destroy the nation

**H. Judgment of \_\_\_\_\_ (7:4-6)**

1. Burned up all the water – the great deep
2. Amos prayed for God to forgive
3. And God did forgive

**I. Judgment of Plumb Line (7:7-9)**

1. God showed all Israel being razed to the ground, and a plumb line making sure that everything has been brought low
2. God then declares He is not going to work there anymore

**J. Amos and Amaziah the Priest of Bethel (7:10-17)**

1. Amaziah the Priest of Bethel (7:10-13)
  - a. Accuses Amos of conspiracy – \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Summarizes what Amos has prophesied (7:11)
    - 1) That Jereboam will die by the sword
    - 2) And Israel will be taken away into captivity
  - c. Tries to scare Amos into going to Judah to prophesy there – wants Amos to leave them alone
2. Amos answers (7:14-17)
  - a. I am a nobody – I have no agenda – I didn't ask for this job
  - b. It was the Lord who made me preach all this
  - c. So, here is some more from the mouth of GOD
    - 1) Amaziah's wife shall become an harlot
    - 2) His children will die by the sword
    - 3) He will lose all his farms
    - 4) Amaziah will die in a polluted land
    - 5) And Israel shall go into captivity
    - 6) JUST like Amos prophesied!

**K. Judgment of Summer Fruit (8:1-3)**

1. Last fruits before the winter – show the end is come
2. Songs of the harvest will be turned into howlings of hunger and destruction
3. Death everywhere
4. All because
  - a. They ignore the needy
  - b. Kill off the poor
  - c. Are only interested in buying and selling – even by falsifying scales
  - d. Buying and selling the poor as slaves – even for a pair of shoes
5. God \_\_\_\_\_, He will never forget these evil works
6. And will in one day cause:
  - a. The land shall tremble
  - b. The people will mourn
  - c. Disaster shall come as a flood – \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. The sun will go down at noon
  - e. Darkness will cover the earth without clouds – a darkness out in outer space
  - f. Fear, mourning and lamenting, sackcloth, disease (baldness)
  - g. A famine of the \_\_\_\_\_ – God will not speak THEN (8:11)!
    - 1) People will be hungry for it THEN
    - 2) But no one will find it
    - 3) And people will only turn to their false gods
    - 4) And the people will be destroyed!
7. God's Serious Attitude About the Coming Judgment (9:1-10)
  - a. God will destroy the house from the doorway in
  - b. Them that flee will be caught
  - c. Those that dig downward to hell, will be brought up
  - d. Those that climb, rocket, try to escape into the \_\_\_\_\_, will be brought down
  - e. Them that hide in mountain caves, or even in the deepest parts of the sea will be exposed and brought back
  - f. The serpent will kill them – like in Numbers 21
  - g. Captivity will not protect them from the sword
  - h. The land will melt
  - i. Everyone will mourn
  - j. Death will come like a flood
  - k. This will be done by God who made His stories in the heaven – His dwelling – layers upon layers – don't think this is just the Assyrian king. It is GOD'S wrath
  - l. Israel is no different than any of the surrounding nations that God has judged
  - m. God always judges every sinful nation
  - n. Except, He will NOT utterly destroy JACOB – because of David (9:8)
    - 1) Israel will be sifted
    - 2) And the remnant will one day return
    - 3) But all sinners shall die
8. Restoration of the Davidic Dynasty in Judah (9:11-15) – the Millennium
  - a. In that Day – \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The kingdom will be restored (Acts 1)
  - c. All the surrounding nations that are called by God's name will be possessed, ruled once again – including \_\_\_\_\_ nations that have believers
  - d. Paradise will return (9:13)
  - e. God will bring again all the people back from captivity
  - f. Rebuild the waste places
  - g. Israel will no more be judged for sin (Dan 9)

**III. Conclusion**