

AMOS

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INTRODUCTION

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- A. THE MAN: From obscurity of a shepherd to a few brief moments upon the stage of history.
 - 1. NAME; Means “burden-bearer”
 - 2. HOME; Village of Tekoa, about 6y miles south of Bethlehem..12 miles south of Jerusalem.
 - 3. OCCUPATION; Had been a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore trees.
 - B. CHARACTERIZATION: Some one has described Amos as “the first Great Reformer.” He was not of the school of the prophets (7:14-15). As Hosea was summed up in the word “loving-kindness” Amos is summed up in the one word “justice.”
 - C. THE DATE; He prophesied in the days of Uzziah, king of Judah, and of Jeroboam, king of Israel so would be about 750 -760 B.C.
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BACKGROUND

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- A. BORDER: Borders of both Israel and Judah had been spread to their original size. They were at Ease...No real enemies.
 - B. LUXURY:
 - 1. “Summer-house,” the “houses of ivory” “couches” and “silken cushions” “houses of hewn-stone”
 - 2. The voluptuous women were spoken of as “kine of Bashan,” who insisted that their husbands provide ample wine and other luxuries for their feasts, even if the poor had to be crushed in order to provide these (4;1-3).
 - C. MORAL AND POLITICAL CORRUPTION:
 - 1. The moral condition of the nation is clearly revealed by the prophet’s shock at the cruel treatment of the poor by the rich...
 - 2. Covetousness and immorality of the people in power, and general contempt for things holy. (2:6-8).
 - 3. There was an abundance of religion, but it was far short of what God required, because the ceremonies were not coupled with justice and righteousness (5:24).
 - 4. ****they did much; sacrifices, tithes, etc. But it was that which please themselves rather than that which pleased God. (4:4,5).**
 - 5. For all of this God would bring them to judgment; therefore; “prepare to meet thy God” (4:12). Often taken out of context. Doom was coming!
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TEACHINGS

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- A. The prophets's conception of Jehovah...A world view of God and the nations. Never refers to Jehovah as "The God of Israel".
 - B. THE PROPHETS CONCEPTION OF ISRAEL.
 - 1. The people of god...thus a special relationship to Him.
 - 2. Should reflect the character of God.
 - 3. Israel had failed in the divine purpose; therefore, judgment.
 - C. PERMANENT LESSONS OF THE BOOK.
 - 1. Justice between man and man is divine foundations of society.
 - 2. Privilege implies responsibility.
 - 3. Failure to recognize and accept responsibility is sure to bring punishment.
 - 4. Nations, individuals must live up to light and knowledge.
 - 5. The most elaborate worship is but an insult to God when offered by those who have no mind to conform to His commands.
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FIVE VISIONS

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- A. THE LOCUST coming during the latter growth and complete calamity was only averted by the mercy of God (7:1-3).
 - 1. Remember Joel
 - 2. The message about locust plagues.
 - B. THE DEVOURING FIRE (7:4-6).
 - C. THIRD; GOD STATES that He will not pass them by any more.
 - 1. Calamity is coming.
 - 2. **The Plumb Line** (7:7-9).
 - D. FOURTH: A BASKET OF SUMMER FRUIT:
 - 1. Beautiful to see ...Good...but
 - 2. Ripe fruit cannot be kept.
 - 3. The judgment of God upon Israel could not be kept.
 - 4. God would even send a famine of hearing the words of the Lord (8:11).
 - E. FIFTH; THE SMITTEN SANCTUARY" (9:1-10).
 - 1. The end is near...
 - 2. But the righteous would not be destroyed with the wicked. (9:9).
 - 3. Principal message of the book is DOOM!
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Applied to Current Problems

- A. Could his book sound any more like today's news? Look at chapter six! Judgment because of:
1. Luxurious living.
 2. Impiety.
 3. They felt secure.
 4. No one could overtake their armies, the people thought.
 5. Put far away the evil day.
- B. We can scarcely fail to be impressed with the similarity of the conditions in the time of Amos to those of today. Although Amos prophesied in the 8th century before Christ, he addressed himself to a society to which we are no strangers. Consider some prominent characteristics Amos confronted:
1. Prosperity
 2. Love of Luxury
 3. Disregard and Oppression of the Poor
 4. Ritualistic Worship
 5. Religious Apostasy.
- C. We would not have to search far to discover the same characteristics today, since Amos addressed such a nation and society, it is readily apparent that prophecy has a particular pertinency for our day.
- D. Israel concluded that since He was their God and they His people, and since they had been so extravagant in their offerings and worship, surely He would favor them.
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AMAZIAH'S OF TODAY

- A. There has always been efforts to weaken and dilute the truth. To intimidate the prophets. (7:12-13)
1. "Catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar.
 2. "Be careful what you say - you may drive them farther away."
 3. We want to appeal....may be appealing to the world.
 4. "The land is not able to bear all his words"
- B. The direction of the world today (church) say only the things people like to hear...
1. No more "fire and brim stone" sermons.
 2. The Hireling"Amos was not for hire.
- C. *"THE PROPHETS PROPHECY FALSELY, AND THE PRIESTS BEAR RULE BY THEIR MEANS; AND MY PEOPLE LOVE TO HAVE IT SO;"* (Jer. 5:31).
- D. **READ...II Tim. 4:1-4.**

CONCLUSION:

- "Seek ye me, and ye shall live," (5:4).
- "Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live; and so Jehovah, the God of hosts, will be with you, as ye say." (5:14).
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Book Preserved Because ...

- A. True servants of God today must speak God's truths and have courage like Amos and speak the whole council of God even in the sinner's den (3:3-8; 7:10-17).
 - B. Christians today must recognize the perils of privilege. Privilege brings responsibility and it brings the danger of one thinking he can slip by without being accountable because of his privilege. In our privileged position we must recognize that more is demanded of us rather than less. We must practice worship that is pleasing to God and not to ourselves. A worship that is in spirit and in truth with an attitude of faith and obedience according to God's plan of salvation. God is to be praised, worshiped, and feared for His power is great and He controls and over rules all things to accomplish His will (4:6-13; 5:4-9).
 - C. A corrupt sense of values like seeking the wrong things, loving the wrong things, hating the wrong things is the basic cause of sin (5:4-17). Whereas justice and righteousness are the foundational virtues for a right relationship to God and society.
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