

Bible Snapshots



Amos – The Plumbline of God

Author – Amos (1:1)

Facts

- The name Amos means “burdened” (2:13).
- Amos is known as the “farmer prophet” because of his statement in chapter 7, verse 4. “I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet’s son; but...an herdsman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit.”
- Because of his work he was rejected at first as a prophet.
- He was a citizen of the southern kingdom.
- He prophesied “in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, in the days of Jeroboam...two years before the earthquake” (1:1). This was about 764-755 BC.
- He probably knew or knew of Jonah and Elisha in his youth and Isaiah and Micah when he was an older man. His contemporary would have been Hosea. There are 9 chapters, 146 verses.

Contents

- Upon the victory of Jeroboam II over Syria, the people enjoyed great prosperity, but allowed it to take over. The result was spiritual wantonness, idolatry, and gross sin. They dreamed up new religious practices, mixing the calf worship of previous generations with the worship of Baal. Even the priests were committing shameful acts and living as if there was no God. Amos was sent to Bethel, the center of the calf worship to call out the people in their greed, drunkenness, swearing, adultery, oppression and more. This prophecy came about 30 years before the kingdom fell to the Assyrians.

Key chapters/verse

- 9 – Israel’s dispersion and restoration / 7:8

Key phrase / word / thought

- Can two walk together...(3:3); For three transgressions and four (1:3, 6, 9, 11, etc.); Thus saith the Lord (x40)

Prophecy

- Destruction of Samaria – 3:15 (fulfilled in 722 BC)
- Hooks in jaws (4:2)
- Earth darkened at the crucifixion (8:9 with Mt. 27:45)
- Famine of hearing the word (8:11)

Amos like Christ

Lowly origin (7:14, 15 with Luke 2:7, 49); use of the phrase “thus saith the Lord”; both charged with treason (7:10 with Jn. 19:12)

Proving Amos

- Amos denounces their sin – 1:1-2:3
- Amos describes their state and judgment – 2:4-6:14
- Amos at Bethel – 7:1 – 9:10
- Amos speak of Christ and forgiveness – 9:11-15

Names of God in Amos

- The God of hosts (4:13); The lord (5:8); Lord – Adonai, meaning master (9:1)

Purpose of the book

To teach us that the sins that keep us from God will be judged, but we can be restored to Him.

