

Amos 3-4 – 26 March 2026

“The Responsibility Of Privilege”

Introduction

*Amos isn't a prophet by occupation

*He's a shepherd that became a prophet for a year

*He opened his letter in chapters 1-2 by prophesying judgement against many nations around

*This shows that his Jewish God is the God of the whole universe

*The middle portion of his letter (chapters 3-6) is the direct indictment against Israel for their sins

*Much of their sins are directly related to a benefit or privilege God gave them – that they didn't take advantage of or use properly

Today, we'll see 5 privileges of our relationship with God that brings us the responsibility to respond

#1 – To be identified with God (Chap 3:1-6)

Read 3:1-2

1. W/ greater knowledge is greater accountability
 - a. Read Luk 12:47-48 – many or few stripes
2. God has connected His identity to them
 - a. The Lord's reputation is on the line in Israel

Read 3:3-6

1. These comparisons speak of God's relationship w/ Israel since giving His Law & identity
 - a. Vs 3 – Both parties must choose the same direction
 - b. Vs 4 – Israel should react to God's provision
 - c. Vs 5 – Israel should react to God's protection
 - d. Vs 6 – Israel should react to God's purification
2. Israel's great iniquity is not responding to God's gifts to them
3. This is literally one of the 10 Commandments
 - a. Don't take the Lord's name in vain

#2 – To receive communication from God (Chap 3:7-10)

Read 3:7-8

1. The Lord is about to act in judgement against Israel & reminds them that He has a pattern
 - a. God communicates His plan first
 - b. God look for obedience
 - c. If there's disobedience, then He'll enact changes by chastisement or judgement

Read 3:9-10

1. Previous verses describe their bad conduct based on God giving His law & identity; now their bad conduct is compared even to their enemies
 - a. Philistines & Egyptians were known as brutal
 - b. Yet even to those nations, Israel's sin is obvious
2. What is the great crime in that they didn't know how to do what was right?
 - a. That they had every way to know but refused
 - b. God told them all things in His Word

#3 – To not be ended for our sin (Chap 3:11-15)

Read 3:11-12

1. Remember that Amos is a shepherd, so this language makes sense to him
2. Prophecy that Northern Israel will fall to the Assyrians, yet will barely escape
3. There's also a show of God's integrity here
 - a. Read Exo 22:13 – Babylon (the shepherd) will return Israel to their land later as proof of destruction
 - b. God didn't sell Israel or they weren't stolen

Read 3:13-15

1. The judgement that's coming will strike all the place of entrenched power
 - a. Altars of Bethel: religious system & leaders
 - b. Multiple houses: the rich
 - c. Houses of ivory: the rulers
2. Never underestimate how hard this would be for this shepherd Amos to go speak truth to power
 - a. We're still called to this mission today
 - b. We speak the truth no matter to whom

#4 – To have wealth and resources (Chap 4:1-5)

Read 4:1

1. Let me ask a really simple question
 - a. Are you living for yourself or others?
 - b. And the ultimate ‘other’ is God Himself
2. The selfish lifestyle is attributed here to Israeli wives

Read 4:2-3

1. This is clear as possible that the Assyrian will drag Israel away into captivity – this was Assyria’s standard practice
 - a. Assyria was known for brutally displacing its nations
2. Even the last of them (the kids) would be taken
 - a. He’s saying, if you won’t repent for yourself, at least do it for your kid’s sake

Read 4:4-5

1. Israel established their own worship, and it was contemptible & a transgression to the Lord

2. No matter how much religious effort they put in, it won't save them from this destruction
3. Deut 14:28 says to bring tithes every 3 yrs
 - a. Even if they bring tithes every 3 *days* it won't help
4. All offerings but Pentecost were w/o leaven
 - a. Leaven pictured sin
 - b. These offerings were seen as sinful offerings
5. Israel loves to do these religious offerings
 - a. Look what I've done for God
 - b. They looked for satisfaction in their own efforts

#5 – To be progressively disciplined (Chap 4:6-13)

Read 4:6-8

1. Lack of food and water could be a result of disobedience to the Lord
 - a. 100 yrs before Amos' time, God withheld rain thru Elijah for 3.5 yrs (Read Jam 5:17-18)

- b. For Joseph & Ruth, famine wasn't b/c of disobedience but used of God to move people
2. If there's a lack of food, ask God to search your life for sin or if there need to be a move
3. Is there a need for *us* to return to God?
 - a. If there's ever a separation between us and God it's b/c *we* moved, not Him (Read Rev 2:4)

Read 4:9-11

1. God continues to allow increasingly difficult circumstances to come to get their attention
 - a. First, leanness of food and water (vs 6)
 - b. Having to travel to find food (vs 7-8)
 - c. Then a total devouring of their food (vs 9)
 - d. Pestilence or plague (vs 10)
 - e. Complete overthrow (vs 11)
2. This is love to help them to turn & be healed
3. Whom the Lord loves He chastens (Heb 12:6)

Read 4:12-13

1. The notion to “prepare to meet your God” will strike people in different ways

- a. To the unbelievers – they respond with scoff but should respond with fear
 - b. To the disobedient believer – they respond with fear but should respond with repentance
 - c. To the obedient believer – they respond with joy
2. The God of the universe is calling for nearness with them and with us
 - a. We shouldn't be in *contract* but in *covenant*
 - b. We shouldn't be *cloaked* by *close*

Conclusion

Look around & consider all the Lord's given us

1. **We've been identified with the Lord**
2. **We receive communication from the Lord**
3. **We're not killed by the Lord, He's patient**
4. **We've received wealth & resources from God**
5. **We're progressively disciplined by the Lord**

We're responsible to respond to His great grace to us