

MINOR PROPHETS

AMOS

“Burden” or “burden bearer”

The man- a very humble yet determined man. **(7:14,15)**.....a shepherd, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit (a fruit eaten by the poor of the land, not a luxury by any means).he had no “formal” religious training.....but he was determined to serve God in any way he saw fit. He was **NOT** a man of compassion or tender feelings for these people. He wanted justice and righteousness to prevail. These were wicked people they deserved to be punished and he only wanted for them what they deserved. However, he was not like Jonah, who when they repented, was angry with God. Amos was only the messenger of God. He knew God would deal with them justly, however, he shed no tears for these evil people.

He came from Tekoa, a very rugged and wilderness type of a place. Tekoa was known for its numerous rocks, steep valleys, rugged canyons and high mountains. This was believed to be the region of Jesus’ temptations (**Matt. 4**), the wilderness of Judea. It was located 6 mi. S of Bethlehem, 12 miles S of Jerusalem, and 18 mi. west of the Dead Sea.

Date- between 760-750 B.C. During the days of King Uzziah of Judah, and King Jeroboam II of Israel.

The people- The people of Israel were a very wealthy group of people. During the reign of Jeroboam II they were increasing the borders of their kingdom, which included the spoils of the fallen nations. They were used to luxurious beds, and silken covers for their couches. **(3:12)** Their summer and winter houses, houses of ivory and fancy stone. **(3:15)** All the luxuries and pleasures of life. **(6:1-7)** They were a very covetous people as well.

However, they were a very wicked people too. God had several things against them that needed to be corrected.

(2:4-8)

- They had no regard for the Law of the Lord.....disobedience was common
- They were selling their brethren as slaves. (Mainly the poor, who couldn’t pay their debts)
- Their constant and cruel treatment of the poor.
- Their idolatrous worship (Golden calves at Dan and Bethel) and fornication. Offering of polluted sacrifices

(4:4,5)

- Keeping the garments of a pledge.

God was not pleased with these people to say the least.

The message- “PREPARE TO MEET YOUR GOD” **(4:12)** Jehovah is the God of the world. **(1:3-2:16)** He is all powerful. **(4:13)** He controls nature. **(4:6-12)** He knows and sees everything. **(9:2-4)** The Lord has tried to bring you to repentance but you have not responded.....PREPARE TO MEET YOUR GOD!!!

CHAPTERS ONE and TWO

1. Who all were going to be punished along with Israel? Why, what had they done? How was each to be punished?

(Over)

2. What had Israel done to deserve punishment? 2:6-12

3. How had Israel treated the blessings of God? Vv9-12

4. How would God punish Israel? Vv13-16

CHAPTER THREE

5. Where did these words he is about to speak come from?

6. How does he describe the Israelites here? Vv1,2

Vv3-8

7. Try to explain the various analogies here ?
 - a. The two walking together- who are these two?
 - b. The Lion roaring in the forest- Who is this? V8
 - c. The bird in the trap?
 - d. The trumpet blowing in the city?- For what purpose?

Vv9-15

8. Who are the first group to be condemned?
9. Why were they to be punished, what had they done?

10. Was God going to bring them down himself, or use someone else? Who was the adversary? 2 Kings 17:5,6
11. What three things would their adversary do to them?
12. Would this be a complete annihilation of the wealthy? Would any survive? V12
13. What altars were at Beth-el, and how did they get there? 1 Kings 12:25-33

CHAPTER FOUR

14. What group of people would now be addressed as wicked? What had they done? Vv1-3
15. What will be done to them?
16. In vv4,5- Is Amos being serious with the people? Does he really want them to multiply their sins before God? Or is he acting sarcastically?

Vv6-13- God chastises the people. (sends “Mini” punishments upon them to get them to return to him)

17. What are the 5 “chastisements” he sends upon the people, and what was their response to them?
- a. V6-
 - b. V7,8-
 - c. V9-
 - d. V10-
 - e. V11-
18. Because of their refusal to heed his punishments, what should they prepare for next?
19. How is their God described here? Why does he describe him in this way?

CHAPTER FIVE

Vv1-9

20. What is a lamentation, and why is Amos lamenting over them?

21. Who is this “Virgin of Israel”, why is she described in this manner, and what will happen to her?

22. But there was a way to escape this horrible event? How?

23. Where does Amos say they should not go for help? What was there in these cities that might offer them some comfort, although false comfort?

24. What transgression is identified here? V7 What is wormwood?

25. What should these people do? Again, notice how God is described here.

Vv10-15

26. Describe Israel’s condition here. What is the meaning of “the gate” in vv10,12,15? What goes on at this gate?

27. What was their only hope?

Vv16-20

28. Because of their wickedness, what will now take place?

29. What misconception did they have of the day of the Lord?

30. How did God look at their worship to him? Vv21-27

31. Where was all this sinful behavior going to lead them? V27

CHAPTER SIX

Vv1-6

32. What group of people was next on the list for judgment? Sum up their lifestyle.

33. What were they guilty of?

Vv7-11

34. What would be their fate?

35. To what does Amos compare their behavior to? Vv12-14

CHAPTER SEVEN

God shows Amos a series of visions of how he would deal with these people.

36. Describe these first three visions.

a. Vv1-3-

b. Vv4-6-

c. Vv7-9-

37. Did these calamities take place? Why or why not?

38. After these first 3 visions, a charge was made against Amos. Who made the charge, and what did he charge Amos with?
39. Were these charges accurate? Is this what Amos actually prophesied? How was it different?
40. What was the king's response to the prophecies of Amos? V12,13
41. What was Amos' response to the king? Did he change his attitude?
42. What "new" prophecy did he announce? V17

CHAPTER EIGHT

43. Describe the fourth vision. Vv1-10 Who is this vision directed to?
44. Describe the judgment that is to come upon Israel for their transgressions. List as many as you can find.
45. Describe this famine that is about to take place. Vv11-14 How is this "famine" related to 7:12,13?

CHAPTER NINE

46. Describe the fifth and final vision.
47. What is the main point of vv2-4?
48. Again notice the description of God here. Vv5,6

49. How did God now see Israel? To whom does he compare them to? V7 Why them?

50. How does God describe the judgment upon Israel? To what does he compare it to? Vv9,10

51. What did the future hold for the faithful of God?vv11-15

52. What application does James make of vv11,12? See Acts 15:16,17

53. What lessons can we learn from this Book?