

Amos Week 1 – The Role of God's Prophet
Deuteronomy 18:15-22
September 12, 2021

We will see in the Book of Amos that there are consequences for habitually ignoring God's commands. The Book of Amos illustrates how a nation of people who fail to follow God's commands fall into God's judgment.

The title of this series is "**Let Justice Roll.**" The next four weeks focus on the responsibility of God's people around how God sees justice. Each message has a sub-theme emphasizing what God expects us to understand as we encounter the Book of Amos.

Let me pose a few questions to ponder when we encounter the Book of Amos.

1. What would we say about a **culture** that celebrates the excess of the wealthy yet neglects the cries of the poor?
2. What would we say about a **community** that has forgotten its responsibilities to render justice correctly or extol righteousness as a virtue to uphold and defend?
3. What would we say about a **church** that has slid into idol worship and fails to see its impact on people's lives?

God has a lot to say about cultures, communities, and churches characterized in this way. Through the Prophet Amos, God confronts these conditions that existed in Amos' day. **But here is the point**, we live in a world where those same conditions exist today! Since God confronted it then, He confronts it today!

Before digging into the meat of Amos, we must understand the "**Role of God's Prophet**" throughout the ages. When we understand the role of God's Prophet, we can read any of a Prophet's words in the Bible and understand them, see how God used Prophets to reach and teach His people, and in turn see how the Prophets' words apply to us. Prophets play a significant role in Scripture. God uses *prophets to communicate His message to the world*.

Turn in your Bible to **Deuteronomy 18:15-22**.

The context of this passage

Moses and the Israelites in Deuteronomy chapter 5 reiterated a covenant between God and His people. This covenant is not to be confused with the Abrahamic covenant that God would **unconditionally** provide them the land they would possess. This subsidiary (or secondary) covenant was **conditional** and built on the nation's obedience to the Lord's commands. If they failed to be obedient, there were consequences. If they were obedient, they would enjoy blessings. In this portion of chapter 18, Moses is looking back at that time on Horeb. Moses tells them that because of their fears of speaking with God in His presence, God would provide

individuals who speak on His behalf. Those individuals were the Prophets. In this context, Moses is that Prophet. What Moses communicates is to be obeyed. Moses concludes this passage by telling the people how they would know that a prophet speaks for God; this is critical for them/us to understand.

Significant Point: Reread Dt. 18:18-19

Moses, in these verses, looks forward to Jesus Christ and states that there is one Prophet whose life-giving words they must obey. One commentator puts it this way "*Whether a succession of prophets be included in this promise or not, we are sure that it is primarily intended as a promise of Christ, and it is the clearest promise of Him that is in all the law of Moses.*"

Read Peter's Sermon in Acts 3:21-23. **What does this passage indicate?**

Jesus is that the perfect communicator of God's Word. All truth comes from Him and what we see in His Word, the Bible. The Bible, from beginning to end, points to Jesus.

Two points

- **The Prophet's Aim.**
 - Prophets are "called" and "empowered by God to declare God's will.
 - The next aim of God's Prophet is to say or deliver the "oracles" (or what God says) accurately – that is, with pinpoint accuracy.
- **The Prophet's Audience.**
 - It is those who are in a relationship with God.
 - The next group is those who need God's redemption.

Understanding and applying truth is the ultimate aim of God's Prophet. The Prophet's audience is everyone who seeks to follow God. Since Prophets deliver God's perfect Word perfectly, then there is only one perfect "Truth-Teller." Jesus Christ is the only perfect deliverer of God's truths, and the Bible is the only source of "truth-telling" that leads to a life honoring God.

Two Takeaways

- **Old Testament prophecy principles still apply today.** Read the Prophets, don't only enjoy the stories, don't dismiss the accounts as solely something that happened long ago.
- **God still speaks to us today, and He does it through his Word.** The Bible is God's prophetic Word. Go to it, read it, study it, meditate on it, and **DO** what it says.

How will you now read the prophetic books of the Bible?

How will they challenge you to look for the underlying principles to apply to your life?