



Minor Prophets Part 1

Lesson 5: Amos

1. Introduction to Amos

The Book of Amos is one of the earliest prophetic writings in the Bible. His teachings profoundly influenced later prophets and modern discussions of social ethics and divine justice.

Amos' name means "burden-bearer."

Amos was a contemporary with Hosea. It is possible that the two knew each other, but we cannot be certain.

He was not educated in the school of the prophets but was a "regular guy" called by God. His ministry occurred during a time when the people only thought of pleasure and prosperity.

Amos 5:4

Amos 5:14, 15

Amos 5:24

2. What was Amos' character and personality?

Amos was a remarkable prophet. In many respects his life mirrored the life of Christ.

- _____ He did not hide his station in life.

Amos 7:14

Amos was a shepherd and a farmer of sycamore-fig trees. He was not a professional prophet by trade.

He was from Tekoa, a small village in the southern kingdom of Judah, located about ten miles south of Jerusalem and near Bethlehem.

- Amos was faithful to his calling. His message was, “The Lord said.” He proclaimed it 40 times after God called him to preach.

Amos 7:15

Amos emphasized that his message came directly from God’s calling, not from a prophetic guild or training.

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- He was fearless and intelligent. He told the truth even when it was unpopular.

He was unafraid to address the lazy rich people. Those people spent their time lounging on soft couches, eating fine foods, and drinking wines. They were more concerned with their pleasure than the fact that Israel was suffering.

Amos 6:4-6

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Amos 7:10 can be compared with John 19:12.

Amos 7:10

John 19:12

Amos came on the scene during a period of prosperity that resulted in Israel being corrupted as a nation. At one point, we find him in the northern King denouncing the people and the priesthood for their wickedness. This aroused the indignation of Amaziah the chief priest who looked at Amos’ prophesying as treason. Amaziah communicated his concerns to the King.

Amos 7:10-13

Amos ignored the warnings of Amaziah to get out of the country and continued to prophecy what God had given him

3. Amos prophesied the fruit of Israel’s sin.

- The Israelites did not appreciate their privileges.

Amos 3:2

- God gave Israel the opportunity to know His will. He expected them to live according to that will.

Amos 2:4

- Israel sought godless materialism and offered meaningless worship.

Amos 5:21-24

4. The people persisted in sin.

- They loathed the upright.

Amos 5:7

Amos 5:10

- They oppressed the poor.

Amos 5:11

- They did not heed the warnings given to them.

Amos 4:11

Amos 5:14

5. Amos had visions about Israel's coming judgment.

- Amos saw devouring locusts in a vision.

Amos 7:1-3

Amos prayed about this and God changed his mind. The King James Version says that the Lord repented.

The Lord changed his mind about judgement when a man of God prayed many times in Scripture. Moses and Abraham both did this.

Amos did the same thing with the vision of the consuming fire.

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Amos 7:4-6

- He saw a plumb line in his third vision.

Amos 7:7-9

A plumb line was a cord with a weight attached to it, used by builders to align walls.

God was saying that there were things out of alignment in Israel that he could not ignore. This had to do with idol worship.

- His fourth vision of destruction concerned a basket of summer fruit.

Amos 8:2

Amos 8:10, 11

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Amos 9:1

Amos 9:9, 10

6. The prophet's plea to forsake sin.

Amos 5:14

7. Amos' prophecy about the end time harvest.

Amos 9:13, 14

8. What can we learn from Amos?

- Religious performance can hide moral failure.

God rejected Israel's songs, festivals, and sacrifices because they coexisted with injustice.

Beautiful worship and correct doctrine are good. However, they can be a cover for sin and corruption in the church.

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Truth-tellers are often unwelcome

Amos isn't a professional prophet; he's a shepherd and fig farmer. He was told to go home because his message is bad for morale.

Voices calling out injustice are often labeled "divisive" or "negative".

Amos suggests that discomfort may be a sign truth is doing its job.

- God's judgment aims at restoration, not destruction.

It is important to remember this, even when dealing personally with people.

Galatians 6:1
