

Amos

***“For three transgressions
and for four”***

By Timothy Sparks
TimothySparks.com

See also: [Amos Briefing by Tod Kennedy](#)

Theme

- Chosen by God but punished for sin (3:2)
- God chose Israel to be the nation through whom he would redeem humanity but both Israel and Judah departed from the Lord
- Amos' message of judgment is directed to Israel, the surrounding nations and to Judah
- The Lord repeatedly calls upon Israel and Judah to seek him and live (5:4, 6, 14)
- Though the judgment will be severe, God will deliver them from Assyrian captivity

Amos: Name & Location

- From the Hebrew verb *amas*, “to lift a burden, to carry;” name means “burden-bearer”
- Amos was from Tekoa (1:1), a town five miles southeast of Bethlehem
 - Tekoa was on an important road between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea
 - King Rehoboam, the first ruler of the southern kingdom made Tekoa a defense city for Judah (2 Chron. 11:5-6)

ANCIENT ISRAEL & JUDAH

By Mark Barry © 2009 AFES www.afes.org
Please do not republish without permission
but feel free to copy for personal use.



Amos' Occupations

- Shepherd (1:1)—Hebrew word *noqed*, a word used to describe a man who tended a particular small, rugged, speckled variety of sheep (called *naqod*) which required less food, could live well in the desert and produced wool of superior quality and value
- Herdsman (7:14)—Hebrew word *boqer*, refers to one who raises or tends cattle

Amos' Occupations

- Sycamore Fig Tree Farmer (7:14)—This was the wild fig (*siq-mim* in Hebrew) that exuded a ball of sap when nipped at the right season and which hardened into a sort of edible fruit that the lower classes were able to afford
 - This tree was found at a lower altitude than Tekoa, so Amos undoubtedly had to do some traveling (perhaps to the Dead Sea region, about 18 miles east of Tekoa)

Amos, the Prophet

- Amos was not a professional prophet nor a member of the prophet guild
- God called him to preach and prophesy especially to Israel but also to Judah (7:14-15)
- Isaiah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Jonah and Micah were prophets to Israel during this century (700s BC)
- Amos prophesied after Joel and Jonah but before Isaiah, Hosea and Micah

Amos, the Prophet

“Someone has described Amos as 'the first Great Reformer.' He was not of the school of the prophets, who by this time were disposed to cry what the people wanted There was not in Amos the sympathy, warm love, and feeling of the statesman or citizen, but a cold sense of justice and right. He was the stern prophet of justice and righteousness. Hosea's spirit was summed up in the word *lovingkindness*; Amos' is summed up in the one word *justice*”

~Homer Hailey

Amos, the Prophet

“The dark days in which he lived called for a man of sturdy moral fiber and fearlessness. Such was Amos. His character, molded in the harsh terrain of the wilderness of Tekoa, enabled him to stand before the priest and the people, proclaiming the word God had given him”

~Expositor's Bible Commentary

History

- Amos served during the kingships of Uzziah (Azariah) of Judah (791-739 BC) and Jeroboam II of Israel (793-753 BC)* McFall Chronology
- His message is dated as occurring “two years before the earthquake”
- This was a very severe earthquake in the reign of Uzziah which was remembered for centuries afterward (Zech. 14:5)
- Amos' prophetic work was ~760-755 BC

Key Words & Phrases

- **Transgress/transgression(s)** (12 times)
 - 3:14; 4:4; 5:12
- *For three transgressions and for four* (8 times)
 - 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 13; 2:1, 4, 6
- **Seek/seeking** (5 times)
 - 5:4-6, 14; 8:12
- *Yet you have not returned to me* (5 times)
 - 4:6, 8-11

Verses to Remember

- 3:1-3
- 4:12
- 5:15, 18-20
- 6:1, 4-6, 8 → Heb. 6:13
- 8:11-12
- 9:11-12 → Acts 2 & Acts 10

Overview Outline

Chs. 1-2: Indictments announced against nations, Israel and Judah

Chs. 3-6: Messages of Amos against Israel

Chs. 7-9: Visions of Amos: judgments and finally blessing

Outline by Chapter

Ch. 1: God indicts the nations

Ch. 2: God indicts Israel and Judah

Ch. 3: Israel, chosen and responsible

Ch. 4: Israel, you have not returned to me

Ch. 5: Israel, seek me that you may live

Ch. 6: Judah and Israel will go into exile

Ch. 7: Locusts, fire, plumb line, Amaziah

Ch. 8: Basket of summer fruit; famine

Ch. 9: Israel—destroyed and restored

Lessons

- God holds back his judgment until no other way will accomplish his will and what is best for his people
- Continual sin after many warnings, brings God's discipline and judgment
- Life is best for those who seek the Lord
 - 5:4, 6, 14
- To spurn God's Word is destructive
 - It may not be available in a time when you want it (8:11)

Trivia

How many visions are in the Book of Amos?

Five

What are they?

Locusts, fire, plumb line (Ch. 7)

Basket of summer fruit (Ch. 8)

The Lord standing beside the altar (Ch. 9)

Memory Verse Review (Lamentations—Joel)

- Lam. 3:40-41—“Let us search out...”
- Ezek. 18:20a—“The soul...”
- Dan. 4:25c—“. . . the Most High...”
- Hos. 4:6a—“My people...”
- Joel 2:32a—“And it shall...”

Memory Verse for Amos

3:3

“Can two walk together unless they
are agreed?”