

Amos Lesson 41

INTRO:

- A. At this point we notice a contrast in the two kingdoms.
 - 1. God blessed Uzziah/Azariah and caused him to extend his borders of Judah because Uzziah was righteous.
 - 2. Jeroboam II, on the other hand, was wicked, but God was allowing Israel one more chance to see that God could help when He chose to do so.
- B. During this particular time, things appear to be more prosperous in Israel than they had in years.
 - 1. At this point, we have the appearance of a new prophet to Israel.
 - 2. Amos comes to tell Israel the prosperity has not brought about the desired thanksgiving on the part of the people.
 - 3. They are worshipping idols as they always have done.
 - a. They have not turned to the Lord, thus His judgment is coming!
- C. Amos is the first to say the end was definitely coming for Israel and it was too late for them to avoid it
- D. Although other prophets come after Amos in Israel, their message was to pronounce doom.
 - 1. God always warned before He brought destruction.
- E. Though Judah is warned by Amos, her judgment was not yet assured.
 - 1. There was still some good in Judah - but Israel's sin was full!

I. Amos The Prophet:

- A. Amos was a man of the wilderness, and this is obvious through out his writings.
- B. He was a native of Tekoa: five miles south of Bethlehem and ten miles from Jerusalem.
 - 1. The city was built on a hill overlooking the wilderness of Judah, one of the most desolate areas in Canaan.
- C. He was from a lowly background - a herdsman of sheep and a gatherer of sycamore fruit (1:1; 7:14).
- D. He lived during the days when the reign of Jeroboam II in Israel corresponded with Uzziah in Judah.
 - 1. There is the statement made that he began prophesying in Israel "*two years before the earthquake.*"
 - 2. Here is the only place in the Scriptures that the earthquake is mentioned.
 - 3. However, most scholars date his time about 760 to 755 B.C.

II. Amos' Message:

- A. God's Judgments On All The Nations (**chapters 1-2**):
 - 1. In fact, the main statement of the book is that of judgment and doom.
- B. Judgment is pronounced against the nations around Israel: against Damascus (Syria), Gaza (Philistia), Tyre (Phoenicia), Edom, Ammon, and Moab.
- C. Then Amos comes closer to home and condemns Judah. (2:4-5)

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- D. Amos then comes home, Israel herself, and gives a summary of her sins: social injustice; forsaking the Lord and her covenant with Him; idolatry with its fornication; and ritual, formal worship.
 - 1. (2:6-7)
- E. God had done so much for Israel:
 - 1. He destroyed the Amorites before them;
 - 2. He brought them out of Egyptian bondage;
 - 3. He led them through the wilderness;
 - 4. He raised up prophets and Nazarites from among their own children.
- F. Yet they had:
 - 1. despised the Lord;
 - 2. forbidden the prophets to prophesy,
 - 3. given the Nazarites wine to drink. (2:14-16)

III. Basis For God's Judgment (chapters 3-6):

- A. Chapter 3:
 - 1. Since God had blessed both Israel and Judah far above any of the other nations, that only gave them more responsibility to obey Him.
 - 2. Since they had not fulfilled their responsibility, God would punish them for their iniquities. (3:1-2)
 - 3. With that, Amos asked a number of questions. (3:3-6)
 - 4. God had urged His people to return to Him, they had ignored His pleas.
 - a. Now, God warns of destruction and they still continue to ignore!
- B. Chapter 4:
 - 1. God chastens them in an effort to get them to repent but nothing works.
 - a. (v. 11)
 - 2. Since they had not repented, the warning is given. (v. 12)
 - 3. God had caused them to suffer famine, yet they did not repent.
 - 4. God caused drought, yet they did not repent.
 - 5. All this along with blight and locusts, diseases like in Egypt; He caused her young men to be slain with the sword; God had overthrown certain ones of their cities like He overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - 6. Yet they had not repented.
- C. Chapters 5-6:
 - 1. The cry and pleas from God continue through Amos.
 - 2. "Seek Me and live." (5:4), not the idols of Bethel, Gilgal, and Beersheba.
 - 3. (5:14-15, 21-22)
 - 5. The Lord knew of their wickedness.
 - 6. One thing we see about Amos is that he gives great insight to the extravagance of the day than any other prophet.
 - a. He describes their winter houses and summer houses.
 - b. The people lay upon their beds of ivory and engaged in revelry and banqueting with no thought for the judgement that was coming.

IV. Therefore, Judgment Is Inevitable: (Chapters 7-9)

- A. Chapter 7:

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1. God allowed Amos to see visions of the destruction that was coming.
 - a. The first was of a locust swarm that would destroy the crops.
 - 1) Amos prayed. (7:2)
 2. God relented.
 - b. Then Amos saw a fire that would destroy the whole land.
 - 1) Again Amos prayed and God relented.
 - c. But then God showed Amos a wall that was leaning and told him to measure it with a plumb line.
 - 1) God was letting Amos see how far Israel had drifted from God's original plan for them. (7:8-9)
 2. Amos did not plead for Israel again. He could see why God was saying their judgment was inevitable. They had gone too far.
 3. There is a break in the message as Amaziah, a priest of the golden calves at Bethel, tries to stop Amos.
 - a. He told Jeroboam that Amos was causing trouble in the land and then told Amos... (7:12-13)
 - 1) Instead of leaving, Amos defended his right to speak. (7:14-17)
- B. Chapter 8:
1. The Lord showed Amos a basket of ripe summer fruit, and said, "*The end has come upon My people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore.*" (v. 2)
 - a. What a chilling thought! The nation is ripe for picking! (vs. 9-10)
 2. Then the Lord made a very unusual prophecy.
 - a. His people had rejected His word from the time He first began speaking to them, so now He predicts a day when He would cease to speak to them. (vs. 11-12)
- C. Chapter 9:
1. Amos said,... (vs. 1-2, 8-10)
 3. As in the other prophesies, God included a hope of future glory for His people.
 - a. After the destruction to come, there would be a day of renewal.
 - b. It is very important that we notice it was the wicked kingdom and wicked individuals that were to be destroyed.
 - c. God said He would sift the house of Israel among the nations as in a sieve, and the chaff, or the sinners, would die by the sword.
 - d. However, not one kernel, or righteous person, would fall.
 - e. God has always been able to see each righteous individual and preserve him even in the midst of severe punishment of the wicked.
 4. The book closes with hope.
 - a. A remnant will return and in that day the tabernacle of David will be rebuilt.
 - b. In Amos' day, David's seed no longer reigned in the northern kingdom of Israel.
 - c. Even Judah would soon crumble due to God's judgment, leaving David's tabernacle torn and in ruin.

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- d. But Amos was allowed to see a day when that tabernacle would be repaired and rebuilt so that all men and all nations that are called by the name of the Lord would become a part of that house.
- e. Acts 15:16-17
 - 1) This shows the Gentiles were included in the blessings given in the New Testament.
 - 2) This was not material prosperity that was being predicted, but a spiritual remnant with spiritual blessings in Christ.

V. Lessons From Amos:

A. Punishment Is The Consequence Of Disobedience!

- 1. Every action has consequences; some consequences are temporary, some are permanent.
- 2. Amos was speaking to God's chosen people, therefore let us be assured that just because we are Christians we are not exempt from God's requirements and punishment awaits us for our disobedience.
- 3. While the consequences may be immediate or delayed depending on the sin, we must act.
- 4. There are three things we must do as Christians when we sin:
 - a. Repent. It means we change our mind about sin. It means we seek God instead of our own way. We want Him and his way more than anything. That is the way we are meant to live and it is the best way to live.
 - b. Pray. In prayer, we confess our sins to God and declare our desire to follow unconditionally. We can then regain our fellowship with Him.
 - c. Live in faithful obedience. There is no other alternative for a Christian. We live lives of obedience. This means we go where He wants us to go, we say what He wants us to say, and we do what He wants us to do.

B. God Has A Standard!

- 1. (Amos 7:7)
- 2. What God desires is not a mystery. He has clearly revealed his requirements in the Scriptures.
- 3. It's a matter of hearing and doing that enables us to build on the rock so that we can weather the storms of this life. (Mt. 7:24-25)

CONCLUSION:

- A. There are five reasons we should read and study the book of Amos:
 - 1. The book of Amos addresses Materialism.
 - a. With the materialism and consumerism that often characterizes our modern society, we would do well to consider what the book of Amos has to say. (Amos 6:3-7).
 - b. We see the Lord's disgust with materialism and the lack of concern for worship and justice. (Amos 4:1-2)

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- c. Israel considered her materialism as a sign of God's approval, but that was not the case.
- d. **DO WE MAKE THE SAME ASSUMPTION?**
- 2. The book of Amos addresses Superficial Worship.
 - a. We might think that "going to church" or making outward shows of devotion is enough.
 - b. But Amos showed God is concerned with all aspects of our lives. (Amos 5:21-23)
 - c. If we are unwilling to do what pleases God in our lives, we cannot expect to please Him with our worship.
- 3. The book of Amos addresses Corrupt Leadership.
 - a. Many times Amos addresses the corruption of Israel's leadership.
 - b. Especially as a country that was supposed to be run in accordance with God's laws, the Lord was angry with the corruption that existed. (Amos 5:10-15)
 - c. The Lord hated the bribes, the lack of justice, and what appears to be a system that favored the rich over the poor.
- 4. The book of Amos addresses Caring for the Poor and the Oppressed.
 - a. We see the depth of God's passion for justice and His compassion for the care of the poor. The book of Amos clearly shows God's depth of passion for justice and care for the downtrodden. (Amos 4:1; 5:12)
- 5. The book of Amos Is Relevant/Timely.
 - a. Though it was written thousands of years ago, the book of Amos holds timely lessons for us today about what God truly desires: not shows of worship, but lives lived in accordance with His will.

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The Prophet Hosea

The Book Of Hosea