



## “A Familiar Message” (Amos)

Danny Hodges – OT3460

What I’m going to do is not a verse by verse study. We are going to “glean” from Amos tonight.

Gleanings: Objects gathered that from a collection of the comprehensive whole.

Read verse one. This verse will be our outline for this study.

### THE **PROPHET** AMOS

- His unexpected call; A shepherd from Tekoa, a town approx. 10 miles south of Jerusalem. But he was not an ordinary shepherd. The word used here is not the normal Hebrew word for a common shepherd. The word suggests that Amos was either a wealthy shepherd, or that he worked for someone who was wealthy. He also took care of sycamore fig trees (7:14b).
- Amos seems a most unlikely candidate for the mission God calls him to. He is from the south, but God sends him north with a very unpleasant message. Have you noticed the unlikely people God called in the Bible? Moses, Gideon, David, Jephthah, Saul of Tarsus (called to the Gentiles, though supremely trained to reach Jews); The Twelve, etc.
- His unpleasant mission; Amos means “burden bearer.” Called to go and speak to a people that did not listen (Amos 7:10-17).
- The incredible revelation God gave him; Peter – “You are the Christ”; Matt.11:25; 21:16. God not only takes pleasure in calling and using the most unlikely people, but in revealing truth to the most unlikely people. And Matt.21:16 tells us that it is so many times the most unlikely that offer him the greatest praise.

### THE **TIME** IN WHICH AMOS MINISTERED

- A time of unprecedented prosperity (See II Kings 14:23-29). Jeroboam’s forty-one year reign was longer than any king of Israel before him. Politically he was a very strong king; Lebo Hamath was approx. 150 NE of the Sea of Galilee, and the Sea of Arabah is the Dead Sea.

- Unfortunately, the economic prosperity helped fuel spiritual apathy and moral decline. Sometimes prosperity turns into a curse (See Ezekiel 16:49).
- They continued with religious practices regarding Yahweh while at the same time continuing in idolatrous ways (5:21-26).
- They were filled with greed and self-indulgence (8:1-6).
- Despite their sin, they claimed that God was with them (5:14; 6:1); The nation was economically and militarily dominant, and they were the most distinguished citizens in their world. Read 6:2; Calneh and Hamath were city-states in ancient Aram (modern day Syria) that had been devastated by war (the Assyrians), Gath of Philistia had also been devastated. God is saying “wake up,” what happened to them can also happen to you!

#### WHAT AMOS **SAW** CONCERNING ISRAEL

- Her sins were as bad as the pagan nations. Amos begins by denouncing the sin of Israel’s neighbor nations (1:3-2:5). “For three sins...even for four” was a poetic way of expressing that their sins were many. The people of Israel would have loudly “amen’d” this opening section. But they did not like what they began to hear beginning in 2:6. Refer also to Romans 1, then the beginning of Romans 2.
- If she did not repent, judgment was inevitable. Amos warned Israel that their time of prosperity was about to come to an abrupt halt. Two years after his prophetic ministry, the Lord sent an earthquake in an attempt to wake the people up regarding their sin, so that they might repent and be saved. The earthquake was so significant that it was remembered 200 years later (see Zech.14:1-5). In 4:6-12 God tries to get them to remember the discipline he had brought upon His people in the past, and yet they did not respond properly to that discipline. Each disaster mentioned here are the specific curses mentioned in Deuteronomy: Lack of food (Deut.28:38-40), drought (Deut.28:22-24), blight and mildew on their crops (Deut.28:22), locusts (Deut.28:38), pestilence and disease (Deut.28:21-22, 27-28, 58-61), military defeat (Deut.28:49-57).
- Amos 7:1-8 also reminds them that God’s patience will run out, and if they do not repent they will ultimately be judged. The plumb line was a string with a weight attached to it that determined the straightness of a wall. The point is that Israel had not measured up to God’s standards, and as result the nation was about to collapse like an unstable wall. He prophecies judgment to come, and an aspect of judgment perhaps worse than the physical suffering they would experience (see Amos 8:11-12); When Dr. Hindson spoke this past weekend, I was encouraged by the Word of God. Man shall not live by bread alone...

- After judgment God would restore the remnant. Amos declared that the unrepentant will ultimately experience God's wrath, but the remnant will be saved and experience an unbelievably glorious future (Amos 9:11-15).

## CONCLUSION

It is a familiar message isn't it? Many people in the last days will become complacent about this message we hear over and over again in the Scriptures (Matt.24:37-39). Don't you be one of them! Let's ask the Lord to make us an Amos in our world. Lord, reveal truth to me, then show me who you want me to go and share that truth with. And grant me courage and perseverance as I follow your call and proclaim your Word. AMEN.