

# Snapshot of Amos

## The Prophet:

The name “Amos” means “to bear,” “to place a load upon” or “burden bearer.”

Amos was a herdsman and a tender of sycamore trees, he claimed no prophetic office (7:14)

He was from Tekoa, which was about 5-6 miles south of Bethlehem and twelve miles south of Jerusalem. Although a resident of the Southern Kingdom, he prophesied against Israel and her Gentile neighbors.

## The Date:

This is relatively easy. “The words of Amos, who was among the herdsmen of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.” (1:1) Hence, about 760-750 B.C.

## The Message:

Amos prophesied at a time when the national prosperity of Israel was at its peak. The people lived in a state of false security, trusting their riches to protect them. The prophet cried against the oppression of the poor by the rich, against the general materialism of the people, against the moral corruption of Israel and against the religious hypocrisy of the land (cf. 2:6-8).

## The Book:

The first two chapters contain a brief account of the judgment against Israel and her neighbors.

Chapters three through six focus upon the sins of Israel in detail.

Chapters seven through nine contain five symbolic visions of coming judgment.

But the book closes on a note of radiant hope. The Messianic hope is set forth and the great blessings of His kingdom are described.

## Outline of Amos

- I. Judgment against the nations (1:1-2:16)
  - A. Prelude: day of wrath (1:1-2)
  - B. Judgment to the six neighboring nations (1:3-2:3)
  - C. Judgment on Judah and Israel (2:4-16)
- II. Sin and punishment of Israel (3:1-6-14)
  - A. The certainty of God's punishment (3:1-15)
  - B. Past punishments that did not change the people (4:1-13)
  - C. Lamentation for Israel (5:1-27)
  - D. Destruction imminent (6:1-14)
- III. Five visions of coming judgment (7:1-9:10)
  - A. The plague of locusts (7:1-3)
  - B. Fire (7:4-6)
  - C. The plumbline (7:7-9)
  - D. Basket of summer fruit (8:1-14)
  - E. Destruction of the temple (9:1-10)
- IV. The age of the Messiah (9:11-15)

## Lessons For Today

1. Privilege involves responsibility (3:2; see Luke 12:43-48).
2. A man's worship is an abomination to God if his daily life is wicked (5:21-24).
3. Compare 9:11-15 with Acts 15:14-18.
4. The power of materialism to lead men into sin (6:1-7).