

INTRO REMARKS:

Amos

1. Setting

Amos 1:1 “The words of Amos, who was among the shepherders from Tekoa, which he envisioned in visions concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.”

- Amos was one of the northern prophets; remember, the nation of Israel was divided at the time into 2 kingdoms: Judah in the south (2 tribes), and the remaining 10 tribes to the north, the kingdom of Israel
- “the shepherders from Tekoa” – Tekoa a town in the hill country of Judah about 10 miles south of Jerusalem

¹ Notes prepared with help of The Master’s Seminary BI 501 Bible Survey syllabus.

2. Outline

1. Judgments Against the Nations (1:1-2:16)
2. Condemnations Against Israel (3:1-6:14)
3. Visions of Judgment and Restoration (7:1-9:15)
 - a. The Lord Will Spare (7:1-6)
 - b. The Lord Will No Longer Spare (7:7-9:10)
 - c. The Lord Will Restore (9:11-15)

3. Major Themes

- 1) The Inevitable Judgment of the Lord (1:3-2:16; 3:11-15; 4:12-13; 5:16-17; 6:8-14; 7:17; 8:1-9:10)

4:1-2 Hear this word, you cows of Bashan who are on the mountain of Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to your husbands, "Bring now, that we may drink!" ² The Lord GOD has sworn by His holiness, "Behold, the days are coming upon you when they will take you away with meat hooks, and the last of you with fish hooks.

Amos 1:9 Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Tyre and for four I will not revoke its *punishment*, because they delivered up an entire population to Edom and did not remember *the* covenant of brotherhood.

Amos 1:11 Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Edom and for four I will not revoke its *punishment*, because he pursued his brother with the sword,

while he stifled his compassion; His anger also tore continually, and he maintained his fury forever.

Amos 1:13 Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of the sons of Ammon and for four I will not revoke its *punishment*, because they ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead In order to enlarge their borders.

Amos 2:1 Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Moab and for four I will not revoke its *punishment*, because he burned the bones of the king of Edom to lime.

Amos 2:4 Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Judah and for four I will not revoke its *punishment*, because they rejected the law of the LORD And have not kept His statutes; Their lies also have led them astray, those after which their fathers walked.

Amos 2:6 Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Israel and for four I will not revoke its *punishment*, because they sell the righteous for money and the needy for a pair of sandals.

6:1 Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and to those who *feel* secure in the mountain of Samaria, the distinguished men of the foremost of nations, to whom the house of Israel comes.

8:11 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "When I will send a famine on the land, not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, but rather for hearing the words of the LORD.

Amos 9:10 "All the sinners of My people will die by the sword, those who say, 'The calamity will not overtake or confront us.'"

2) God Uses the Ordinary (1:1; 7:10-17)

7:10-17 Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent *word* to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel; the land is unable to endure all his words. ¹¹ "For thus Amos says, 'Jeroboam will die by the sword and Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.' " ¹² Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Go, you seer, flee away to the land of Judah and there eat bread and there do your prophesying! ¹³ "But no longer prophesy at Bethel, for it is a sanctuary of the king and a royal residence." ¹⁴ Then Amos replied to Amaziah, "I am not a prophet, nor am I the son of a prophet; for I am a herdsman and a grower of sycamore figs. ¹⁵ "But the LORD took me from following the flock and the LORD said to me, 'Go prophesy to My people Israel.' ¹⁶ "Now hear the word of the LORD: you are saying, 'You shall not prophesy against Israel nor shall you speak against the house of Isaac.' ¹⁷ "Therefore, thus says the LORD, 'Your wife will become a harlot in the city, your sons and your daughters will fall by the sword, your land will be parceled up by a *measuring* line and you yourself will die upon unclean soil. Moreover, Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.' "

3) God's Mercy Amidst Judgment (5, 9)

5:6 "Seek the LORD that you may live, Or He will break forth like a fire, O house of Joseph, and it will consume with none to quench *it* for Bethel

Amos 9:11-15 "In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, and wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old; ¹² That they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by My name," Declares the LORD who does this.

¹³ “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “When the plowman will overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; When the mountains will drip sweet wine and all the hills will be dissolved.

¹⁴ “Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live *in them*; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit. ¹⁵ “I will also plant them on their land, and they will not again be rooted out from their land Which I have given them,” Says the LORD your God.

b. Purpose: Yahweh would not turn back from judging Israel, though future restoration awaits the repentant remnant in the Millennial Kingdom.

d. Bibliography

- 1) Exegetical: Andersen & Freedman, *Amos* (AB).
- 2) English Interpretation: Hubbard, *Joel, Amos* (TOTC).
Smith & Page, *Amos, Obadiah, Jonah* (NAC).
- 3) Expository: Motyer, *The Message of Amos* (BST).