

## The Prophet Amos

Amos was a great prophet of God. He was called by God when he was just a farmer. He was a layman. The Bible says in Amos 1:1 and 7:14-15, that he was a herdsman and a gatherer of sycamore fruit, and it says in verse 15 of Chapter 7, “The Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said unto me, ‘Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.’”

Amos, like most of the Old Testament prophets, was sent to warn the people of their gross sins and of impending judgment. Although Amos was born in Judea, his message was to the Northern Kingdom of Israel primarily, and to the world in general, as the text indicates.

The message of the Book is that God is the Ruler of this world, and all nations are responsible to Him. The measure of responsibility is commensurate with the light which each nation has. The final test for any nation (or individual) is found in the words of Amos 3:3, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” Amos prophesied unto a people such as we are. A people living in luxury and wallowing in immorality. God said, through Amos, that punishment and finally judgment awaited such a nation and nations. He, Amos, started by pronouncing judgment on the nations surrounding Israel and Judah.

In Amos 1:3-5 he pronounces judgment against Syria for cruelty. In Amos 1:6-8 he pronounces judgment against Philistia for making slaves. In Amos 1:9-10 judgment is against the nation of Phoenicia for breaking treaties. In Amos, 1:11-12 judgment is against the nation of Edom for revengeful spirit. In Amos 1:13-15 judgment is against the nation of Ammon for violent crimes. In Amos 2:1-3 he pronounces judgment against Moab for injustice.

But the greatest judgments seem to be reserved and poured upon Judah and Israel. God’s judgment against Judah is for despising the Law (Amos 2:2-4). God’s judgment against Israel is for immorality and blasphemy (Amos 2:6-16).

In Chapter 3, God’s charge is against the whole house of Israel (all 12 tribes). Why? *Because privilege creates responsibility; the higher the blessing, the greater the punishment.* Israel will be punished for past iniquity (Amos 4). Future iniquity (Amos 5). Israel is admonished by God in the present day to depart from iniquity (Amos 7 to the end of the book). At 9 verse 15, God speaks of the future and of His wonderful grace and mercy both to Israel and to all nations of the earth through Jesus Christ our Savior.

This great book ends on a magnificent rehearsing by God of the promises given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Amos 9:14-15, **“And I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God.”**

*Charles E. Clark, Sr.*