

**Divided Kingdom Period:
The Prophets to Israel: Judgment to Jubilation *Amos 1:1-9:15***

Amos is one of two prophets we will look at in the Prophets of Israel. Amos was unique in that he was from the Southern Kingdom and came north to preach to the Northern Kingdom. I title the book, ***Amos, Judgment to Jubilation***. Most of the book is a prophecy of the Judgment of Israel the Northern Kingdom. However, we see in the last part the Jubilation of restoration of Israel.

I will use the following outline:

- I- Amos the Prophet. *Amos 1:1-2***
- II- Judgment Against the Nations. *Amos 1:3-2:16***
- III- Prophecies to Israel. *Amos 3:1-6:14***
- IV- Five Visions of Amos. *Amos 7:1-9:10***
- V- Restoration of the Covenant People. *Amos 9:11-15***

I- Amos the Prophet. *Amos 1:1-2*

The question is who was Amos. Some see him as a poor country boy who went into the king's palace to preach. Others, myself included, see him as a wealthy man who was used by God. ***Amos 7:15*** records the call of God upon Amos' life.

The name Amos means, "Bearer" or "*Burden bearer*." He was a prophet raised up by God that had a burden for the Lord and His people.

The date of the events of Amos is easily discovered by ***Amos 1:1***. We can date it sometime from 767-753. *The Reece Chronological Bible* dates it at 764 B.C. Amos only preached for a

short time, probably a year, 2 at the most.

The conditions of the nation of Israel were that as a nation it was at its zenith of power and prosperity. Times were good. They acquainted prosperity and blessing with God being in favor of their actions. The climate of religion was one of pioussness. God however has a message for them.

**II- Judgment Against the Nations.
*Amos 1:3-2:16***

Before Amos turns his full attention on Israel he has a word from the Lord to the nations around her. The primary reason for the judgments of these nations was the way they treated Israel.

a- Against Damascus *1:3-5*

This is the nation of Syria. They were often harassed Israel. They were especially cruel to the trans-jordan settlers. God is going to send a fire to destroy and send them into captivity.

b- Against Philistia *1:6-8*

The Philistines had sold the children of Israel into slavery to Edom. Amos said God would wipe them out for this. They as a race have ceased to exist.

c- Against Tyre *1:9-10*

Tyre was the nation of Phoenicia. They broke a covenant made between David, Solomon and their King Hiram. Israel had never warred against them. God would burn down their palaces and forts.

d- Against Edom. *1:11-12*

Edomites were the descendants of Esau, Jacob's brother. Although they

were related to the Jews they did crueler things to them than anyone did. They rejoiced when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem. God would judge them by fire that would consume all.

e- Against Ammon **1:13-15**

Ammon had ripped open the women of Gilead when they were with child. God would judge them with fire and captivity.

f- Against Moab **2:1-3**

Moab was guilty of grave desecration. God would send fire and war to punish them.

g- Against Judah. **2:4-5**

Amos speaks briefly against Judah the Southern Kingdom. He said they were guilty of despising the law of God. Jerusalem would be destroyed.

III- Prophecies to Israel. Amos 3:1-6:14

In this section is a series of five prophecies to Israel.

a- In the first prophecy Amos asks nine questions as a part of the process of Amos vindication of his message for Israel. He uses illustrations of lions in a den and bird in a snare as well as a trumpet being blown.

b- The second prophecy concerns the hook of judgment that portrayed them being taken captive. He condemned them for vain worship. God is pictured rebuking them for not following Him even though He sent things to make them return to Him.

c- The third prophecy is a funeral dirge for Israel. God held out hope here however if they would repent.

d- The fourth prophecy concerns the day of the Lord that is coming. He told them their hypocrisy stank and He is going to take them into captivity in Assyria.

e- The fifth prophecy is a Woe to those who are at ease. God is pictured her as being justified in sending them into captivity.

IV - Five Visions of Amos. Amos 7:1-9:10

Next is the five visions that God gave Amos.

a- Vision of the Locust **7:1-3**. God showed Amos a swarm of grasshopper that would devour the crops. God did not send these in answer to the prophets prayer.

b- Vision of Flaming Fire **7:4-6**. In this vision God showed Amos Israel ripe for a fire due to no rain. Amos cries to God to cease this and He did not send it.

c- Vision of the Plumbline **7:7-17**. God shows Amos a vision of a plumbline next. God laid His plumbline beside of Israel and it is apparent how poorly she measures up to God's standard. God however tells Amos not to plea for Israel. He is not going to change His mind about judging them. He is going to tear down their hilltop shrines to their pagan gods. He is going to send a sword of judgment upon the house of Jeroboam.

When Amos gave this vision to the people Amaziah the high priest in the temple of Bethel rebuked him. God sent a prophet to Amaziah that his wife would become a harlot and his sons and daughters would die by the sword.

d- Vision of the Summer Fruit **8:1-14**. God gave a vision of fruit ripe for the picking. God looked at their fruit and found it rotten. He would send a twofold judgment. Human agony **8:9-10** and God would be silent. **8:11-14**.

e- Vision of Christ at Altar of Bethel. **9:1-10**. Here we have the vision of the Judge. He judges false religion

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9:1. From His judgment there is no escape. **9:2-4.** He is a judge that is holy and omnipotent. **9:5-6.** However the greatest thing is that the judge will preserve a remnant. **9:7-10.** Though Israel has been sifted through the world not one kernel is lost.

V- Restoration of the Covenant People. Amos 9:11-15

One of the thoughts that is interwoven throughout the Old Testament as well as the New is the restoration of God's Covenant People. Isaiah, Ezekiel, Zechariah, Malachi, Daniel all spoke about this. Romans' has three chapter that address it.

Notice in Amos in the last five verses the four things God said He will do for Israel.

a- **"I will raise up the tabernacle of David."** **9:11** The kings of Israel were to always come from Judah's line through David. (See **Gen 49:10**). **II Sam 7:12-16** promised that David's kingdom would never end. Christ has the right to be King of Israel through David.

b- **"I will build it as in the days of old."** **9:11** David ruled during the Single Kingdom Period. God's promise was to again make Israel one nation.

c- **"I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel."** **9:14** God would call His people out of all the nations of the world.

d- **"I will plant them upon their land."** **9:15** God made a promise to Abraham to give him the promised Land. God will fulfill this promise yet to Israel. The promise the next time entered was they would never leave it again.

Application to Life:

- 1- God places a call upon our lives regardless of our status.
- 2- Faithfulness if the most important thing we give to God.
- 3- God is the Judge of the nations of the world.
- 4- God also judges and chastises His people for their good and His purpose and glory.
- 5- God is not finished with His chosen covenant people. He will again restore them as a special nation in the future.

Review of Session:

- 1- Which kingdom was Amos from?

- 2- To which kingdom did he preach to most? _____
- 3- What was the primary reason for the judgment of the nations surrounding Israel? _____

- 4- Are you willing to lay God's plumbline beside your life? _____
- 5- Is God finished with Israel? _____
- 6- What are the four things God will do for them in the future? _____

