

Amos (“Burden”)

Introduction: The book of Amos was written during a time when the northern 10 tribes were financially prosperous but were filled with spiritual and social abuse. The timeframe is @ 760 BC. Amos was a farmer/rancher near the small town of Tekoa, @ 5 miles southeast of Bethlehem in the southern kingdom. Amos was a contemporary of Jonah, Hosea, Isaiah, and Micah. Thanks to David Dorsey.

- 1) **Yahweh will punish the sin of Israel and its neighbors—1:1-2:16**
- 2) **Yahweh reveals the destruction of the centers of false worship—3:1-15**
- 3) **Yahweh condemns the wealthy Israelite WOMEN—4:1-13**
 - a) Note the doxology in 4:13
- 4) **FOCUS: Yahweh calls for repentance—5:1-17**
 - a) The lament over Israel’s current fall; death is just around the corner—5:1-3
 - They will suffer a 90% casualty rate. The Northern kingdom is never re-established; but it will be redeemed (cf. Is. 27:6; Rom. 11:25-32)
 - i) They need to repent—5:4-6a (temples cannot save you, only Yahweh can)
 - In times of distress, people turn to their gods out of habit.
 - (1) Their guilt is obvious to God; condemnation of Israel’s injustice—5:6b-7
 - (a) **Focus:** a hymn that magnifies the Judge’s power—5:8-9 (cp. 4:13)
 - (i) He has the power of bring about change—5:8
 1. He controls the cycle of seasons, the stars and constellations
 - a. Cf. Job 9:9; 38:31
 - b. Pleiades signaled spring, Orion signaled winter.
 2. He controls the day-night cycle, day and night
 3. He controls the cycle of moisture
 - (ii) He has the power to destroy—5:9
 1. He is actively against the powerful, sinning members of society.
 2. No amount of wealth or social position exempts one from His wrath.
 - (iii) If man will not listen to the **precepts** of God, perhaps they will listen to the **penalty** of God. (W. Kaiser)
 - (2) Their guilt is obvious to God; condemnation of Israel’s injustice—5:10-13
 - ii) They need to repent—5:14-15
 - b) The lament over Israel’s coming fall; otherwise death is just around the corner—5:16-17
- 5) **Yahweh condemns the wealthy Israelite MEN—5:18-6:14**
- 6) **Yahweh reveals the destruction of the centers of false worship—7:1-8:3**

7) Yahweh will punish the sin of Israel and its neighbors—8:4-9:15

8) Things we need to remember (think, feel, do):

- a) God is powerful, to grant grace and to punish sin.
- b) Can Israel's God fulfill the promises of restoration? How silly a question in light of his being the one who touches the land so that it melts! (Amos 9:5-6) (Feinberg, No One Like Him)
- c) Man's injustice threatens to destroy God's world. He will not let that happen. He who sovereignly controls the weather and the stars of heaven will also bring His human creatures to His desired end.