



Amos 1:1 The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa—the vision he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel.

Amos the Prophet & the Background

1. **Amos was from Judah** the southern kingdom of Judah with its king Uzziah, but is called to speak to Israel the northern kingdom with its king Jeroboam II.
2. **The time period** is approx. 785-750 B.C. a call to Justice. (Hosea was the prophet in the north during this time period with a call to Grace, mercy, forgiveness and God's love)
3. **Israel** as a nation was rich, but it had an indulgent lifestyle and had become very immoral. It had great military might and skillful leader who was ungodly.
4. **His warnings** were to a people beyond the nation of Israel but to the God of the whole world. The message was wrath and Justice are coming.
5. **Amos skills** he was a shepherd, rancher, and farmer. What we would call a self-made man in today's world. His own words are, "I am no prophet nor a son of a prophet." God called him to prophesy and Amos was obedient to that call.

**Key Elements of the Book of Amos (8 judgements, Three Sermons, and Five Visions)*

1. **8 judgements** 6 against heathen people, then one against Judah and another against Israel. (Chapters 1 & 2)
2. **Three Sermons**, one for Israel's present, (Chapter 3) it's past in Chapter 4, and it's future in Chapter 5 & 6.
3. **Five visions:** Each of these visions has an implied value to the future of our world too. (Chapters 7-9)

***Amos 1:2** He said: "The LORD roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds dry up, and the top of Carmel withers."

*** Amos 1:7** I will send fire on the walls of Gaza that will consume her fortresses.

God Promises to Send Fire as Judgement

1. **Amos 1:4 – 2:16** God brings judgement on 3 cities 3 people groups. This happened within 50 years of the prophecies. Including Israel, while Judah/Jerusalem/temple are destroyed more than 150 years during the Babylonian captivity.
2. **Ezekiel Chapters 25 – 27** When Jesus returns 7 nations will be embattle according to Ezekiel. **Luke 3:16 & Malachi 3:1-4** also give witness that Jesus is coming with fire.
3. **Ammon and Moab nations** are descendants of lot. (Ruth is the famous Moabite that marries Boaz as a foreshadow of our kinsman redeemer.
4. **Edom it's nation** is the descendants of Esau and Ishmael.
5. **Every nation** that will answer to Jesus in His second coming have been enemies of Israel.

Justice will prevail

***Amos 2:7** They trample on the heads of the poor as on the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed. Father and son use the same girl and so profane my holy name.

***Amos 2:14** The swift will not escape, the strong will not muster their strength, and the warrior will not save his life.

Fire is the symbol of Justice & Cleansing of Sin

Theological sins: Sins against God.

Cruelty & Lack of Mercy sins: Sins against the poor.

Breaking Moral law: Sins against humanity and society with open immorality and perversion of our sexuality. No one says anymore...(Oh that's just not right!)

Statement: Even the strongest nations when they turn their backs on God cannot stand under His Judgement. Even the most blessed religious nation cannot stand under the Justice of God's hand.