

**Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church  
421 N. 2nd Street, Mankato, MN**

## **Sunday Bible Class**

# **Amos**

**September 13, 2015**

### **Author and Time of Writing:**

*Amos was a farmer-herdsman from Tekoa, a little village lying six miles southeast of Bethlehem. He was given a commission by God to leave his flocks and go to the northern kingdom of Israel for a short period of time during the reign of Jeroboam II (782-753 B.C.) and Uzziah (767-740 B.C.). Amos may mention in 5:8 a solar eclipse, which astronomical calculations state took place in June 763.*

### **Key Thoughts:**

*Amos came to announce God's judgment upon Israel and to appeal for repentance. It was a difficult assignment. Little did Israel know that the end would be coming in about thirty years. A key phrase to remember and associate with Amos is "for three transgressions and for four," which is found eight times in the first two chapters. A key prophecy is that of 8:11, "I will send a famine on the land...of hearing the words of the LORD!"*

### **Outline: The Book of Amos**

- I. *Eight Pronouncements of Judgment by the LORD (Chapters 1-2)*
- II. *Three Sermons of Judgment by the LORD (Chapters 3-6)*
- III. *Five Visions of Judgment by the LORD (Chapters 7:1-9:10)*
- IV. *Five Promises of Blessing by the LORD (Chapter 9:11-15)*

## **Christology:**

*The raising up of "the booth of David" speaks of the Messianic kingdom to come in Amos 9:11-15.*

## **Chapter Notes: Amos**

**1:1-2**      *Introduction to Amos and his calling.*

**1:3-2:5** <sup>(SV)</sup> *"For three transgressions of D a m a s c u s... G a z a... T y r e... E d o m... Ammon... Moab...Judah, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment!" Note the way in which Amos approaches the condemnation of Israel by first condemning all its neighbors.*

**2:6-16**      *The judgment of Israel! Note the descriptive language.*

**3:1-4:3**      *The judgment of Israel is for obvious reasons—it is rational and reasonable!*

**4:6-11**      *The LORD tried to bring Israel back, but they refused to return!*

**5:14-15**      *The LORD still offered His grace and forgiveness in spite of sin, if only Israel would repent!*

**7:1-9**      *Three visions—locusts (prevented), fire (prevented), plumb line (Israel's conditions would be considered!)*

**7:10-17**      *Amos' ministry was officially opposed.*

**8:1-14**      *The fourth vision—summer fruits and the famine of the Word!*

**9:1-4, 9-10** *The fifth vision—the LORD at the door in judgment!*

**9:11-15**      *There is always hope and salvation for the remnant!*

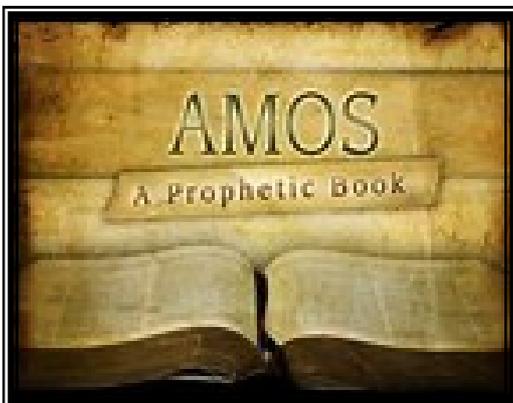
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**Devotion 1:** Read Amos 1-2

- 1) Look at the map and consider the geographical locations involved with the LORD's condemnation of Israel's neighbors, prior to their own condemnation. Discuss how the use of geography heightened Amos' final words to Israel.
- 2) Discuss the specific sins of which Israel was guilty and the graphic ways in which Amos depicts them.



**Devotion 2:** Read Amos 3-4



- 1) Discuss the meaning and purpose for the picture language used in 3:1-8.
- 2) Discuss Amos' condemnation of the greed and heartlessness of the women of Israel. Contrast Amos' condemnation with Solomon's description of the excellent wife in Proverbs 31:10-31.

**Devotion 3:** Read Amos 5-6

- 1) *Discuss the LORD's call to active repentance with His use of the command to "seek" in 5:4-15.*
- 2) *Discuss on the basis of 5:21-24 the LORD's reaction to people being "religious" rather than truly "spiritual."*

**Devotion 4:** Read Amos 7-8

- 1) *Discuss the three visions and their meaning for Old Testament Israel. What warning do they have for people today?*
- 2) *Discuss the meaning of the final vision of Amos in 8:1ff.*
- 3) *Discuss the nature of the "famine" to be sent by the LORD. Discuss its application in Old Testament times as well as in our times.*

**Devotion 5:** Read Amos 9

- 1) *Discuss the warnings given unbelieving Israel in 9:1-4, 9-10. How are they both a warning and a comfort to those who still believed then and who still believe today?*
- 2) *Discuss God's promise and description of the Messianic kingdom to come. When can we expect its complete fulfillment?*



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