

Reflection and Discussion

Sermon Series	Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets
Sermon Title	A New Word?
Bible Texts	Amos
Date	April 30, 2023

"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne." Psalm 89:14
May these words never be controversial among God's people.

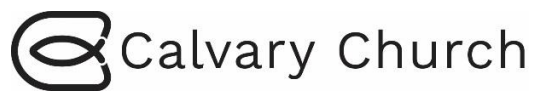
CONNECT – Getting to know one another

- Question 1: Where have I heard this before? "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"
- Question 2: How would you define justice?

EQUIP – Understanding God's word

Amos begins his prophecy by condemning Israel's neighbors for their cruelty, their treachery, and for taking communities captive and selling them into slavery. But then he turns his attention to the sins of Israel and Judah.

- Question 3: Compared to their neighbors, what is unique to the list of the sins of Judah and Israel found in Amos 2:4-12?
- Question 4: What are the main themes you see in Amos?
- Question 5: The Lord abhors injustice. In what ways was Israel being unjust? (5:10-13; 6:12) Was this indictment about specific events or a pattern of injustice?
- Question 6: In a world that often feels unfair, what encouragement and what warning can be found in Amos 5:14-15?
- Question 7: In Amos 5:23-24, what do we learn about how God views religious observances by people who practice injustice?
- Question 8: In Matthew 23:23-24, which does Jesus view as most important?
- Question 9: A wall that is true to plumb (perfectly vertical) is naturally stable. What does the plumb line represent in Amos 7:7-8? Whose buildings were about to collapse and why?
- Question 10: How would you respond if the Lord charged you with the sins in Amos 8:4-7? How do you think Israel responded to Amos? Why?
- Question 11: What terrible famine will grip Israel when God judges them for their persistent sin? (8:11-12) What do you think that would mean for us?
- Question 12: Israel believed they were a special nation, and God would not punish them for their sin. How did Amos confront that idea? (9:7-10)



Question 13: Though the book of Amos includes many dire warnings, it ends with Israel's restoration. As you read Amos 9:11-15, what is most meaningful for you?

DISCIPLESHIP – Becoming and doing

Question 14: How will you, as a Christian, seek to help bring justice for those who are poor and needy? (8:4)

Question 15: How would you have responded if you were a righteous person living in Israel during those evil times? Would you have stayed silent like the prudent man in Amos 5:13, or would you have spoken out against the injustice like the prophet?

Question 16: How can we be "prophets" like Amos and warn others that God's patience with humanity is not limitless?

For personal reflection—

Question 17: What practical steps will you take to remain true to God's plumb line? (7:7-8)

Question 18: The Lord said, "Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?" (3:3) Are you and the Lord walking together in the same direction? If not, what must change?

Question 19: Amos was not a professional prophet, but he obeyed God and went. If God asked you to go, would you?