

Fairview Memorial Missionary Baptist Church
Winter Bible Study - February 20, 2023

Study Theme

"MAJOR THOUGHTS FROM THE MINOR PROPHETS"

My Lesson

"The Book Of Amos"

My Subject: "A Country Preacher Goes To Town"

By

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The writer of this Prophetic Book is Amos! The name "**Amos**" means "burden" or "burden-bearer", That is an appropriate name for this man; his burden was to deliver God's message. It is interesting, that although Amos was born in Judah, the Southern Kingdom, the Lord sent him to Israel, the Northern Kingdom; The message was to be delivered in the royal sanctuary, the King's Chapel, located at Bethel; which was the first Capital City of the Northern Kingdom. And yet, the message was not to Israel alone, but also to Judah; and to the neighboring heathen nations, who were morally corrupt. However, these heathen nations were not under the Covenant agreement which Israel made with God, nor bound by the laws that Judah and Israel had committed to live by. As a result, every form of sin abounded in the land, including Idolatry.

The Book of Amos is not "The Gospel Of Amos"; it is "The prophecy of Amos". There is hardly any "Good News", in this Prophecy, until we reach Chapter 9, verse 11, where a reference is made to the day when, "I, The Lord," will raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen." (I hope to enlarge upon this "Good News" later in the lesson).

This book is about the anger and judgment of God that is coming upon people and nations, because of their social, moral, political, economic and religious practices. The Lord pleads with the house of Israel "to seek ye me, and ye shall live". (Survive as a nation) Seek me, not Bethel nor Gilgal.(5:4-5) Seek the one who created all things "**The Lord is his Name**". V.8 "Seek good and not evil, that ye may live: so the Lord, the God of host shall be with you, as ye have spoken." (V. 14) Primarily Amos,s prophecy is not about the hereafter, it is about the "**here-and-now**".

The Scriptures say, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." (Ps. 33:12) "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." (Pr. 14:34) And again, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God".(Pa. 9:17)

This Book of prophecy is not lengthy, and, neither is it "Minor"! It is an indictment; formal charges, including accusations against Judah, Israel, and all the heathen nations around them.

Amos lived during the days of Uzziah, King of Judah, and Jeroboam II, the son of Joash, King of Israel, two years before the earthquake mentioned in Zechariah 14:5. This allows us to identify the time period around 750 B.C. More information on Jeroboam's reign can be found in (2 Kings 14:23-29); and, the religious and moral conditions can be found in (2 Kings 17:8-23)

Amos was indeed a country preacher. His home was located in Tekoa, about twelve miles south of Jerusalem, and six miles south of Bethlehem. Tekoa was a **“defense city”**, built by Rehoboam II, to protect Jerusalem. (2 Chro. 11:5-6) By defense city, I mean that the town was situated on a ridge, from which surveillance could be maintained in all directions. Defense cities were fortified strongholds, stocked with weapons and supplies. And because of the city’s elevation, it was a perfect location for a signal station for the purpose of sounding “trumpet-blown signals”, Jer. 6:1 Instructions on trumpet signals are given; (Num. 10:1-10)

Southward from Tekoa, all the way to the Dead Sea, was the rugged wilderness; and Amos was one of many herdsmen and shepherds who grazed sheep in that wilderness. In the summer, Amos was also, a gatherer of sycamore fruit, which according to my studies, was a variety of figs that grew on scrubby fig trees, in the dry sandy wilderness soil. (Amos 7:14-15)

It appears, at that time, both the Southern Kingdom of Judah, and the Northern Kingdom of Israel were enjoying prosperity. However, things were about to change. God charged Judah, with, “despising the Law of the Lord” (Amos 2:4-) and he charged Israel, with “profaning Gods Holy name”. (Amos 2:7) These offenses were not **“minor discretions”**, they were **“major transgressions”**; and it was not for just two or three transgressions, or three or four; but many more than this.

“Hear this Word of the Lord that I have spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family, which I brought up out of the land of Egypt, saying, You only, have I known of all the families of the earth: Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.” (Amos 3:1-2) **I will not turn away the punishment thereof, Amos 2:4 and 6)**

Also, in Ch. 3 Amos sets forth some metaphors to get their attention, and to illustrate His judgment, (the reason for the indictment) His punishment, and the devastation that will come, because of their sinful living. So, as in other places the Lord begins to reason with them. **“Can two walk together except they be agreed?” “Will a Lion roar in the forest if he hath no prey?” “Can a bird fall into a snare,... where no Gin is?” “Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid?”** (Amos 3:3-6)

I want to remind us again of **“The Words of Amos”**, In chapter 1:2 and His first words were, **“The Lord will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither.”** It sounds like a recession is on the way! From that point on, the messages were not the words of Amos, but rather, “Thus saith the Lord”, And the message was, **“I will not turn away, (from my anger) I will punish your transgressions, thereof;”** Amos used the phrase “Thus saith the Lord” at least forty-one times in the 9 chapters. I counted them my self.

“Surely the Lord will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord hath spoken, ...”(Amos 4:12-13) **“Publish it everywhere”** Why? **“For they know not to do right, saith the Lord,...”**An adversary there shall

be even in the land, and he shall bring down thy strength from thee, and they palaces shall be spoiled." (Amos 3:7-11). **If they don't take heed.** (Thus saith the Lord, As the shepherd taketh out of the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear, so shall the children of Israel be taken out that dwell in Samaria in the corner of the bed, and in Damascus in a couch." (Amos 4:12)

It is interesting that the message of judgment and punishment, was primarily for the Northern Kingdom Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, in other words, the whole "Family" of Jacob. **The nation of Israel was the only nation ever known as the people of God!** All other nations were **heathens.** But, God's jurisdiction encompasses the whole world. "The earth is the Lords and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein." (Psalms 24:1) Sin is sin; and God will punish sin! Including the sins of heathen nations. In the first two chapters of Amos, The Lord judges 7 heathen nations, and their cities, with the same justice and righteous judgment with which Israel and Judah were judged. They are Syria, Philistines, Phoenicia, Edom, Ammon, and Moab. **"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."** (Psalms 9:17)

When Amos arrived in Bethel, and began to identify the sins of Israel, Judah and the heathen nations, round about, and the punishment that would follow; **he was met with opposition.** Amaziah, who was the Priest in Bethel, sent to the King of Israel, and informed him, Amos, from Tekoa, "That Seer", is up here; he is making all kinds of prophecies, saying, that Jeroboam is going to be killed by the sword, and Israel is going into captivity. (Amos 7:10-11)

Amaziah called Amos a "Seer" (V.12-13) which he was, for God showed him these things; and Amaziah suggested that Amos go back to Judah, and eat bread and prophesy there, but prophesy not again, here at Bethel. Can't you just hear "Priest Amaziah" saying, go home, prophesy no more here at Bethel. Don't you know this is the King's Chapel and the King's court? (paraphrase) Jeroboam I, the father of the present King, set up calf worship in Dan & in Bethel for convenience telling the people it's too much for you to travel back to Jerusalem to worship. His was an ulterior motive of course. ((1 Kings 12:25-30) (And this thing became a sin", because .."he had devised of his own heart and ordained a feast..." (11 Kings 12:30-33)

I think that really got under Amos's skin, and he answered Amaziah, **"I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; I was a herdsman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit.... and the Lord took me, as I followed the flock, and the Lord said unto me, "Go prophesy unto my people Israel."** (Amos 7:14-16) **Divine Call!**

Amos says to Amaziah, Thou sayest prophesy not against Israel and drop not thy word, that's a picture of a dripping faucet, it just keeps dripping, cant shut it off. **"Thus saith the Lord"** was dripping out of his mouth. You are not only opposing me, you are opposing God; Therefore, thus saith the Lord, as proof of my word, Your wife will become a harlot, your sons and daughters will be killed, and Israel shall be captured.) See Amos 7:16-17

Amos really did have a burden for both Judah and Israel, (the whole house of Israel) He lamented for them, pleaded with them to give up Idolatry, and seek the Lord and live by their Covenant they had agreed to. He told them in many ways that God was displeased and angry with them and that He would punish them; "The virgin of Israel is fallen, she shall no more rise; she is forsaken upon her land; there is none to raise her up. (Amos 5:2)

Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord (Coming of the Messiah?) To what end is it for you? "Shall not the day of the Lord be darkness, and not light? (Amos 5:18-19)

"Woe to them that are at ease in Zion"....."That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches,", "Therefore now shall they go captive with the first that go captive and the banqueting of them that stretched themselves shall be removed" (Amos 6:1,4, and 7)

Amos said, "He showed me and behold, The Lord stood on a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumb line in his hand". "And the Lord said, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not pass by them any more." It takes God's "straight edge" to show us how crooked we really are! (Amos 7:6-8 See also Isaiah 28:17)

"Thus hath the Lord showed unto me: and behold a basket of summer fruit"..Then said the Lord unto me, The end is come upon my people; I will not pass by them any more." (Amos 8:1-2)

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor of thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord." (Amos 8:11) I believe this may refer to the 400 silent years when there were no prophets that spoke for the Lord. The ten tribes lost their identity, No Genealogies were kept! They are referred to as the 10 Lost Tribes.

In closing: the "Good News" I promised: Amos Prophesied, In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen: Some say that refers to what they call the millennial Kingdom, but I say that refers to the Messianic Kingdom, what we know as the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

However; Altho, without a King, Judah maintained their history, at least their Genealogies, and we can trace the bloodline of Jesus Christ, and know that he is the messiah. He is of the Tribe of Judah and the Bloodline of David. In fact he is the Son of David (his descendent) "The Lyon of the tribe of Judah, that Amos said would "**roar from Zion**", and he is the lamb (**Sacrifice that God made for our sins**).

Here's how: John the Baptist, sent from God; to make ready a people; A virgin girl of the house and lineage of David, Over-shadowed by The Holy Ghost, gave birth to Jesus, God's son, who established his Spiritual Kingdom, the church. The decision of the church council at Jerusalem was, that this was the fulfillment of Amos 7:11. See Acts 15:16