

- I) **V1-2 INTRO:** The words of Amos who was among the herdsmen of Tekoa which he saw concerning
- II) **AMOS:** Prophesied during the reign of Uzziah (Judah-767-739 BC) and Jeroboam II (Israel-782-753 BC)
 - a) Bible commentators date his book somewhere between 760-753 BC
- III) **AMOS:** Was a herdsman and a farmer who was called to be a prophet to the nation (V1)
- IV) **FACT:** It is interesting how the Lord used various men and women to prophecy
 - a) There are Kings like David and Solomon, rich men like Abraham, and Priests like Samuel
- V) **THE:** There is Amos a prophet who simply refers to himself as a herdsman and a farmer
- VI) **THIS REMINDS US:** That the call to prophesy to the nation came from God, and not from man
- VII) **AMOS:** Was from a small village called Tekoa (stockade) which was 12 mi. south of Jerusalem
 - a) It was near the city of Hebron, built by king Rehoboam of Judah
- VIII) **HIS HUMBLE ORIGINS:** Did not impress the people of his day
 - a) Later in the book, a priest named Amaziah brings an accusation against him
 - 1) He accused Amos of conspiring against the king, causing the nation to be discouraged
 - 2) Amos had told the people of the northern kingdom that they would go in to captivity
- IX) **AT THAT TIME:** The nation was divided in to two kingdoms, northern and southern
 - a) Alternative worship sites had been established under Jeroboam, in Dan and Bethel
- X) **FACT:** Amaziah was the priest of Bethel, and he told Amos to leave town and go to Judah
 - a) This reveals to us that he is what would have been a northern prophet
- XI) **HIS RESPONSE:** Is typical of people who are convicted of sin
 - a) He said his message was not welcome in Israel
 - 1) Amos 7:12 Amaziah said to Amos: Go, you seer! Flee to the land of Judah. There eat bread, and there prophesy
- XII) **AMOS RESPONDED:** By prophesying against Israel, and personally against Amaziah
 - a) Amos 7:14-15 Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah: "I was no prophet, Nor was I a son of a prophet, But I was a herdsman And a tender of sycamore fruit. Then the LORD took me as I followed the flock, And the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.'
 - b) V17 Your wife shall be a harlot in the city; your sons and daughters shall fall by the sword; your land shall be divided by survey line; you shall die in a defiled land; and Israel shall surely be led away captive from his own land
- XIII) **THIS MESSAGE:** Was not well received because the nation was outwardly doing well
 - a) A false sense of security had taken over, and the people grew callused to God's requirements
 - 1) Because of this, Amos prophesies that God is bringing judgment: both near and future
- XIV) **THE NATION:** Is filled with outward religion, oppression of the poor, idolatry, self righteousness
 - a) It is filled with greed, materialism, arrogance, and materialism and is ripe for judgment
 - 1) Amos warns them, but they refuse to repent and judgment will come upon them

- I) **V1-2 THE WORDS:** Of Amos who was among the herdsmen of Tekoa which he saw concerning
 - a) Notice how eloquent Amos is, when you consider that he is what is called a *country preacher*

- II) **NOTICE:** Two years before the earthquake speaks of a great earthquake that occurred in Israel
 - a) This is spoken of almost 200 years later in the book of Zechariah
 - 1) Zech 14:5 You shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah.

- III) **V2 AND:** He said The Lord roars from Zion and utters His voice from Jerusalem The pastures of the
 - a) God is portrayed as a lion, about to pounce upon its prey: He is about to bring judgment
 - 1) Joel 3:16 The LORD also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

- IV) **V2 THE PASTURES:** Of the shepherds mourn and the top of Carmel withers
 - a) There will be a drought, and it will cause a famine and great sorrow and pain

- V) **V3-5 THUS SAYS THE LORD:** For three transgressions of Damascus and for four, I will not turn
 - a) Now, there begins a section that deals with the judgments upon nations close by to Israel

- VI) **FACT:** We remember that God is not simply the God of Israel, but of the world
 - a) Though we are living in His time of grace, He still is going to judge the world for its rejection of Him
 - 1) Ps 50:6 Let the heavens declare His righteousness, for God Himself is Judge

- VII) **V3 HE BEGINS:** With Damascus Syria
 - a) God was judging them because of their cruelty to the inhabitants of Gilead, east of the Jordan
 - 1) It would seem that they committed atrocities, using threshing instruments brutally
 - 2) This land roughly corresponds to the Golan Heights

- VIII) **V4 BUT:** I will send a fire into the house of Hazael which shall devour the palaces of Ben-Hadad
 - a) Hazael refers to kings, and the palaces of Ben Hadad refer to ancestral palaces in Syria
 - 1) God will bring judgment on Syria's king

- IX) **V5 I WILL:** Also break the gate bar of Damascus and cut off the inhabitant from the Valley of Aven
 - a) These are locations that speak of areas around Syria:
 - 1) The people were taken captive by the Assyrians and relocated to a place near the Assyrian capital

- X) **V6-8 THUS:** Says the Lord For three transgressions of Gaza and for four I will not turn away
 - a) This refers to the Philistine empire: they are judged for making people slaves
 - 1) They took some Jews and sold them into slavery, and God judged them through Hezekiah
 - 2) 2 Ki 18:7-8 The LORD was with him; he prospered wherever he went. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him. He subdued the Philistines, as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.

- XI) **V9-10 THUS:** Says the Lord For three transgressions of Tyre and for four I will not turn away its
 - a) Tyre (Phoenicia) is judged for breaking a treaty they had made with Israel

- XII) **TYRE:** Had once had a king named Hiram, who was very close to King David
 - a) No king of Israel or Judah had ever made war with Tyre, but they had broken the treaty
 - 1) They sold Jews into captivity, to the Edomites and disregarded their covenant with Israel

- I) **FACT: David had made a treaty with Hiram, and it was renewed under Solomon**
 - a) 1 Ki 5:12 The LORD gave Solomon wisdom, just as he had promised him. There were peaceful relations between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty.
 - 1) This treaty was broken, and God brought judgment on them

- II) **V10 BUT: I will send a fire upon the wall of Tyre which shall devour its palaces**
 - a) The Assyrians came against Tyre, but could not take the city

- III) **EVENTUALLY: Nebuchadnezzar came against them, and they built a city on an island ½ mi. off the coast**
 - a) Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the old city, and they lived in the one built on the small island
 - 1) Alexander came 250 years later and built a causeway out to it, and took the city
 - 2) Ezek 26:2-4 Son of man, because Tyre has said against Jerusalem, 'Aha! She is broken who was the gateway of the peoples; now she is turned over to me; I shall be filled; she is laid waste.' Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: 'Behold, I *am* against you, O Tyre, and will cause many nations to come up against you, as the sea causes its waves to come up. And they shall destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock.

- IV) **V11-12 THUS: Says the Lord For three transgressions of Edom and for four I will not turn away its**
 - a) God brings judgment against Edom because of its vengeful spirit

- V) **EDOM: Descended from Esau, and Israel descended from Jacob**
 - a) They were twin brothers of their father Isaac, and had conflict from the beginning
 - 1) This is being referred to concerning pursuing his brother and casting off pity

- VI) **ESAU: Never had a good relationship with his brother Jacob and did not live in peace with him**
 - a) His descendants also opposed the Jews

- VII) **WHEN ISRAEL: Was delivered from Egypt and was in the wilderness they needed to pass through Edom**
 - a) Nu 20:17-20 Please let us pass through your country. We will not pass through fields or vineyards, nor will we drink water from wells; we will go along the King's Highway; we will not turn aside to the right hand or to the left until we have passed through your territory.'" Then Edom said to him, "You shall not pass through my *land*, lest I come out against you with the sword." So the children of Israel said to him, "We will go by the Highway, and if I or my livestock drink any of your water, then I will pay for it; let me only pass through on foot, nothing *more*." Then he said, "You shall not pass through." So Edom came out against them with many men and with a strong hand.

- VIII) **V12 JUDGMENT: But I will send a fire upon Teman (region in Moab) which shall devour the palaces**
 - a) Petra, the capital of Edom, was located in Teman
 - 1) The palaces of the city of Bozrah were destroyed
 - 2) Jer 49:13 For I have sworn by Myself," says the LORD, "that Bozrah shall become a desolation, a reproach, a waste, and a curse. And all its cities shall be perpetual wastes."

- IX) **V13-15 THUS: Says the Lord For three transgressions of the people of Ammon and for four**
 - a) Ammon is north of Edom, in the region of modern Jordan and was an ally of Syria

- X) **AMMONITES: Were descended from the incestuous relationship of Lot and his youngest daughter**
 - a) When Lot and they escaped Sodom, they conspired to preserve his lineage
 - 1) The result was the Moabites, and the Ammonites

- I) **V13 THE CRIME:** They ripped open the women with child in Gilead that they might enlarge their territory
 - a) They were to the east of the Jordan, and joined the Syrians in fighting the 2 ½ tribes in that area
 - 1) Reuben, Gad, and the half of the tribe of Manasseh remained east of the Jordan

 - II) **THIS OCCURRED:** Under Hazael
 - a) 2 Ki 8:7-12 Then Elisha went to Damascus, and Ben-Hadad king of Syria was sick; and it was told him, saying, "The man of God has come here." And the king said to Hazael, "Take a present in your hand, and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the LORD by him, saying, 'Shall I recover from this disease?'" So Hazael went to meet him and took a present with him, of every good thing of Damascus, forty camel-loads; and he came and stood before him, and said, "Your son Ben-Hadad king of Syria has sent me to you, saying, 'Shall I recover from this disease? And Elisha said to him, "Go, say to him, 'You shall certainly recover.' However the LORD has shown me that he will really die. Then he set his countenance in a stare until he was ashamed; and the man of God wept. And Hazael said, "Why is my lord weeping?" He answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the children of Israel: Their strongholds you will set on fire, and their young men you will kill with the sword; and you will dash their children, and rip open their women with child."
-
- III) **FOR THIS:** God judged the Ammonites
-
- IV) **V14-15 BUT:** I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah and it shall devour its palaces
 - a) Rabbah is the ancient capital of Ammon: Amman is located near by and upon its ancient ruins
 - 1) It was destroyed
 - 2) Jer 49:2 Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will cause to be heard an alarm of war In Rabbah of the Ammonites; It shall be a desolate mound, And her villages shall be burned with fire. Then Israel shall take possession of his inheritance," says the LORD.
-
- V) **V15 THEIR KING:** Shall go into captivity he and his princes together
 - a) **Their king** (Moloch, the idol of the Ammonites) so it signifies, as well as king.
 - 1) **QUOTE:** I suppose the prophet may intend both, their god as well as their king shall be carried captive, as was customary with conquerors,