

Through the Bible Course

**May 18, 1947**

**Amos**

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Key Word: Judgment

Key Verse: 4:12

Person of Amos: Name means “burden” or “burden bearer.” He was a shepherd and dresser of sycamore trees. His home was at Tekoa, south of Jerusalem.

Time: He prophesied in time of Uzziah and Jeroboam II, 780 BC to 740 BC. Refer to 2 Kings 14:23-27, 15:1-7 and 2 Chronicles 26:1-23.

Occasion: Amos went to cities of Northern Kingdom to sell his wool and after observing condition there he was commanded of God (7:14, 15) to speak to the people. The book of Amos is made up of a series of discourses or sermons which Amos delivered. His theme was repentance and judgment.

I. Chapters 1 and 2 – Judgment of Various Nations

1. The punishment passes without pausing from one nation to another always approaching closer to Israel. Finally, Amos shows the fullest woes will come upon Israel.

II. Chapters 3 through 6 – Three Discourses to Israel

1. Chapter 3 – First discourse

- a. Verses 1-8 – The fact that they were chosen and redeemed from Egypt, aggravates their guilt rather than makes it less.
- b. Verses 9-15 – The coming judgment. A mere fragment of nation shall be left as compared with that which a shepherd saves from a lion (vs. 12).

2. Chapter 4 – Second discourse

- a. Verses 1-5 – Their sinful condition
  - 1. vs. 1 – oppression of poor and needy
  - 2. vs. 4 – idolatry at Bethel and Gilgal
- b. Verses 6-13 – The chastisements which have already come and their refusal to return to the Lord.
  - 1. vs. 12 – therefore must “prepare to meet thy God.”

3. Chapters 5 and 6 – Third discourse

- a. 5:1-3 – lamentation over fall of Israel
- b. 5:4-15 – seek the Lord and live
  - 1. vs. 10-12 – they hate those who rebuke because they are evil
  - 2. vs. 13-15 – their repentance must be genuine, spiritual, deep
- c. 5:16-20 – they will wail because of Day of the Lord
- d. 5:21-27 – captivity announced

- e. 6:1-14 – the threatened punishment
  - 1. 6:1-6 – woe to them that are at ease
  - 2. 6:7-17 – captivity announced

III. Chapters 7 through 9 – Five Visions of Prophet

- 1. 7:1-3 – locusts devouring the land
- 2. 7:4-6 – all devouring fire
- 3. 7:7-9 – plumb line measuring wall to cast it down
  - a. These three visions are fulfilled in three successive invasions of land
    - 1. By Pul, King of Assyria (2 Kings 15:19-21)
    - 2. By Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria who took possession of east and north territory of Israel and carried many into captivity (2 Kings 15:29 and chapter 16)
    - 3. By Shalmaneser who put an end to ten tribes and removed people to Assyria (2 Kings 17)
  - b. 7:10-17 – Amaziah, the priest, advises Amos to go home but Amos refuses and pronounces doom upon priest and his family.

IV. Chapter 8 – Basket of Summer Fruit

- 1. Verses 1-3 – Nation ripe for judgment – “cup of iniquity was full”
- 2. Verses 4-14 – God states His case against them and doom pronounced

V. Chapter 9 – Lord Standing Upon Altar Commanding to Smite

- 1. Verses 1-10 – People buried under ruins of their false religion
  - a. Kingdom destroyed but remnant will be saved
- 2. Verses 11-12 – Promise of raising up and glorifying the tent of house of David
- 3. Verses 13-15 – The prosperity which will follow this