

AMOS – CHAPTERS 1-3 – Judgment on the Nations; Judgment on Israel & Judah; Authority of Prophet's Message

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Events prophesied in Amos: 760 BC – During the reign of Jeroboam II in the north and King Uzziah in the south, two years before a great earthquake.

Amo 1:1 The words of Amos, who was among the sheepleaders of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.
Amo 1:2 And he said: "The LORD roars from Zion, And utters His voice from Jerusalem; The pastures of the shepherds mourn, And the top of Carmel withers."

Judgment on the Nations

Amo 1:3 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four (because they kept on sinning), I will not turn away its punishment, Because they have threshed Gilead with implements of iron.
Amo 1:4 But I will send a fire into the house of Hazeel, Which shall devour the palaces of Ben-Hadad.
Amo 1:5 I will also break the gate bar of Damascus, And cut off the inhabitant from the Valley of Aven, And the one who holds the scepter from Beth Eden. The people of Syria shall go captive to Kir," Says the LORD.
Amo 1:6 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because they took captive the whole captivity To deliver them up to Edom.
Amo 1:7 But I will send a fire upon the wall of Gaza, Which shall devour its palaces.
Amo 1:8 I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, And the one who holds the scepter from Ashkelon; I will turn My hand against Ekron, And the remnant of the Philistines shall perish," Says the Lord GOD.
Amo 1:9 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Tyre, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because they delivered up the whole captivity to Edom, And did not remember the covenant of brotherhood.
Amo 1:10 But I will send a fire upon the wall of Tyre, Which shall devour its palaces."
Amo 1:11 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Edom (of Esau), and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because he pursued his brother with the sword, And cast off all pity; His anger tore perpetually. And he kept his wrath forever.
Amo 1:12 But I will send a fire upon Teman, Which shall devour the palaces of Bozrah."

v. 1 He saw - Received by revelation. Israel - The kingdom of the ten tribes. Jeroboam - The great grand - son of Jehu. The earth - quake - Of which, only this text, and Zec 14:5, 250 years later, make any particular mention..

v. 2 This is very figurative and eloquent language in many ways. It suggests the roar of a lion as it pounces upon its prey. Believe me, this is an arresting way for Amos to begin his message! It speaks of the coming judgment of God upon the nations which were round about. Cf. Rev 10:1-3

v. 3 For three - This certain number is put for an uncertain: three, that is, many. Of Damascus - Here Damascus is put for the whole kingdom of Syria. Threshed - Treated it with the utmost cruelty. Gilead - There was a country of this name, and a city, possessed by the Reubenites, Gadites, and Manassites; Gilead here is put for the inhabitants of this country and city, whom Hazeel, king of Syria most barbarously murdered. cf. 2 Kings 8:7-15

v. 4 Ben - hadad - Ben - hadad was to the Syrian kings a common name, as Pharaoh to the Egyptian kings, and Caesar to the Roman emperors.

v. 5 The bar - Literally the bar with which the city gates were shut, and fastened. Of Eden - Some royal seat, of the kings of Syria. Kir - Kir of Media, Isa 22:6, thither did Tiglath - Pilneser carry the conquered Syrians, 2Ki 16:9, and placed them captives in that barren mountainous country, about fifteen years after it was foretold by Amos.

v. 6 Carried away - All the Jews whom they had taken captive. Edom - Their most inveterate enemies. These Edomites were ever ready to enslave, and tyrannize over the Jews, if by any means they could get them into their hands.

v. 7 A fire - Desolating judgments. Gaza - All the power and strength of Palestine (name given to Israel by the Romans, “Philistines” after their defeat in AD 70), is here included.

v. 8 Ashkelon - Another city of the Philistines, and a very strong one, which shall perish with the king and the inhabitants thereof.

v. 9 The brotherly covenant - Which was between Hiram on the one part, and David and Solomon on the other.

v. 10 The destructive fire or siege by Nebuchadnezzar, which lasted thirteen years, and ended in the destruction of this ancient city; see on Eze 26:7-14 (note), as above. It was finally ruined by Alexander, and is now only a place for a few poor fishermen to spread their nets upon.

v. 11 Pursue - Watched for, and laid hold on every occasion to oppress Israel. Did tear - As a ravenous and fierce lion tears the prey.

v. 12 Teman - The metropolis of Idumea, so called from Esau's grandson of that name. Bozrah - This was a very strong city, and one of the chief in the whole kingdom, so that in the menace against Bozrah and Teman, the strength and glory of Edom is threatened with an utter overthrow.

BACKGROUND TO AMOS: - The situations in which Joel and Amos ministered are very different.. When Joel was ministering, the people of God were plagued by locusts. When Amos was ministering the people of God were prospering tremendously. In Joel's day, the people were asking, “What is going on?” In Amos' day, the people were cruising without a care in the world. The setting of Amos takes us to a time in the history if Israel when, with the exception of the days of Solomon, Israel prospered unlike any other time in her history. The Year was approximately 760 B.C. The ruler was Jeroboam II, a man who ruled the country for forty years with great success. The people of Israel were riding high! There has been a feudal war going on between the Syrians and the Israelis for about a hundred years. But Jeroboam was able to not only beat back the Syrians, but to expand Israel's borders. In the process, Israel gained some lucrative trade routes between the Assyrians to the north and the Egyptians to the south. As the caravans traveled between these two empires, the Jews would tax them accordingly. On the surface things couldn't have been better. Below the surface, however, there were some real problems. Below the surface, there was spiritual decay. So the Lord tapped Amos on the shoulder, saying, “Go and rip down the façade of false spirituality. Expose the spiritual disease of the people and the danger that lies ahead unless they return to Me.” Amos was an unlikely character to be chosen for several reasons. First, he was from the area of Tekoa, about ten miles south of Jerusalem. In other words, Amos was from Judah, but his ministry would be to the ten northern tribes in Israel. Tekoa was in the kingdom of Judah, but Amos' ministry would not be to Judah but to the ten northern tribes in Israel. If that weren't enough, Tekoa was the quintessential “hick town.” It was known only for sheep and fig trees. Amos tended sheep and picked figs—hardly position of high esteem. Yet the Lord said, “Amos, I'm sending you to Bethel, the place where the king hangs out and where intellectual, religious meeting are held, I'm sending you r to tell those people what is on My heart.” Amos was called a herdsman, not even a shepherd, and a fig picker. We're talking about hillbilly, migrant worker, a low place on the ladder of status. Yet the Lord said,

AMOS – CHAPTERS 1-3 – Judgment on the Nations; Judgment on Israel & Judah; Authority of Prophet's Message

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Amo 1:13 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of the people of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because they ripped open the women with child in Gilead. That they might enlarge their territory.

Amo 1:14 But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, And it shall devour its palaces, Amid shouting in the day of battle, And a tempest in the day of the whirlwind.

Amo 1:15 Their king shall go into captivity, He and his princes together," Says the LORD.

Amo 2:1 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because he burned the bones of the king of Edom to lime.

Amo 2:2 But I will send a fire upon Moab, And it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth; Moab shall die with tumult, With shouting and trumpet sound.

Amo 2:3 And I will cut off the judge from its midst, And slay all its princes with him," Says the LORD.

Judgment on Judah

Amo 2:4 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because they have despised the law of the LORD, And have not kept His commandments. Their lies lead them astray, Lies which their fathers followed.

Amo 2:5 But I will send a fire upon Judah, And it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem."

Judgment on Israel

Amo 2:6 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because they (1-bribery) sell the righteous for silver, And (2-slavery) the poor for a pair of sandals.

Amo 2:7 They pant after the dust of the earth which is on the head of the poor, (3-immorality) And pervert the way of the humble. A man and his father go in to the same girl. To defile My holy name.

Amo 2:8 (insensitivity) They lie down by every altar on clothes taken in pledge, And drink the wine of the condemned in the house of their god.

Amo 2:9 "Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, Whose height was like the height of the cedars, And he was as strong as the oaks; Yet I destroyed his fruit above And his roots beneath.

Amo 2:10 Also it was I who brought you up from the land of Egypt, And led you forty years through the wilderness, To possess the land of the Amorite.

Amo 2:11 I raised up some of your sons as prophets, And some of your young men as Nazirites. Is it not so, O you children of Israel?" Says the LORD.

v. 13 Enlarge their border - By destroying all that dwelt in it, and hereafter might claim a title to it. **What about us? – the sin of abortion!**

vs. 14-15 This is God's judgment against the Ammonites. Rabbah was a great city and the capital city of the Ammonites. Later on it was called Philadelphia by the Greeks. It was named after Ptolemy Philadelphus of Egypt. We know it today as Amman, the capital of the nation of Jordan. You can see ruins there of the great civilization of the past which was totally destroyed. Modern Jordan has been built upon the ruins of the nation of the Ammonites.

v. 1 The bones - Or ashes, reduced them by fire into fine dust, and used these ashes instead of lime to plaster the walls and roofs of his palace, and this in hatred and contempt of the king of Edom. **Lack of respect for the dead!! Cremation? Romans 12:19 Judgment belongs to the Lord!!! We're not to judge, but love one another!**

v. 2 Kirioth - A principal city of this country. Moab - The Moabites. Shall die - Be destroyed. With tumult - Such as soldiers in fight or assaults make, when they carry all by force.

v. 3 The judge - The governor that is, every one of them.

v. 4 Lies - Idols. To err - Their idolatry blinded them, partly from the natural tendency of this sin, and partly from the just judgment of God. After which - Idols. Walked - Successively, one generation after another. **They despised the law of the Lord!**

v. 5 Again and again, Amos mentions, as do the other prophets, that there is to be a judgment by fire. When Nebuchadnezzar came against the city, he absolutely burned Jerusalem to the ground. There was nothing left but the stones—of which there is an abundance in that particular area.

v. 6 sandals - The smallest bribe, expressed here proverbially.

v. 7 The people - That make a prey even of the poor afflicted ones, who walk with dust on their heads. Turn aside - Maliciously interpret the actions, words, and designs of the humble and meek. Will go in - These corrupt judges commit also that lewdness which the Heathens abhor.

v. 8 Lay down - The Jews of old did not sit upright at their meals, but leaned on one side. Upon clothes - Of which the law had expressly said, none should detain them all night, Deu 24:12-13. Every altar - Of their idols. Drink the wine - They offer their drink - offerings in wine, which they bought with the fines laid on the innocent. **They were exploiting the poor!**

v. 9 The Amorite - **God destroyed them for the same things!** The mightiest nation of all the Canaanites. As the oaks - Another proverbial speech denoting their great strength. His fruit - Their children. His roots - The old standards; that present generation.

vs. 10-11 In effect God is saying, "I wanted you to serve Me in the land. I wanted you to bring up your young men to serve Me, to be prophets, and to be Nazarites." But what had happened?—

BACKGROUND TO AMOS - Continued: - “Amos, I'm sending you to Bethel, the most sophisticated region of Israel to speak My heart to the intellectual and religious elite.” Some scholars believe that all of Amos' messages were given in a week's time. This is very possible. But there was something about this hillbilly from a hick town that captured the imagination of the people. **They didn't like his message—but he spoke truth in such a way that they were captivated.** He talked about farming carts being pressed down, lions chewing up vulnerable sheep, baskets of rotting figs. In other words, rather than try and come across as something he wasn't, **he used images and references that related to his own occupation** He simply drew upon his own experiences to speak God's heart in a way people could understand. The Lord loves to use the foolish thing of the world to confound the wise (*1 Cor. 1:27*). So often we think we can't be used unless we have a Ph. D. after our name. Not so. The Lord loves to use the Amoses.

This book that bears his name is **divided in two parts**. In the **first part—chapters 1 through 6—eight nations are denounced**. In the **second part—chapters 7 through 9—five visions are announced**.

Chap. 2:4 It's a terrible thing when a society gets to the place of despising the law of the Lord. That's just worse than just ignoring. Judah wasn't obeying the law of the Lord. That's bad. But if you get to the place where you despise the law of the Lord. We are getting there in these homosexual marches and all. Their, signs and everything show total disregard for the law of the Lord. A despising of the law of the Lord! I wonder how long will God tolerate this to go on.

We need to learn from Israel and Judah's experiences!!!

AMOS – CHAPTERS 1-3 – Judgment on the Nations; Judgment on Israel & Judah; Authority of Prophet's Message

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Amo 2:12 "But you gave the Nazirites wine to drink, And commanded the prophets saying, 'Do not prophesy!'"
Amo 2:13 "Behold, I am weighed down by you, As a cart full of sheaves is weighed down."
Amo 2:14 Therefore flight shall perish from the swift, The strong shall not strengthen his power, Nor shall the mighty deliver himself;
Amo 2:15 He shall not stand who handles the bow, The swift of foot shall not escape, Nor shall he who rides a horse deliver himself.
Amo 2:16 The most courageous men of might Shall flee naked in that day," Says the LORD.

Authority of the Prophet's Message

Amo 3:1 Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying:
Amo 3:2 "You only have I known of all the families of the earth; Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities."
Amo 3:3 Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?
Amo 3:4 Will a lion roar in the forest, when he has no prey? Will a young lion cry out of his den, if he has caught nothing?
Amo 3:5 Will a bird fall into a snare on the earth, where there is no trap for it? Will a snare spring up from the earth, if it has caught nothing at all?
Amo 3:6 If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it?
Amo 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.
Amo 3:8 A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy?

Punishment of Israel's Sins

Amo 3:9 "Proclaim in the palaces at Ashdod, And in the palaces in the land of Egypt, and say: 'Assemble on the mountains of Samaria; See great tumults in her midst, And the oppressed within her.'

v. 12 You gave - **Talked them into drinking wine**, to violate their vow, and condemn God's law. **Commanded the prophets not to prophesy!!**
v. 13 God seems to be saying here, "You have put Me in a difficult situation. You are My people. I put you in the land, and I put the Amorite out. Now here you are committing the same sins they commit! Do you expect Me to shut My eyes to your sin because you are My people? I'm being pressed down 'as a cart is pressed that is full of sheaves.'" **vs. 14-16** Neither the swift or the strong, neither the horse rider nor the bold would be able to deliver himself from the judgment of the Lord that would be meted out by the Assyrians.

vs. 1-2 God chose a family, the seed of Abraham, to show the world how life should be lived. **He used Israel as a model for all to see that God is good and that walking in His way would bring blessings.** They received a special calling, but here we see what they were doing with the tremendous blessings, **they were walking away from the Lord.** Therefore He has no choice but to discipline them, because they're family. – **How much like our country today!!**

v. 3 Agreed - Can you have God's presence while you walk so contrary to him?
v. 4 A lion moves about stealthily, quietly, silently on his padded feet. He is noiseless until he pounces on his prey. When he has captured his prey, then you can hear him roar. There is always a cause and a result. And the judgment of God will follow man's iniquity.
v. 5 Can a bird fall - So here for your sins, God will cast the net over you. Shall one take up a snare - The fowler will not take up the snare, before the prey be taken in it.
v. 6 Afraid - Affected with the danger. Evil - Such as plague or famine. Done it - Either immediately by his own hand, or by the hands of those he employs. Whoever are the instruments, God is the principal agent. Out of his mouth both good and evil proceed.
v. 7 Will do nothing - Usually the Lord does no great thing for or against his people, without giving warning of it before it comes.
v. 8 Has roared - As a lion roareth when near his prey: so God hath terribly threatened what is near to be done. Prophecy - Amos can not but speak what he had heard.
v. 9 T Publish - Ye prophets invite strangers to come and observe what cause I have to do what I threaten. Tumults - The seditious counsels, and rebellious conspiracies among them. The oppressed - Multitudes of oppressed ones, as the usurpers took it to be their interest to crush all they feared or suspected. In the midst - Yea, throughout the whole kingdom of Samaria.

Chap. 3:3 Can two walk together, unless they are agreed? They had despised the law of the Lord, they would not walk in His way. You can't walk together unless there is an agreement. You cannot walk with God unless there is an agreement. That is, that agreement is my surrender to His will. You cannot walk with God and, and, and be constantly pulling against God, wanting to go your own way! Or, insisting that God come your way. It is not yours to make the terms. God is the one that establishes the terms of our relationship. "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" **The only way you can walk with God is by surrendering to Him as Lord, and turning your life over to Him, and saying, "I want you to govern my life. I want you to guide my life. I want you to take over"**. Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you". The yoke was the thing they put on an ox so he could pull the plow, so he could be directed in the pulling of the plow. Jesus is saying, "I want to take the reins of your life. I want to guide your life".

AMOS – CHAPTERS 1-3 – Judgment on the Nations; Judgment on Israel & Judah; Authority of Prophet's Message

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/>
Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Amo 3:10 For they do not know to do right,' Says the LORD, 'Who store up violence and robbery in their palaces.' "

Amo 3:11 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "An adversary *shall be* all around the land; He shall sap your strength from you, And your palaces shall be plundered."

Amo 3:12 Thus says the LORD: "As a shepherd takes from the mouth of a lion Two legs or a piece of an ear, So shall the children of Israel be taken out Who dwell in Samaria— In the corner of a bed and on the edge of a couch!

Amo 3:13 Hear and testify against the house of Jacob," Says the Lord GOD, the God of hosts,

Amo 3:14 "That in the day I punish Israel for their transgressions, I will also visit *destruction* on the altars of Bethel; And the horns of the altar shall be cut off And fall to the ground.

Amo 3:15 I will destroy the winter house along with the summer house; The houses of ivory shall perish, And the great houses shall have an end," Says the LORD.

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

*O Come All Ye Faithful/Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,/ Born the King of Angels;
O come, let us adore Him,/ O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him / Christ the Lord.*

*O Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing all that hear in heaven God's holy word.
Give to our Father glory in the Highest;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

*All Hail! Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
O Jesus! for evermore be Thy name adored.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

v. 10 Store up - As men lay up wealth in their treasures, perverting judgment, first condemning the innocent, next seizing all his substance.

v. 11 Therefore - Because of all the violence and rapine with other crying sins. An adversary - The Assyrian. Round about - Shall beset the whole land as one besieged city. Lk. 19:43 - *For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,*

v. 12 As the shepherd - As the shepherd doth hardly rescue a small part of a sheep or lamb from the lion, so a small part of the children of Israel, shall escape when Samaria is taken. The corner of a bed - Lying in some dark corner. Damascus - The chief city of Syria taken by Tiglath - Pilneser about the time when he wasted Israel. In a couch - Some few of the poor, shall escape, pitied by the enemy, when he finds them sick upon their couch.

vs. 13-14 "The altars of Bethel" refer to the worship of the golden calf. "The horns of the altar shall be cut off." God is saying that He intends to remove this gross idolatry from His land. (1Ki 13:2; *Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.' "* 2Ki 23:15-16) *Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he broke down; and he burned the high place and crushed it to powder, and burned the wooden image. [16] As Josiah turned, he saw the tombs that were there on the mountain. And he sent and took the bones out of the tombs and burned them on the altar, and defiled it according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.*

v. 15 The winter - house - Which probably was in the chief city, whither the great men retired in the winter. The summer - house - The houses of pleasure, where the nobles and rich men spent the summer time. Of ivory - Beautified with ivory. They indulged a foolish affectation of change and variety; but God will, either by war or by the earthquake, smite both the winter-house and the summer-house; neither shall serve to shelter them from his judgments

Chap. 3:12 "*As a shepherd takes from the mouth of a lion Two legs or a piece of an ear, So shall the children of Israel be taken out*". Just a remnant, just a part, they'll be destroyed, just, just a part of them as evidence of what had happened.

Closing thoughts/prayer:

It must have been tough on these prophets to prophesy of the judgments of God that were coming, knowing that the people were just going to continue that path until judgment came. But knowing that **they had that responsibility of God upon their lives to go ahead and to declare the warning to the people, yet knowing that the warning would not be heeded.** Must have been hard. Hard indeed. For in those days, there were also hearers of the word, but not doers. People that were deceiving themselves. Say, "Well, I heard, went down and heard Jeremiah today. Pretty good sermon". But, **no response, no reaction, no change!** Must have been tough.

I pray that God will help us that we will be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving ourselves. That we indeed, **will turn from a life dominated by our fleshly desires**, to a life that is dominated by our spiritual desires. That we will make that covenant with God, that **we are going to walk with Him, according to His terms, obeying, yielding, surrendering our lives, to do His will.**

Father, we thank You **for the warnings of the Word.** We know Lord that **they who do not learn their lessons from history, are due to repeat the same errors.** Lord, **may we learn, and may we turn from our wickedness unto You, and seek Your face, and renew our vows, and our commitment Lord, in Jesus' name we pray, Amen**