

Amos

“Hearing What God Has To Say”

Amos was a shepherd

- More likely he owned large herds of sheep
- It is not the same word for a common shepherd

He took care of sycamore fig trees

His name means burden bearer.

All that we know about him comes from this book.

He was bold and courageous – “a fiery preacher of God’s Word”

He was from the Southern Kingdom (Judah) although he ministered in the Northern Kingdom (Israel)

What was going on in Israel at the time?

Prosperity –

- Materialism – valuing things more than people
- Greed – wanting more than more than enough

Security - from the weakened surrounding nations -

Israel and Judah had reached new political and military heights

But the religious situation was at an all time low

Idolatry was rampant

The rich were living in luxury while the poor were being oppressed

There was widespread immorality and the judicial system was corrupt.

The people interpreted their prosperity as a sign of God's blessing on them.

Amos was charged to set the record straight

To tell them that God was displeased with their nation

And that God would destroy them unless there was a change of heart

God has Spoken

- ♦ What is one image of God you have?
 - ♦ Friend
 - ♦ Savior
- ♦ What image of God does Amos have in 1.2?

Amos 1:2(NIV)

²He said: “The LORD roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds dry up, and the top of Carmel withers.”

- A Lion
 - Lion, witch and the wardrobe
 - He’s not a tame lion
 - No...but He is Good
- ♦ What does this say to you?

God demands Attention
- ♦ Amos is convinced God has spoken. 1.2

Amos is obsessed with listening to God and making sure others hear

What do verses 3, 6, 9, 11 all have in common

“THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS”

Amos has a point he wants to get across

How does He begin chapters 3, 4,5?

“HEAR THIS WORD”

How does He begin chapters 7, 8?

“THIS IS WHAT THE SOVEREIGN LORD SHOWED ME”

How does chapter 9 begin?

“I SAW THE LORD”

What can we learn from all of this?

- When God speaks we must listen.

What did Amos do after he heard from God?

- Left his occupation -
- Left his family
- Left his home
- Left his country
- Preached in Israel - he was from Judah

Did they accept Amos and his message from the Lord?

- **NO**

Amos 7:10-13

📖 Amos 7:10 Then Amaziah **the priest of Bethel** sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: "Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words.

📖 Amos 7:11 For this is what Amos is saying: "'Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.'"

📖 Amos 7:12 Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there.

📖 Amos 7:13 Don't prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king's sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom."

What was going to be the result of their rejection of God's message?

It doesn't end there with their rejection.

God has the last word. - God is going to send a famine

What kind of famine is He sending?

Amos 8:11 -

Amos 8:11 "The days are coming," declares the Sovereign LORD, "when I will send a famine through the land-- not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.

Not a famine of the Word of God, meaning they couldn't get it.

Worse they would not hear it anymore - The Bible doesn't register in their hearts or minds

How does this relate to us today?

We can sit in church and continually reject the Word of God.

Stuart Briscoe, **“This is not the end of the matter. Know this: the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will respond in kind to our reaction to his Word.”**

We must listen to God or we will stop hearing from God

“If you don't HEED the word of God it won't be long before you don't HEAR the Word of God.”

EIGHT BURDENS

Though he was a simple farmer, Amos could really preach

Once he gets to Israel how does he get their attention?

- He tells what is going to happen to their enemies
- 1. Damascus - 1.3-5 - hated neighbor to east - fire, break down gates, destroy the king
- 2. Philistines in Gaza - 1.6-8 - neighbor to the Southwest - fire, destroy walls, kill king
- 3. Tyre - 1.9-10 - to the north, fire, consume fortresses
- 4. Edom - 1.11-12- southeast, fire consume fortresses
- 5. Ammon 1.13-15- east, fire, send king into exile
- 6. Moab 2.1-3 - fire, destroy ruler and officials
- 7. Judah - 2.4-5 - their family to the south, fire, consume fortresses

By the time he had them eating out of his hand. They excited, clapping, waiving hankies. They are ready to get him a TV show. Build a new 10,000 seat church. They agree sin is bad and must be punished. God is just and will do what needs to be done.

Then he moves on to Israel's sins

- They are doing the same thing the others nations are doing with no regard for the Lord or His commands.

(Amos 2:6 NIV) This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not turn back *my wrath*. They sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals.

(Amos 2:7 NIV) They trample on the heads of the poor as upon the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed. Father and son use the same girl and so profane my holy name.

(Amos 2:8 NIV) They lie down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge. In the house of their god they drink wine taken as fines.

Amos 2:13 "Now then, I will crush you as a cart crushes when loaded with grain.

- Farmers illustration. What a picture.

Now he's not preaching, He's meddling.

- They want to call a board mtg.
- They want to force him out.

Amos Part II

3 SERMONS

1

Chapter 3 - Amos reminds them of their privileged position

Amos 3:2 "You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins."

1 Pet 4:17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God;

Luke 12:48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

We are privileged to have God's word, We are privileged to be here tonight.

We have a responsibility to listen to God, to discipline ourselves and be ready for His service.

#2

Chapter 4 -

How does he address the women? v. 1 - Cows of Bashan

He preaches like a farmer

What is his message for them?

God is sick of their hypocrisy

- They were country club girls of luxury who were far away from God. They oppressed the poor while wanting everything handed to them.

I have told you over and over and showed you time and again. Still you do not listen.


📖 Amos 4:12 "Therefore this is what I will do to you, Israel, and because I will do this to you, **prepare to meet your God, O Israel.**"

📖 Amos 4:13 He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals his thoughts to man, he who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth-- **the LORD God Almighty is his name.**

3

Chapter 5 -

- They enjoyed their religion but did not have a relationship with God. 5. 4, 6 - **Seek me**
 - 📖 Amos 5:4 This is what the LORD says to the house of Israel: "Seek me and live;
 - 📖 Amos 5:5 do not seek Bethel, do not go to Gilgal, do not journey to Beersheba. For Gilgal will surely go into exile, and Bethel will be reduced to nothing."
 - 📖 Amos 5:6 Seek the LORD and live, or he will sweep through the house of Joseph like a fire; it will devour, and Bethel will have no one to quench it.
- They thought they were so high and mighty they couldn't wait for the Day of Lord.

 Amos 9:15 I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them," says the LORD your God.