

Outline of Amos

1-2	8 Oracles Against the Nations
3-6	3 Sermons Against House of Israel
7:1-9:10	5 Visions of Judgment by the Lord
9:11-15	5 Promises of Hope and Blessing

Author

The title of the book comes from its writer, namely Amos which means “burden-bearer”. Amos ministered during the reigns of King Jeroboam II of Israel (793-753 BC) and King Uzziah (Azariah) of Judah (792-740 BC). Amos was from the southern region of Judah, yet he ministered a message of judgment to the northern kingdom of Israel and the surrounding nations. Amos did not claim to be a Prophet. He claimed to be a farmer and a shepherd (7:14).

Summary

These were times of material prosperity for both Israel and Judah (1:6; 6:2,13; 2Ki.14:23-29; 2Ch.26:1-15). Jeroboam II and Uzziah were two of the most competent and effective kings for Israel and Judah respectively, second only to Solomon's golden age. The conditions outwardly looked great. Commerce thrived (8:5); an upper class emerged (4:1-3); and expensive homes were built (3:15; 5:11; 6:4,11). However, the poor were exploited (2:6-7; 5:7,10-13; 6:12; 8:4-6), slavery was accepted for debt (2:6; 8:6), and morality had fallen (2:7). Religion flourished during this time (4:4;5:5; 8:3,10), yet they

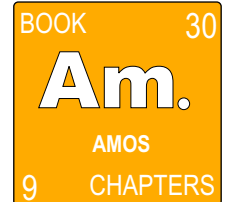
AMOS

The visible prosperity of Israel was merely a thin sheet over the spiritual poverty internally and throughout the land. The Lord chastises those He loves, and His judgment is a sign of His commitment to his covenant people.

worshiped the native Canaanite deities along with Yahweh. The last king of Israel, Hoshea, became a vassal of Shalmaneser V (727-722 BC) of Assyria (2Ki.17:3). Hoshea rebelled and mistakenly hoped for help from Egypt (2Ki.17:4). Amos emphasized God's righteousness (Hosea God's love). Amos

whole earth. Amos grouped Judah and Israel with Damascus, Tyre, Gaza, Edom, Ammon, and Moab. He viewed Israel and Judah as two from among the nations. Though he spoke mostly to Israel (7:15), he also addressed the sins of Judah (2:4-5; 9:11). Israel, deluded by her

PROPHETS



BOOK OF AMOS OVERVIEW

Chapters 1-2	Chapters 3-6	7:1-9:10	9:11-15
8 Oracles Against the Nations	3 Sermons Against the House of Israel	5 Visions of Judgment by the Lord	5 Promises of Hope and Blessing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damascus (1:3-6) • Gaza (1:7-8) • Tyre (1:9) • Edom (1:9-11) • Ammon (1:13-15) • Moab (2:1-3) • Judah (2:4-10) • Israel (2:11-16) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Hear this word...O children of Israel” (3:1) • “Hear this word...kine [cows] of Bashan” (4:1) • “Hear ye this word... O house of Israel” (5:1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locusts (7:1-3) • Fire (7:4-6) • Plumbline (7:7-9) • Summer Fruit (8:1-14) • The Lord by the Altar (9:1-10) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise up the tabernacle of David (9:11) • Possess the remnant of Edom (9:12) • Land will be very productive (9:13) • Return the captivity of Israel (9:14) • Possess the land of Israel (9:15)

reminded Israel of God's election of them, but repudiated the idea that God would not punish His people. He urged the responsibility of elective privilege. Israel's sins appear worse because of her privileged position. God did not do anything without first revealing it to them through His prophets (3:7). Through five visions Amos pronounced judgment that would fall on Israel. They were visions of locusts, fire, the plumb line, the basket of summer fruit, and the altar of judgment. The message of Amos was broader than most other prophets. He did not refer to God as the God of Israel, but of the

economic success and intent on strengthening her financial position, lost the concept of caring for one another.



CHRIST IN AMOS

- Amos spoke of the restoration of “David's fallen tabernacle” (Am.9:11) who will be a son of David, namely Christ, to lead the people of God to victory over the nations (Am.9:12).