

13072-E August 28, 2013**Amos****I. Amos, the man and the message*****a. The Man:***

- i. Non-Professional Prophet or a son of a prophet. (7:14)
- ii. He was a farmer/rancher from Tekoa, which was 5 or 6 miles southern of Bethlehem. (1:1)
- iii. He had a businessman's smart eye and an outsider's honesty

b. The Message:

- i. "Judgment is coming. Your days of living the high life are coming to an end, and you will be brought low."

II. The Time in Which Amos Lived (Mid 8th Century; 760-750 BC)

a. It was a time of extreme prosperity and yet at the same time extreme poverty.

b. It was a time of political and military strength: Jeroboam II was in power in Israel and Uzziah was in power in Judah.

c. It was a time of nationalistic pride and Spiritual Apathy.

III. The Book of Amos***a. The Judge and the Judgment—Chapters 1 & 2***

- i. Chapter 1-2:3: The first 6 of these judgments are against the pagan nations that surround Israel and Judah.
- ii. Chapter 2: The last 2 are judgments against Judah and Israel—the two halves of God's people.

IV. The Reasons for Judgment—Chapters 3-6

- a. ***A lifestyle of self-indulgent living. (3:15; 4:1-3; 6:4-7)*** They were concerned only with self—self absorbed, self focused. They cared extravagantly for their own bodies but cared nothing for the needs of others. They lived the motto, “Me, myself and I.” Me and people like me are the only people that matter and why should I be deprived of anything I want?
- b. ***Self-Serving disregard for the poor, weak and vulnerable. (3:9-11; 5:11-13; 8:4-6)*** God is completely against a self-serving disregard for the poor, the weak and the vulnerable, and that’s why when He established the nation of Israel, He put in all sorts of gracious laws that if followed, would keep there from being such incredible gaps between the rich and the poor....because when there’s incredible gaps between the rich and the poor, that’s where injustice occurs...and that’s what was taking place in Israel.
- c. ***Self-Centered Religiosity (4:4-5; 5:21-24)*** Israel through not loving the Lord and not loving their neighbor had repudiated the Mosaic Law, they’ve rejected the two master commandments, “To love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul strength and mind, and to love their neighbor as themselves.”

V. Visions of Judgment—Chapters 7-9

- a. *The first vision, the swarm of locusts.*
- b. *The second vision, a great fire:* These first two visions represented the greatest threats to an agricultural society and they needed no further explanation.
- c. *The third vision, the plumb line:* The plumb line represented God's standards, His Law and it would show if Israel was living out of line with God's standards, because surely a nation with walls out of plumb could not expect to continue standing.
- d. *The fourth vision, a basket of summer fruit:* Israel was ripe for judgment because they continued to take advantage of the poor, weak and the vulnerable and because they had no concern for the things of God.
- e. *The fifth vision, the Lord at the altar:* The very place from which people expected to hear a word of peace and blessing, and instead God is going to initiate destruction from it.

VI. Is there any hope? Yes! Chapter 9:11-15

- a. The Lord promises:
 - i. To restore the Davidic dynasty,
 - ii. To make Israel victorious over her enemies,
 - iii. To restore Israel to an Eden-like state and,
 - iv. To make His people productive, fruitful and secure forever.

- b. ***When does all this happen?*** In the end, in the millennial Kingdom, when Christ has established His Kingdom upon the earth and will rule and reign from Jerusalem.
- c. ***How does all this happen?*** Through the Cross. God's just judgment is rooted in His holiness and His mercy is rooted in His love and they meet at the Cross of Christ.
- d. The holy God enters into human history as a man, as Christ Jesus, where He lives a perfect life, in obedience to God the Father and in step with God the Spirit and dies on the Cross, paying for all the sin and rebellion ever perpetrated against God.
- e. God then, raises Jesus in victory over death and offers free forgiveness for those who trust Him and promises to gather the true Israel, Jew and Gentile alike, where we will rest and rejoice in all the Christ Jesus has done.