

Amos: The God of the Nations

The Story of the World Part 24

The Book of Amos; Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; 6-17-18

Background: Writer, Date, Literary Form, Theme

- Amos (1:1)
- Shepherd (1:1)
- From Tekoa (1:1)
- Saw visions (1:1)
- Time of Uzziah, king of Judah (1:1)
- Time of Jeroboam son of Joash, king of Israel (1:1)
- Time just prior to 'the earthquake' (1:1)
- 700s BC
- Herdsman and grower of sycamore figs (7:14)
- Prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel (7:10-16)
- Time prior to the Assyrian exile (7:11)
- Prophetic satire
- Theme: the universal justice of God
- Israel was experiencing a time of great prosperity and expected the 'day of the LORD' to come and usher them into their rule over the world (thinking that prosperity meant God's blessing)
- But their prosperity was at the expense of the poor, magical and empty worship and in the context of idol worship, so they were really on the verge of divine judgment, which Amos came to announce

Outline (The Bible Project)

I. Message to the Nations and Israel (1-2)

Like a target with Israel at the center

II. Message to Israel and Its Leaders (3-6)

Concerns:

Justice = proper response to injustice

Righteousness = right relationships with all

III. Amos' Visions (7-9)

Locusts, Fire, and Overripe Fruit

Glimmer of Hope at the End

Things to Note:

- Divine judgment is prophesied on other nations along with Judah and Israel
 - Damascus (1:3)
 - Gaza (1:6)
 - Tyre (1:9)
 - Edom (1:11)
 - Ammon (1:13)
 - Moab (2:1)
 - Judah (2:4)
 - Israel (2:6; 3:1)

- Divine judgment is prophesied for a number of reasons
 - Destroying land (1:3)
 - Deporting populations (1:6, 9)
 - Killing Israelites fleeing (1:11)
 - Ripping open pregnant women (1:13)
 - Burning the bones of the king of Edom (2:1)
 - Rejecting the law of the LORD (2:4)
 - Mistreatment of the poor (2:6)
 - Idolatry (3:14)
 - Living lavishly at the expense of the poor (4:1-3)
 - Empty religion (4:4)
 - Bad business practices (8:4-6)

- Reality that calamities have a divine cause (3:1-8; 4:6-11; 7:17)
- A clear call to repentance is given (with the implication of mercy) (4:6-11; 5:4-7)
- God is in charge of nature (4:7; 5:8)
- God is sovereign over the nations (9:7)
- God 'changes His mind' in response to prayer (7:1-6)
- The greatest calamity is the absence of a word from God (8:11)
- There is no escape from God's judgment (9:1-4)
- God promises just judgment (9:8)
- God promises mercy (9:8, 11)
- God promises blessings (9:13-15)