

A Message About Falsehood and Injustice - Amos

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Background of Amos

Two Passages from Amos:

1. 1:1-2
2. 7:10-17

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Background of Amos

Amos 1:1-2

- Written by Amos - “load, or burden”
- One of the shepherds of Tekoa

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Background of Amos

Tekoa

- Both a town and a territory
- 12 miles south of Jerusalem
- Territory extended north and eastward toward the Dead Sea

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Background of Amos

Tekoa

- Elevation – 2,700 feet
- Wilderness of Tekoa sank 4000 feet into the Dead Sea (below Sea level)

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Background of Amos

- A Shepherd tending flocks in the wilderness
- A place of mostly desert, rocks, and hills with sparse grass and vegetation.
- Today, the annual rainfall is 4.1cm
- Today, average temperature is 62 F

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Background of Amos

Amos 7:10-17

- Not a prophet nor the son of a prophet
- Does not hold the office of prophet
- Not trained as a prophet
- Not trying to make a living off of prophecy
- See 7:12

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Background of Amos

Amos 7:10-17

NOTE!

- Amos lives in the southern kingdom yet prophecies to the northern kingdom
- Not welcomed because of his message and he is a 'foreigner'

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Background of Amos

Amos 7:10-17

- Shepherd
- Caretaker of sycamore-fig trees
 - Amos had some sort of orchard
 - Sycamore-figs are a bitter fruit that only the poorest people ate.

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Background of Amos

- Amos was not a professional prophet but a farmer of animals and trees
- Lived in the southern kingdom and called by God to prophecy to the northern kingdom

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Amos – The Timing

- 2 years before the earthquake
 - Mentioned in Zech 14:5
- Obviously a significant earthquake

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Amos – The Timing

- During the reigns of Uzziah and Jeroboam II
 - Uzziah – 783-742
 - Jeroboam II – 786-746
 - Amos likely prophesied circa 745
- NOTE!
Hosea prophesied during the time of Amos

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Amos – The Times

- A time of unusual prosperity for the northern kingdom
- King Jeroboam II
- Unrest in the middle East
 - Assyria defeated Syria but then entered into decline

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Amos – The Times

- Israel firmly believed they were blessed by God as a result of their prosperity and wealth
- They believed that they were God's chosen people and therefore untouchable
- Obviously, prosperity equaled God's blessing

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Amos – Outline

- Introduction 1:1-2
- Judgment speeches against the nations 1:3-2:16
- Judgment speeches against Israel 3:1-6:14
- Vision reports 7:1-9:10
- Salvation promises 9:11-15

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Amos – Message

- Hear the roaring of the LORD like a lion
- God is not happy with Israel
- He is rousing himself to take action – and not for blessing

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Amos – Message

- The land is going to experience drought and destruction
- The top of Carmel withers
 - The place of lushness and refreshment
 - The place of God's presence
- This indicates the spiritual withering also

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Amos – Message

- All is not well in Israel
- There is a great falsehood in Israel
- There is no justice in Israel

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Amos – Message

- The outside looks good, but the inside is dead and decaying
- Like the message of Jesus to the pharisees
- Like the message of Jesus to the churches in Revelation

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Amos – Message

- Like the message of Jesus to us today?
- How has our wealth and prosperity affected our relationship with God? With others?
- Are we people of righteousness and justice?

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