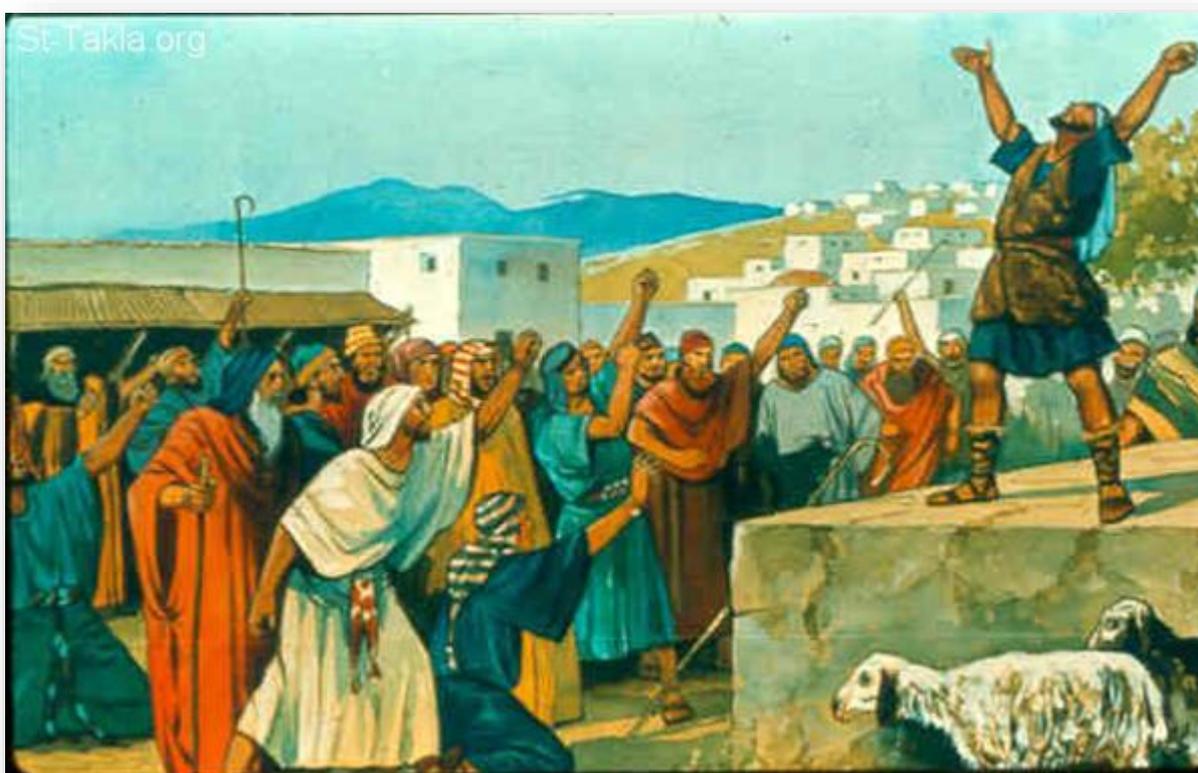


Book of Amos

Study BIBLE



Introduction

Book No	30
Name	Amos
Written By	Amos
Testament	Old
Category	Minor Prophets
Date Written	Approx. 760 - 750 BC
Place Written	Sinai desert near to Canaan
Audience	To the people of Israel
Purpose	To pronounce God's judgment upon Israel, the northern kingdom, for its complacency, idolatry, and oppression of the poor
History Covered	760 - 750 BC
Chapters	9
Verses	146
Key Verse	But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. (5:24)
Key People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Amos ❖ Amaziah ❖ Jeroboam II
Key Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Samaria ❖ Assyria

Purpose of the Book

The Book of Amos is basically a message of judgment: judgment on the nations, oracles and visions of divine judgment on Israel. The central theme of the book is that the people of Israel have broken their covenant with God. As a result, God's punishment of their sin will be severe.

Each foreign nation is to be punished for specific offenses either against Israel or some other nation. This judgment on the nations teaches us that God is a universal Monarch. All nations are under His control. They must answer to Him for their mistreatment of other nations and peoples. Israel and Judah, however, will be punished because they have broken their covenant with God.

The middle of the eighth century B.C. was a time of great prosperity for both Israel and Judah. Israel and Judah had reached new political and military heights, but the religious situation was at an all-time low. Idolatry was rampant; the rich were living in luxury while the poor were oppressed; there was widespread immorality; and the judicial system was corrupt. The people interpreted their prosperity as a sign of God's blessing on them. Amos's task was to deliver the message that God was displeased with the nation. His patience was exhausted. Punishment was inevitable.

The nation would be destroyed unless there was a change of heart—a change that would “let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream” (5:24).

Surely Amos was a man of God, a person whose life was devoted to serving the Lord and whose life-style reflected this devotion—but he was a layperson. Herding sheep and tending sycamore-fig trees in the Judean countryside, Amos was not the son of a prophet; he was not the son of a priest. As a humble shepherd, he could have stayed in Tekoa, doing his job, providing for his family, and worshiping his God. But God gave Amos a vision of the future (1:1) and told him to take his message to Israel, the northern kingdom (7:15). Amos obeyed and thus proved he was a man of God.

Amos's message has had an impact on God's people throughout the centuries, and it needs to be heard today by individuals and nations. Although they were divided from their southern brothers and sisters in Judah, the northern Israelites were still God's people. But they were living beneath a pious veneer of religion, worshiping idols and oppressing the poor. Amos, a fiery, fearless, and honest shepherd from the south, confronted them with their sin and warned them of the impending judgment.

The book of Amos opens with this humble shepherd watching his sheep. God then gave him a vision of what was about to happen to the nation of Israel. God condemned all the nations who had sinned against him and harmed his people. Beginning with Aram, he moved quickly through Philistia, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, and Moab. All were condemned, and we can almost hear the Israelites shouting, “Amen!” And then, even Judah, Amos’s homeland, was included in God’s scathing denunciation (2:4-5).

How Amos’s listeners must have enjoyed hearing those words! Suddenly, however, Amos turned to the people of Israel and pronounced God’s judgment on them. The next four chapters enumerate and describe their sins. It is no wonder that Amaziah the priest intervened and tried to stop the preaching (7:10-13). Fearlessly, Amos continued to relate the visions of future judgment that God gave to him (chapters 8–9). After all the chapters on judgment, the book concludes with a message of hope. Eventually God will restore his people and make them great again (9:8-15).

Amos stresses that righteousness and justice are essential to a healthy society. Religion is more than observing feast days and holding sacred assemblies; true religion demands righteous living. The way a man treats his neighbor reveals his relationship with God. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God. The second is to love our neighbor as ourselves. This is the message of Amos. This is the message needed today. We also are living in a prosperous, materialistic society.

Because we are prosperous, we may also deceive ourselves into believing that we have God’s blessing on us. The tendency to give God material goods and believe we have satisfied Him is ever with us. Material prosperity often leads to religious and moral corruption. Observation of external rites is not enough. God demands our obedience—a heartfelt attitude that issues in action to meet the needs of our fellow human beings.

As you read Amos’s book, put yourself in the place of those Israelites and listen to God’s message. Have you grown complacent? Have other concerns taken God’s place in your life? Do you ignore those in need or oppress the poor? Picture yourself as Amos, faithfully doing what God calls you to do. You, too, can be God’s person. Listen for his clear call and do what he says, wherever it leads.

Overview

- ❖ 30th book of the BIBLE, Old Testament, 3rd of the 12 minor prophets and 8th of the 17 prophetic books

- ❖ Amos prophesied in Bethel about 755 B.C.
- ❖ Amos was a farmer who became a prophet.
- ❖ The only time the name of Amos appears in the Old Testament is in the Book of Amos.
- ❖ Amos was from Tekoa in Judah. Tekoa was located about twelve miles south of Jerusalem.
- ❖ Amos ministered:
 - After:
 - Obadiah
 - Joel
 - Jonah
 - Just before:
 - Hosea
 - Micah
 - Isaiah
- ❖ During the time of Amos:
 - It was a period of optimism in Israel.
 - There was great prosperity.
 - Economic circumstances were almost ideal.
 - Military circumstances were almost ideal.
- ❖ Assyria, Babylon, Syria, and Egypt were relatively weak.
- ❖ It was three decades before Israel would fall to Assyria.
- ❖ The key to the Book of Amos is God's judgment of Israel.
- ❖ The sins of Israel are great.
 - Empty ritualism in religion.
 - Arrogance
 - Oppression of the poor by the rich.
 - Greed
 - Idolatry
 - Materialism
 - Deceit
 - Callousness
 - Self-righteousness

- ❖ Although the people have repeatedly broken every aspect of their covenant relationship with Jehovah, God's mercy and love for them is demonstrated by His sending Amos to warn the people of their fate should they refuse to repent.
- ❖ Seven times in the Book of Amos, God says, "I will send fire."
- ❖ God promises to:
- ❖ Reinststate the Davidic line.
- ❖ Renew the land.
- ❖ Restore the Temple

Hebrew Names of GOD used in Amos

NA

Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

There are no direct references to Christ in Amos. No typology is present either. There does seem to be an allusion, however, to Amos 1:9, 10 in Jesus' statement in Matthew 11:21, 22. Amos speaks of the judgment to come upon Tyre. Jesus says that if the mighty works performed in Chorazin and Bethsaida "had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes." One other concept from Amos is picked up by John in Revelation. Amos speaks of God's prophets as servants and says that God does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets (Amos 3:7). John speaks about the sounding of the seventh trumpet when the "mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets" (Rev. 10:7).

Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

The work of the Holy Spirit is not mentioned specifically in Amos. The process of inspiring the prophet and revealing God's message is usually attributed by other prophets to the Spirit (see Is. 48:16; Ezek. 3:24; Mic. 3:8). As is the case in most of the prophets, it is almost impossible to draw a distinction between the Lord and His Spirit. Amos does not happen to mention the Spirit in his work, but those activities ascribed to the Spirit by other prophets are present in Amos.

Mega Themes of Amos

EVERYONE ANSWERS TO GOD

Amos pronounced judgment from God on all the surrounding nations. Then he

included Judah and Israel. God is in supreme control of all the nations. Everyone is accountable to him.

All people will have to account for their sin. When those who reject God seem to get ahead, don't envy their prosperity or feel sorry for yourself. Remember that we all must answer to God for how we live.

COMPLACENCY

Everyone was optimistic, business was booming, and people were happy (except for the poor and oppressed). With all the comfort and luxury came self-sufficiency and a false sense of security. But prosperity brought corruption and destruction.

A complacent present leads to a disastrous future. Don't congratulate yourself for the blessings and benefits you now enjoy. They are from God. If you are more satisfied with yourself than with God, remember that everything is meaningless without him. A self-sufficient attitude may be your downfall.

OPPRESSING THE POOR

The wealthy and powerful people of Samaria, the capital of Israel, had become prosperous, greedy, and unjust. Illegal and immoral slavery came as the result of over-taxation and land-grabbing. There was also cruelty and indifference towards the poor. God is weary of greed and will not tolerate injustice.

God made all people; therefore, to ignore the poor is to ignore those whom God loves and whom Christ came to save. We must go beyond feeling bad for the poor and oppressed. We must act compassionately to stop injustice and to help care for those in need.

SUPERFICIAL RELIGION

Although many people had abandoned real faith in God, they still pretended to be religious. They were carrying on superficial religious exercises instead of having spiritual integrity and practicing heartfelt obedience toward God.

Merely participating in ceremony or ritual falls short of true religion. God wants simple trust in him, not showy external actions. Don't settle for impressing others with external rituals when God wants heartfelt obedience and commitment.

Life Lessons in Amos

<p style="text-align: center;">Truth</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson</p>
<p>Growing in Godliness</p> <p>Amos exemplifies God’s commitment to forewarn His people of impending judgment in order to give them the opportunity to repent. God sent the prophet Amos as His spokesperson of warning to Israel. Like a trumpet blown to warn a city of attack, so God speaks through His prophets to warn His people in order to save them from destruction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that, motivated by His love, God brings warnings through His prophets in order to save His people from harm. Test prophetic words (1 Cor. 14:29); if they are from the Lord, respond appropriately. Ask God to develop your ability to hear the things He desires to speak to His people. ❖ Understand that God sent calamity on His people to turn them back to Him. Learn from Israel’s mistakes. Turn from sin, and quickly return to the Lord when He convicts you of wrongdoing (1 Cor. 10:1–11). ❖ Allow the godliness found in the Bible to be your life’s standard. Ask God to show you any places in your life that deviate from His standard. ❖ By His grace, submit those areas to the Lord. Ask Him to conform you to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ (Rom. 12:2).
<p>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</p> <p>Like the disciples who were called from their fishing boats and Elisha who was called from plowing the fields, Amos was called from breeding sheep to follow the Lord in ministry.</p> <p>Amos left his home and his vocation in order to obey God’s call to prophetic ministry. It takes dynamic devotion to God to be</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that the Lord often calls people out of places of obscurity into leadership and influence. Look at Moses (a felon, tending sheep in hiding), Aaron (a slave), David (the youngest son and a shepherd), Jeremiah (a youth who felt he could not speak), for example. Devote yourself to the Lord in every way. Listen for God’s call to you. Believe that He can use you for His glory! ❖ Be willing to receive and follow God’s call regardless of your “qualifications.” Training

<p>willing to follow the Lord regardless of the cost.</p> <p>Let God so captivate your heart that you would be willing to follow wherever He calls you.</p>	<p>is vital to help you grow in your call and gifts, but it is not a prerequisite to being called. Like Amos, respond to the Lord's call in faithfulness.</p>
<p>Pursuing Holiness</p> <p>God desires that we encourage His people to seek Him, obey His Word, and walk in holiness. Amos exhorts us that the Lord will severely judge those who cause others to stumble by discouraging godly and righteous behavior.</p> <p>Walk in God's ways, and actively encourage others to do likewise (Ps. 34:14–16; Matt. 18:6).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that rejecting God's Word will lead to deception. Submit to God's Word, and follow it fully. ❖ Do not discourage godliness, nor prohibit people from walking in the gifts and calling of God in their lives (1 Cor. 14:39). Become a champion for others as you support and encourage them toward holiness. ❖ Seek to live justly and righteously. Outward religious forms have no value unless faith is lived out daily. Love and honor God in every way, so that the life flow of the Holy Spirit will pour out to those around you.
<p>The Walk of Faith</p> <p>Prosperity is not necessarily a reflection of God's pleasure with a person's lifestyle. Israel presumed that, because they were prosperous, they had God's blessing. They became complacent, self-indulgent, proud, and idolatrous.</p> <p>It is the inward heart of faith, humility, and submission to God, not our outward prosperity, that is the true plumb line of faith.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Give your heart to the Lord, and be zealous for the things of God. Avoid complacency. Do not trust wealth, position, or power. Place your trust in the Lord, and honor God with all He has given you. ❖ Do not use your wealth and status for self-indulgence. ❖ Exercise self-control, practice restraint, give to those in need, and invest in the kingdom of God. Use your wealth wisely, and let Christ's selfless love characterize your life.

Praise Points in Amos

- ❖ His justice (1:22:16)
- ❖ His mercy toward those who turn from evil (5:14-15)
- ❖ His attentiveness to our cries for mercy (7:1-6)
- ❖ His servants, whom he is able to raise up anywhere (7:14-15)
- ❖ His promise of ultimate hope and restoration for his people, despite their failures (9:11-15).

Worship Insights in Amos

- ❖ Our covenant relationship with God does not exclude us from his discipline (2:4).
- ❖ Those who know what is right and fail to do it will be held accountable for their actions (3:2).
- ❖ God rewards true worship offered in humility but is displeased with those who disobey and practice only empty rituals (4:4-6).
- ❖ Those who truly worship God love goodness and practice justice (5:14-15).
- ❖ Public acts of worship should flow from a life of genuine devotion to God (5:21-24).

An Outline of Amos

I. Title: [Amo 1:1](#)

II. Introduction: [Amo 1:2](#)

III. Oracles Against the Nations: Amos 1:3-2:16

A. Damascus: [Amo 1:3-5](#)

B. Philistia: [Amo 1:6-8](#)

C. Phoenicia: [Amo 1:9-10](#)

D. Edom: [Amo 1:11-12](#)

E. Ammon: [Amo 1:13-15](#)

F. Moab: [Amo 2:1-3](#)

G. Judah: [Amo 2:4-5](#)

H. Israel: [Amo 2:6-16](#)

IV. Oracles Against Israel: Amos 3:1-6:14

A. The Challenge and Cost of Being Chosen: [Amo 3:1-8](#)

B. The Message Committed to Amos for Samaria: [Amo 3:9-15](#)

C. Holy Cows: [Amo 4:1-3](#)

D. Godless Worship and Worshipless Living: [Amo 4:4-13](#)

E. Requiem and the Remnant: [Amo 5:1-17](#)

F. No Place to Hide: [Amo 5:18-27](#)

G. A Judgment to Fit the Crime: [Amo 6:1-7](#)

H. The Root Cause: [Amo 6:8-14](#)

V. Visions of Judgment and Promise of Restoration: Amos 7:1-9:15

A. Visions of Judgment: Amos 7:1-9:10

1. Locusts: [Amo 7:1-3](#)

2. Fire: [Amo 7:4-6](#)

3. Plumb Line: [Amo 7:7-9](#)

4. Narrative: Amos and Amaziah: [Amo 7:10-17](#)

5. Summer Fruit: The End of Israel: [Amo 8:1-3](#)

6. Oracles about Israel's End: [Amo 8:4-14](#)

7. Vision of the Altar and Its Elaboration: [Amo 9:1-10](#)

B. Promise of Restoration: [Amo 9:11-15](#)