

Summary:

A former shepherd from Judah (South) was called by God to warn the people of Israel (North) with sermons, poems, and visions about their increasing wealth and decreasing passion for God. God through Amos reminded them that He had saved them from slavery (3:1), and that they enjoyed a special relationship to God out all the families of the earth (3:2). Because of this, God questioned how they, as former slaves, could treat others like slaves. God called them to cease their fake worship (5:5), to care for the poor (5:7), to seek Him (5:6) and to seek decent living (5:14). Amos saw 3 symbolic visions of the Day of the LORD: locust (7:1), fire (7:4), and being swallowed like ripe fruit (8:1). Even with the pictures of coming judgment, God provided them hope of salvation with His renewed promises: to restore the house of David (9:11) and to rebuild God's family – with people from all nations (9:12)! Our God-theater 'Amos' presents 3 characteristics about God 1) God is just; He must confront evil. 2) God is righteous; He requires righteousness from His people. 3) God is loyally compassionate; He retains His long-term purpose to restore His people and make them into a new family (the church!).

Familiar phrases:

- Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet? (Amos 3:3)
- they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks (Amos 4:2)
- prepare to meet your God (Amos 4:12)
- as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him (Amos 5:19)
- let justice roll down like waters (Amos 5:24)
- I am setting a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel (Amos 7:8)
- I was no prophet, nor a prophet's son... (Amos 7:14)
- I will send a famine...of hearing the words of The LORD. (Amos 8:12)

The man:

- the name Amos.
- a shepherd from Tekoa (1:1), 10 miles south of Jerusalem. Grower of fruit trees (7:14)
- we know almost nothing about Amos! Like a later (and greater, Lk 7:28) prophet said, "*He must increase, I must decrease!*" (by John the Baptist, Jn. 3:30) So, we all focus on The LORD and His Word through Amos, and we do not get distracted by giving any attention to the man Amos.
- the first of "the writing prophets" (16 total. The 12 minor P, plus Isa./Jer./Ezek./Daniel)
- prophets used to just speak verbally (Elijah/Elisha). Why/when was writing added?
- Amos wrote in poems. Many OT poems use parallelism. "A, what's more B." 6 kinds!

Outline: Compared to other prophets, the outline of Amos is easy!

- Ch. 1-2 speeches against six countries nearby, then speeches against Judah/Israel
- Ch. 3-6 a longer speech against Israel, including the warning that exile is coming.
- Ch. 7-9:1-10, the preaching of Amos - five visions of coming judgment.
- Ch. 9:11-15 a nice ending! Days of blessing, Israel/David's fam. can go home again.