

The Minor Prophets

Lesson 4

Amos – Shepherd of Tekoa

Amos lived during times of prosperity in Israel and Judah around 762 BC. The rich were exploiting the poor, while they enjoyed an indulgent lifestyle. Morality had sunk to a new low, yet hypocrisy in religion flourished. God sent Amos to prophecy to Israel that judgment was coming because of the immorality and the religious hypocrisy.

1. Describe the imagery of God's message spoken to the nations (Amos 1:2). List the nations that God sent a terrible drought upon in Amos 1 and 2.
2. Does Amos 3:1-2 sound like God expected a higher standard from His chosen nation?
3. Through seven rhetorical questions in 3:3-6, Amos drew the conclusion of cause and effect, and therefore it is inevitable that sin be punished. Does God always make His coming judgments known (Amos 3:7-8)?
4. What did Amos call the upper class women of Israel who oppress the poor (Amos 4:1)? What would happen to them (v 2-3)?
5. Even though Israel had peace and prosperity at this time, what lament or dirge did Amos sing for Israel in Amos 5:1-3?

6. Amos was spelling out national doom in the future, but what was his message to the minority of individuals who would seek the Lord and repent (Amos 5:4, 14-15)?

7. What was God's view of their religious hypocrisy in Amos 5:21-23? What was Amos' prediction in 5:27, and was it fulfilled (2 Kings 17:6)?

8. In Amos Chapter 7, he has a series of visions about God's destruction of the land of Israel. Did God honor the prophet's intercession in the first two (7:2-3; 5-6)? How did Israel "measure up" in the vision of the plumb line (7:7-9)?

9. In Amos 7:10-13, the high priest of Israel opposed Amos and his message. What did he command Amos to do (v12)? What was Amos's prediction against the high priest in verse 17 that was fulfilled when Assyria conquered Israel (2 Kings 17:20-24)?

10. Would any of the wicked Israelites escape God's judgment (Amos 9:2-4)? Nevertheless, will there be a future time of restoration and blessing for Israel (Amos 9:11, 14-15)?