

The Lion Roars and Amos Sees It

Chapter 3

Audio Lesson: Old Testament number 76



Objective: To understand the message of the book of Amos and how appropriate it is today.



Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.

—Amos 5:14-15

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

—Matthew 6:19-21

Amos was a citizen of the Southern Kingdom who God called to prophecy to the Northern Kingdom about the coming Assyrian captivity. He ministered during a prosperous time in the Southern Kingdom, during the reign of King Uzziah. But his message against the Northern Kingdom would also apply to Judah’s future. All of God’s people, in both north and south, would eventually be judged for disobedience. In fact, the spiritual advantage of God’s people will cause them to be judged by a higher standard than that of pagan nations. Those who know God’s Word and do not obey it are held to a higher degree of accountability.

Like the other prophets, Amos’ message also foretells the restoration of God’s people. Though Israel has been restored politically in our time, its spiritual restoration has not yet happened. According to Amos, the hearts of Israel’s people will one day turn back to their God.



1. True or false? Amos was a very influential priest from a very influential family.
2. True or false? Only two of the minor prophets were called to preach to the Northern Kingdom.
3. True or false? The historical context that the prophets lived and preached in is not important for us to understand at all.
4. True or false? The devotional message of the prophets is more important for us than learning the historical events.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Why might God have chosen a farmer from the Southern Kingdom to deliver a message to the Northern Kingdom?
 - a. To start a conflict between the two kingdoms
 - b. Because the prophets of the Northern Kingdom were not preaching God's message
 - c. Because the Southern Kingdom had always been superior to the Northern Kingdom
 - d. To protect Amos safely in the north while God destroyed the Southern Kingdom
6. When did Amos preach?
 - a. During the reign of David
 - b. Right before Jesus was born
 - c. During the Babylonian captivity
 - d. During the reign of Uzziah, near the time of Isaiah
7. What was the condition of Israel and Judah during Amos' lifetime?
 - a. Prosperous and safe from enemies
 - b. Vulnerable to invasion on every side
 - c. In the midst of famine and poverty
 - d. Aggressive and militant
8. In what way was Amos tactful?
 - a. He only preached judgment on Israel's enemies.
 - b. His messages pleased Israel's political leaders.
 - c. He always gave the good news before the bad news.
 - d. He was not tactful at all, always preaching hard messages of judgment.
9. Why did Amos say that Israel and Judah would be judged more harshly than the pagan nations around them?
 - a. They had a spiritual advantage by knowing God and His Word.
 - b. They committed greater sins than other nations.
 - c. Other nations were more obedient to God.
 - d. Israel and Judah were God's least favorite nations.

10. Which is most important in our relationship with God?
- a. What we hear
 - b. What we feel
 - c. What we know
 - d. What we do in response to what we know
11. Which of the following pictures of God's standards did Amos see?
- a. The tablets of the Ten Commandments
 - b. A priest who knew all the laws of God
 - c. Moses and Elijah together
 - d. A plumb line (a builder's tool to make sure the construction is straight)
12. Who did Amos see standing beside the altar proclaiming judgment?
- a. The Lord Himself
 - b. The prophet Joel
 - c. King Uzziah
 - d. King David
13. Which of the following are messages of Amos? (*choose all that apply*)
- a. Judgment is coming.
 - b. Peace will not be disrupted.
 - c. Restoration will follow judgment.
 - d. God is through with Israel forever.
 - e. God is not finished with His people even when they sin.
 - f. Both Israel and Judah are invincible and will not be judged.



Have you ever wondered if God has given up on His plan for you, or that you will never be good enough for Him to use you? How does Amos' message encourage you? What hope does God promise for His people and to you?



Thank God that He can and wishes to use anyone. Praise God that He takes much greater pleasure in restoring His people than in punishing them. Ask Him to show His mercy to you, your family, your neighbors, your city, and your country.



Going Deeper

1. In what ways did the spiritual community addressed by Amos resemble or parallel the Church in America today? _____

2. What was the message of Amos to a community that was spiritually and materially advantaged? _____

3. Why would a fruit-picker from the Southern Kingdom travel to the Northern Kingdom to preach powerful sermons warning of a coming judgment of God? _____

4. How does Amos demonstrate the qualifications and the call of a prophet? _____

5. In Amos 3:3, how does this prophet demonstrate the difference between fellowship and serving God together? _____

6. When were the judgments proclaimed by this prophet fulfilled? _____

7. What was the obstacle addressed by this prophet that was holding back the work of God? _____
