

The Book of Amos

Chapters 1 and 2

Introduction

- Amos = name means “burden bearer”
- Amos was a shepherd (1:1) and fig harvester (7:14) from the small town of Tekoa, about 12 miles south of Jerusalem. He is careful to mention that he was not trained as a prophet (7:14)
- Reese dates this book to 788 B.C.
- Outline of the Book:
 - Judgement of Nations – Chapters 1-2
 - Prophetic Messages – Chapters 3-6
 - Five Visions of Judgment – Chapters 7-9

Chapter 1

- vs. 1 – Uzziah (called Uzziah in II Chronicles and Azariah in II Kings) reigned over Judah from 811-759 B.C. Jeroboam reigned over Israel from 825-784 B.C.
- vs. 2 – Similar language is found in Joel 3:16
- There are eight nations that God announces judgment on in Chapters 1 and 2. The first seven are handled briefly with only 2 or 3 verses devoted to each. Those same seven follow a similar structure:
 - “For three transgressions... and for four” – implies multiplied sins and that judgment is imminent.
 - “because...” – a specific crime is mentioned.
 - “But I will send a fire...which shall devour the palaces...” – followed by a description of the judgment.
- Damascus (Syria) – vs. 3-5
 - Crime – II Kings 10:32-33
 - Judgement – II Kings 16:9 (740 B.C.)
- Gaza (Philistia) – vs. 6-8
 - Crime – possibly II Chronicles 21:16
 - Judgment – Isaiah 20:1 and possibly II Kings 18:8
- Tyre (Phoenicia) – vs. 9-10
 - Crime – possibly breaking of treaties made with David and Solomon – see II Samuel 5:11 and I Kings 5:1-18
 - Judgment – likely the destruction by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C.
- Edom – vs. 11-12
 - Crime – continuous hostility (II Chronicles 28:17 for one example) despite kinship with Israel

- Judgement – Conquered by Nabateans around 550 B.C.
- Ammon – vs. 13-15
 - Crime – Possibly as allies of Syria – compare vs. 3, II Kings 8:12 and 10:33
 - Judgment – Destruction by Nebuchadnezzar, maybe around 601 B.C.

Chapter 2

- Moab – vs. 1-3
 - Crime – Possibly the events of II Kings 3:26-27
 - Judgment – destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar
- Judah (Southern Kingdom) – vs. 4-5
 - Crime – Forsaking God’s commandments
 - Judgment – Destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar in II Kings 25:8-12
- Israel (Northern Kingdom) – vs. 6-16
 - I heard a preacher say once that as Amos delivered the previous messages all the people in Israel that were listening to him were “Amening” him but got quiet when he started stepping on their toes!
 - vs. 6 - God opens with the same two steps as when speaking to other even nations (“for three transgressions... and for four” and “because...”) but then turns to much greater detail of the crimes committed and judgment to come.
 - Present Crimes – vs. 6-8
 - B.H. Carroll summarizes theirs sins as: “(1) injustice; (2) hardness of heart toward the poor; (3) incest; (4) luxury combined with idolatry.”
 - vs. 8 – concerning the clothes see Exodus 22:26-27 and Deuteronomy 24:12-13
 - Past Blessings – vs. 9-12
 - These are: (1) destruction of their enemies, (2) deliverance from Egypt to Promised Land, and (3) special revelations from God.
 - vs. 9 – Amorite – see Genesis 15:16 and Judges 11:21-23, though possibly they are used to mean all of the Canaanite peoples.
 - vs. 12 – two additional crimes are added: (5) giving Nazarites wine and (6) stopping prophecy.
 - Future Judgment – vs. 13-16
 - vs.14-16 – can be summarized as none will be left standing in the day of judgment to come.
 - This judgment is realized in II Kings 17:6 when Samaria fell to Assyria in 721 B.C.