

For the Living of These Days

Session 5: Amos – Looks Around

Amos answered Amaziah, saying, "I am not a man who tells what is going to happen in the future, or the son of such a man. I take care of sheep and cattle, and grow fig trees. But the Lord took me from following the flock and said to me, 'Go and speak in My name to My people Israel.'" Amos 7:14-15 New Life Version

Who was Amos?

A hometown boy

Tekoa about 11 miles south of Jerusalem and 6 miles south of Bethlehem.

A layman

Not from a prophet's or even a priest family.

No official training as a prophet, he was not a part of the company of prophets mentored by Elijah and Elisha

A sheep-raiser vs shepherd

The ancient Hebrew word Amos to describe his train was sheep-raiser instead of shepherd. He wanted to stay away from the title shepherd because of its spiritual leadership implications, i.e. Numbers 27:15-20, Jeremiah 3:15, Jeremiah 23:1-4, Matthew 9:36

A sycamore-fig tree grower

A person chosen and called by God to be a prophet to the people of Israel

A humble, yet frank and fierce, servant of the Lord.

Amos is not mentioned in any other scripture in the Bible.

Amos' name means 'burden bearer' or "to carry."

We are all called to be a messenger of God.

When, where and why of Amos prophesy?

The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa—the vision he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah^g was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel. Amos 1:1 NIV

When – during the reigns of Uzziah the King over Judah, the Southern Kingdom (792-740BC and Jeroboam II over Israel, the Northern Kingdom (793-753.)

The main part of his ministry/prophesy was carried out between 760-750.

Dates are indicated by a documented earthquake. (Zechariah 14:15)

Both kingdom were enjoying great prosperity and had reached new political and military heights. II Kings 14:23-15:7 and II Chronicles 26

Israel (northern Kingdom) at the time was politically secure and spiritually smug.

Where – Primarily from Bethel

Why – Amos was obedient to God.

This man of God from the Southern Kingdom of Judah was called by God to prophesy to the Kingdoms of Israel and to the surrounding nations. The surrounding nations were included because their actions impacted the lives of the Israelites.

They were all sinning against God!

Announcement of Judgment on Israel's neighbors

He said: "The LORD roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds dry up, and the top of Carmel withers." Amos 1:2 New International Version

God is not only a shepherd but also a LION! (Hosea 11:10)

A LION who will dry up the pastures and the fertile fields because of the sinfulness of the people.

Three sins listed and judgment announced for these neighboring nations

Damascus

Gaza

Tyre

Edom

Ammon

Moab

Three sins and judgment on JUDAH and ISRAEL

Judah – Amos 2:4-5

Israel – Amos 2:6-16

They sinned in spite of the goodness of God to them.

How can we relate to this?