



**Amos: Declaring Absolute Truth  
in an Abstract Culture**

Date: 09/18/2016

## Pray Together

Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

## Read Together

Amos was a contemporary of Hosea and Micah. As a shepherd and farmer, he was able to proclaim a message of religious and social decay without the fear of vested interests and public opinions. He was an “independent”, of sorts. But this status presented a problem: as a man of humble means from the small village of Tekoa (five miles outside Bethlehem) he lacked a formal education and he wasn’t a part of the priesthood. As a result, the elites of his day did not view Amos as a credible voice.

Amos prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah of Judah and Jeroboam II of Israel (775-750 B.C.). Both kings provided tremendous stability to their kingdoms during this Golden Age of Israel’s history. God’s message is set in contrast to this splendor. The spiritual life of the nation—particularly the spiritual lives of its leaders—is woeful. They are guilty of apostasy, social and moral decay, and political corruption.

Amos proclaims that God’s judgment against Judah and Israel is imminent. While the Lord roars against the sins of the nations, He promises a time of restoration for Israel. He will “raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old” (9:11). He will “restore the fortunes” (9:14) of Israel and “plant them on their land” (9:15) so that His covenant promises may not fail.

## Outline

1. Amos 1:1-2:16 – Oracles against: Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, Moab, Judah, and Israel
2. Amos 3:1-6:14 – Judgment speeches against Israel
  - a. Amos 3:1-15 – Judgment is unavoidable because of Israel’s complete depravity
  - b. Amos 4:1-13 – God’s challenge to the stiff-necked, pleasure seekers
  - c. Amos 5:1-27 – A lamentation and a final appeal
  - d. Amos 6:1-14 – The doom of exile for the pleasure-seeking upper classes
3. Amos 7:1-9:10 – Five visions of Israel’s fate: Locusts, Fire, The Lord’s Plumline, Late Summer Fruit, The Lord standing beside the altar
4. Amos 9:11-15 – Promises of restoration: The Sovereignty of God

## Discuss Together

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.

- As you study Amos, identify the most significant questions you need to answer to better understand its message.



- The Triune God is always the main character of Scripture. What does Amos teach us about God?
- Knowing what Amos teaches us about God, what does the book teach us about humanity?
- In Amos 4:6-13, the prophet identifies five instances where God used brokenness to draw the nation back to covenant faithfulness. Sadly the response is the same each time, “yet you did not return to Me.” Share how God has used brokenness to draw you to Himself. Share a time when you hardened your heart to God’s appeals. Take time to pray that our nation’s leaders will respond to God’s appeal to turn to Him.
- Amos 5:1-17 laments Israel’s fallen condition and presents evidence of the nation’s unfaithfulness. Identify sins that Amos addressed and rebuked. How are God’s people repeating these acts of unfaithfulness today?
- God proclaimed judgment on the people for their futile worship and empty religious practices. Read Amos 4:4-5; 5:18-27. Discuss some of the poisonous fruits that result from “religion”, self-salvation, and moralism. Compare those with the spiritual fruits that result from Gospel-centered worship.
- In America today, relativism and unprincipled pluralism are creating deep divisions and cultural alienations. How can the Gospel heal this brokenness? Within this culture of divisiveness, Christians are not commanded to *tolerate* our neighbors; we are commanded to *love* our neighbors. In what way is God calling you to love your neighbors by proclaiming the healing power of the Gospel?
- How is the gift of God’s grace proclaimed in the book of Amos? How should the Body of Christ respond to the message of Amos? How do you personally need to respond to this message?
- Social justice and fair treatment of the poor are important messages in Amos. Pray that God will open your eyes to see needs within your community that you have overlooked. Ask God to show you how He has equipped and positioned you to respond to these needs.

## Do Life Together

**These questions are designed to be asked in a smaller group of 2-4 people. The smaller setting will provide better opportunity for authentic responses. In your smaller group time, take notes to help others remain accountable to their answers. Grow together!**

- How is God calling you to exchange doom for everlasting hope?
- How has Jesus already provided hope in this area?
- Who do you need to share this hope with this week?

