

# Amos

## Breakdown

- The book of Amos is named for the prophet who wrote the book.
- Amos had no formal prophetic training - he was a shepherd and farmer. He basically described himself as a nobody from a family of nobodies living in a town no one had ever heard of, but God called him to deliver His message to His people.
- Amos was among the first prophets of the divided kingdoms, ministering at the same time as Isaiah and Hosea before the captivity of Israel and Judah around 750 B.C.

## Main Points

- Amos could see that beneath Israel's external prosperity and power, internally the nation was corrupt to the core. Amos pointed out the extensive sins of the people: neglect of God's Word, idolatry, pagan worship, greed, corrupted leadership, and oppression of the poor. Amos pronounced a judgment upon all the surrounding nations, then upon his own nation of Judah, and finally the harshest judgment was given to Israel. His visions from God all revealed the same emphatic message: judgment is near. But the people didn't listen and suffered the consequences.
- Although the majority of the book is about soon coming judgment, Amos also gives us hope for a future time when God will bring His people back to Himself completely restored.

## Did you know?

- Amos started his ministry by proclaiming judgment on several nations that surrounded Israel. Which nations did he speak about?
- Amos said that the Sovereign Lord never does anything without first revealing His plans. Who did Amos say God reveals His plans to?
- God told His people that if they came back to Him, they would live. What did He say they needed to do when they came back to Him?
- Amos saw a vision of God standing beside a wall with a plumb line, checking to be sure the wall was straight. What else did God say He was going to use the plumb line for?
- Amaziah the priest sent a message to King Jeroboam II that Amos was plotting against him, and he told Amos to go back to his hometown and not bother them with his prophecies anymore. How did Amos respond?
- God said He would send a famine on the land but not of food. What would the famine be?
- Amos ends his book with a promise of restoration. What did God promise to do?

## Further Thought

- Amos was a shepherd and farmer with no formal religious training, yet God called him to deliver His message to His people. How does this apply to our lives today?
- The nation continued to live in the prosperous times that began with King Solomon, and the people seemed to forget all about God. What can we learn from their poor example?
- Through Amos, God told the people that they were putting on shows of fake worship, and He hated it. Do we ever give God fake worship? If so, what do we need to change?