

The Book of Amos

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Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we study the book of **Amos**, which is the third book of "The Minor Prophets."

When Amos received his prophetic call, he was a shepherd (**1:1**) and a tender of sycamore trees (**7:14-15**) in the small town of Tekoa, about 6 miles south of Bethlehem and 12 miles south of Jerusalem. But even though he came from Judah, God sent him to the northern kingdom to announce God's judgment upon Israel. From **7:10-13** we see that Amos set up his prophetic headquarters in Bethel, for this was the southernmost focus of the Cult of the Golden Calf.

Read 1 Kings 12:26-29

According to **1:1**, Amos began his prophetic ministry during the reigns of Uzziah (in Judah) and Jeroboam II (in Israel), making him a contemporary of Isaiah. This was a time of great prosperity for both kingdoms, but it was also a time of gross idolatry, decadence, immorality, corruption and oppression of the poor. For this reason, Amos' ministry heralded the coming invasion of Assyria, which would be a sword of divine judgment against Israel's sin. The *NIV Study Bible* explains:

"Israel at the time was politically secure and spiritually smug. About 40 years earlier, at the end of his ministry, Elisha had prophesied the resurgence of Israel's power (**2 Kings 13:17-19**), and more recently Jonah had prophesied her restoration to a glory not known since the days of Solomon (**2 Kings 14:25**). The nation felt sure, therefore, that she was in God's good graces. But prosperity increased Israel's religious and moral corruption."

The dominant theme of social justice is found encapsulated verses such as **5:15** and **5:24**. And so Amos brings the sternest of warnings. Unless Israel repents and turns back to the justice and righteousness of God, certain destruction will come.

Let's pull up a chair and read the entire book of **Amos** in one sitting.

Memory Verse

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that
your sins may be wiped out, that times of
refreshing may come from the Lord

Acts 3:19

Your Fishing Kit

This is the fifteenth verse in your fishing kit. **Acts 3:19** shows us the promise that comes from repenting. We experience “times of refreshing” from the Lord.

Here are the other verses in your “fishing kit”:

John 3:16	Isaiah 55:6-7	John 1:12	2 Corinthians 5:17
John 3:18	Romans 5:8	John 3:3	2 Corinthians 5:21
John 3:36	1 John 4:10	John 5:24	Matthew 10:32-33
Ephesians 1:7-8	Acts 2:38	John 6:37	Romans 2:4-5
Romans 3:23	Acts 3:19	John 8:32	Acts 17:30
Romans 6:23	Acts 4:12	John 8:36	1 John 5:10
Isaiah 53:5	John 14:6	John 10:10	1 John 5:11-12
Isaiah 53:6	1 John 1:8	John 10:28	John 14:1-3
Isaiah 59:1-2	1 John 1:9	Romans 10:9	John 16:33
Isaiah 64:6	1 John 1:10	Romans 10:13	Revelation 3:20

Store these verses in your heart. Memorize them until they have an “on the tip of your tongue” familiarity. You will find them of immeasurable value as you cooperate with the Lord in his mission of bringing the Gospel to this lost world.