

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: May 7, 2023

Spring/Summer Series: The Minor Prophets

Text: Amos (Part 1)

INTRODUCTION:

1. Amos's Prophetic Ministry (1:1; 7:14-15)

A. His background (1:1)

- His name means "burden-bearer", and indeed he was heavily burdened for the downtrodden condition of Israel's poor and for the corrupt condition of Israel's worship.
- He served during the reigns of Uzziah and Jeroboam II.
- "Tekoa" was located 11 miles south of Jerusalem.
- Amos's prophetic ministry to Israel occurred between 767 and 753 B.C. These dates can be est. from the overlapping reigns of the 2 kings mentioned (Uzziah: 767-740 & Jeroboam: 782-753).

B. His occupations (1:1; 7:14-15)

- "Shepherd" (1:1) means "sheep-breeder".
- "Cattleman" (7:14) or "cattle raiser/rancher".
- He "took care of sycamore-fig trees" (7:14).

C. His call (7:14-15)

Amos was not a professional prophet when God called him, nor had he any official prophetic training. Amos denied any previous connection with the prophets or their disciples.

2. Amos's Prophetic _____ (1:2)

Vs. 2 is a thematic verse, ominously announcing the main thrust of Amos's message. Amos's prophecy strongly emphasized the judgment of God. From the driest portion of the land (*pastures*) to the greenest (*top of Carmel*), the LORD's judgment will be felt like a severe drought that devastates the whole land. He will roar "from Zion" - this is where the LORD est. His earthly throne, among His special people, and from there He announces His judgments on them, as well as other nations.

A. His major themes

He emphasizes several major theological themes.

B. His peculiarities

In Amos's prophecy we find a keen sense of social responsibility.

C. He is cited in the NT by Stephen who quotes fr. Amos 5:25-27 (in Acts 7:42-43), and James cites Amos 9:11 in Acts 15:16.

EIGHT ORACLES OF JUDGMENT AGAINST THE NATIONS (1:3-2:16)

Throughout chapters 1-2 Amos repeated a phrase, "For three sins of . . . even for four." By using this phrase, he was saying that each of the countries had sinned to the point where judgment was inevitable. They had sinned from **full** ("three") to **overflowing** ("four"). Their sins had gone beyond God's patience, & judgment was now irreversible. This would be carried out by the Assyrian Empire between 738-732 B.C. (Tiglath-Pileser) and then from 725-722 B.C. (under Shalmaneser V and Sargon II; from 725-722).

1. The _____ of the prophecy.
 - A. A look at the map reveals that as Amos drew a circle of judgment around Israel he was actually tightening the _____ on Israel itself.
 - B. There are three elements to each oracle:
 - 1) The _____ of the judgment.
 - 2) The _____ of the judgment (why necessary).
 - 3) The _____ of the judgment (content).
2. The _____ of the prophecy.
 - A. _____ (1:3-5)
 - B. _____ (1:6-8)
 - C. _____ (1:9-10)
 - D. _____ (1:11-12)
 - E. _____ (1:13-15)
 - F. _____ (2:1-3)
 - G. _____ (2:4-5)
 - H. _____ (2:6-16)
 - 1) They were guilty of _____ (2:6)
 - 2) They were guilty of _____ oppression (2:7a)
 - 3) They committed gross _____ (2:7b-8)
 - 4) They worshiped _____ (2:8)