

Lesson 5 – Amos

Text: Amos

Key Passages:

- Amos 4:12 – Amos warned Israel that they should “prepare to meet [their] God” for their sin.
- Amos 5:14 – Life depends on our willingness to seek good and not evil.

Background Information:

Amos was a shepherd and farmer (Amos 1:1; 7:14) who was commissioned by God to be a prophet. It is apparent that he prophesied during the reigns of Jeroboam II (Israel) and Uzziah (Judah) from Amos 1:1. Though he prophesied to various nations, including Judah, the bulk of Amos' prophecies dealt with the inevitable destruction of Israel due to the sinful ways of its people and its leaders. Both Israel and Judah had been doing well physically (successful conquests of other nations, etc.), but, unfortunately, both nations were also doing very poorly spiritually (idol worship, vain worship, etc.).

Outline:

- I. Purpose: to pronounce judgment on Israel and explain why they were to be punished
- II. God's judgments against all the nations (1-2)
 - a. Many nations to be judged: Damascus (Syria), Gaza (Philistia), Tyre (Phoenicia), Edom, Ammon, Moab, Judah, and Israel (periodically referred to as Samaria, its capital city)
 - b. God highlighted the perversions occurring in Israel and how Israel had betrayed Him (2:6-16)
- III. The reasons for God's judgment (3-6)
 - a. God had blessed Israel (and Judah) much more than any other nation. They had responsibilities, and they did not fulfill them (3:1-2)
 - b. It is very logical and obvious that Israel should be punished for their sins (3:3-8)
 - c. The people of Israel did not even know that they should have done right (3:10)
 - d. Many of the people were selfish and worldly (4:1-5)
 - e. God chastised them with punishment after punishment, but they did not learn. God instructed them to prepare to meet the God they had ignored (4:6-13)
 - f. The people of Israel were worshipping and sacrificing without sincerity (5:21-27; 8:4-6)
 - g. God condemned them for their materialism, laziness, and complacency (6:1-7)
 - h. The people of Israel were proud (6:8)
- IV. Judgment against Israel was inevitable (7-9)
 - a. Despite Amos' pleading, Israel was to be destroyed; it was inevitable (7:1-9)
 - b. Amos rebuked Jeroboam II and Amaziah, a priest at Bethel, because they asked him to stop prophesying against Israel (7:10-17)
 - c. Like the basket of ripe fruit that Amos saw, the time had come for Israel (8:1-3)
 - d. God promised a famine of hearing the words of the Lord (8:11-14)
 - e. No matter where the people tried to run or hide, God promised punishment (9:1-4)
 - f. Even those that claimed they would not be punished would be punished (9:10)
- V. Eventual restoration and hope promised for God's people (9:11-15)

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) No one is strong or fast enough to escape the wrath of God if he deserves it (Amos 2:13-16).
- 2.) Our blessings come with responsibilities; we must use our blessings to serve and honor God.
- 3.) We must take discipline to heart and make changes in our lives in order to avoid destruction.
- 4.) We must serve the Lord with sincerity (our whole hearts) if we truly desire to please Him.