

COMMENTARY

AMOS

Amos 1

Amos came from an area which was about 12 miles south of Jerusalem in Judah. God issues, through him, messages of impending judgement upon the area nations.

Damascus (capital of Syria) would be punished for its' sins (three or four representing an indefinite but substantial amount). It had been guilty of running studded farm equipment over their enemies bodies (among other sins). For this reason, God would destroy them.

Because of the Philistines (Gaza, Ashdod, Ekron, , and Ashkelon were the major cities) dealt in slavery with the Edomites (among other sins), God would punish and destroy them.

Tyre was a city north of Israel and on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. They, too, had been guilty of dealing in slavery with the Edomites and would therefore, be destroyed.

Edom would be destroyed (Teman and Bozrah being its' main cities) because of their uncontrolled anger and unfaithfulness (turning on its' allies and kinsmen).

The Ammonites (Rabbah was its' capital city) would be destroyed, along with their King because of their violence in their pursuit to acquire more land.

Amos 2

Moab would be destroyed because of desecrating a dead body (among other sins).

Judah is really set apart by the listing of their various offenses against God. They had rejected His law, served idols and been disobedient. For this reason God would destroy them.

After having spoken on all of the coming judgements against Israel's enemies, God now turns to Israel. Israel is described as being greedy, having no regard for righteousness or human life, are immoral, and idolatrous. God reminds them of all that He had done for them and how they have responded by trying to silence God's messengers. Because of all this, they will be destroyed.

Amos 3

God warns Israel that the day of their judgement is coming. He states how for every action there is a certain response. He had warned His people, yet they had failed to repent. The surrounding nations would see the punishment of Israel (Samaria being the capital and synonymous with Israel). Israel would be destroyed because of their disobedience and delight in riches. Only a remnant would be saved when God destroys the nations and the symbols of their idolatry.

Amos 4

God refers to the women of Israel as fattened cows which were ready to be slaughtered. They had become more concerned with their own wealth and comforts than they were of the hardships of others. They would be carried off into captivity by the Assyrians (actually

led away with hooks through their lips).

Even through all of their selfishness and disobedience, Israel still maintained their semblance of religion. God, however, did not find it pleasing.

Time and again, God had tried to alert Israel for their need to repent and turn to Him (through various hardships He allowed to come upon them), yet they refused to change their ways. Because of this, thy are to get ready to meet their God, thoe all-powerful one who comes in judgement.

Amos 5

God pictures the future of Israel as being fallen and few. This will be their lot, unless they change their ways.

God calls upon them to do more than just leave their idol worship. They are to change their lives and lead holy and righteous lives. Otherwise, God will destroy the land.

Some were anticipating the Day of the Lord (they felt that they would be restored to greatness). That Day would not be a day of blessing for Israel, but rather a day of condemnation. Their "religious" excercises were for naught, because God refused to accept them on the grounds that they were not living holy lives!

Amos 6

The people were enjoying their luxury and indulgences. What they failed to see was the sinfulness of their day and the coming and sure judgement of God that would fall upon them.

Amos 7

Twice, Amos had interceded for Israel (locusts and fire [drought]) and God had relented. Now God measures them with a plumb-line to see if they have been true and obedient and they fail to measure up. Because of this they will fall.

Amaziah (false priest for an idol Israel worshipped) sent word to the King, warning him of what Amos was saying. Amaziah then told Amos to return home to Judah and keep quiet. Amos responded by informing Amaziah that the messages had come from God. Since Amaziah hd rejected God's message; he would die in exile, his family would be killed and his wife would be unfaithful. This would be an example to Israel, as Israel would also go into exile.

Amos 8

Israel and her condition is compared to ripe fruit, ready to be devoured. The people are greedy and unconcerned about others. God is going to destroy their land and the people will suffer. All the idolaters will fall to rise no more.

Amos 9

God assures them that there will be no place for the sinners to hide. God will find and destroy every one of them. They will be destroyed, even as He would destroy their enemies.

When it is all over, God promises a day of restoration for the faithful. They will inhabit a land prepared for them which will be rich and abundant!

STUDY GUIDE

AMOS 1

1. Why would Damascus be consumed? (vs. 3,4)
2. Why would Gaza and the Philistines be consumed? (vs. 6-8)
3. Why would Tyre be consumed? (vs. 9)
4. What were the charges against Edom? (vs. 11)
5. Why were the Ammonites so vicious? (vs. 13)

STUDY GUIDE

AMOS 2

1. What had the Moabites burned? (vs. 1)
2. What was Judah guilty of? (vs. 4)
3. Who did Israel sell? (vs. 6)
4. What had God done for Israel? (vs. 9-11)
5. What had they done to the Nazirites and prophets? (vs. 12)

STUDY GUIDE

AMOS 3

1. Why would Israel be punished for all their sins? (vs. 2)
2. To whom did the Lord reveal His plan? (vs. 7)
3. Who were called to witness Israel's condition? (vs. 9)
4. What would be destroyed when Israel was punished? (vs. 14)

STUDY GUIDE

AMOS 4

1. How would the Israelites be taken away? (vs. 2)
2. What did Israel love to do? (vs. 4,5)
3. Why did God send hardship on Israel? (vs. 6,8-11)
4. What was Israel to prepare itself for? (vs. 12)

STUDY GUIDE

AMOS 5

1. What would Israel's condition be? (vs. 2)
2. Why were they to seek the Lord? (vs. 6)
3. What were some of their sins? (vs. 7,10-12)
4. What did God call for them to do? (vs. 14,15)
5. What would the Day of the Lord be for them? (vs. 18)
6. What did God no longer accept? (vs. 21-23)

STUDY GUIDE

AMOS 6

1. To whom did God say, "Woe"? (vs. 1)
2. What would happen because they failed to grieve over the fall of their nation? (vs. 6,7)
3. What command would the Lord give? (vs. 11)
4. Why would God stir up a nation against Israel? (vs. 14)

STUDY GUIDE

AMOS 7

1. What two things happened that caused Amos to intercede for the people? (vs. 1-6)
2. What was Israel evaluated by? (vs. 8)
3. What would God cause to happen? (vs. 9)
4. What did Amaziah report that Amos was saying? (vs. 11)
5. What did Amaziah tell Amos? (vs. 12,13)
6. What would happen to Amaziah? (vs. 17)

STUDY GUIDE

AMOS 8

1. What was Amos shown and what was the meaning? (vs. 2)
2. What would happen in "that day"? (vs. 3)
3. What were they guilty of? (vs. 4-6)
4. What type of famine would God send? (vs. 11)
5. What will men search for and not find? (vs. 12)
6. Who will fall, never to rise again? (vs. 14)

STUDY GUIDE

AMOS 9

1. What would happen to the people? (vs. 1)
2. Where would they go to hide? (vs. 2-4)
3. Who is the Lord described? (vs. 6)
4. Who else had the Lord delivered? (vs. 7)
5. Who would die by the sword? (vs. 10)
6. What would happen one day? (vs. 14,15)