

# Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

## Amos: The Radical Justice of God

### Message 1: God of the Nations

#### Amos 1:1-2 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. <sup>2</sup> And he said: “The LORD roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers.”

*The message of Amos is needed today as much as ever. In nations throughout the world, God’s people are still being persecuted. Even so, every act of persecution against God’s beloved people, Jew and Gentile alike, is known to God and will be severely judged. God will take vengeance against His enemies. But note: judgment begins with the house of God. Far too many people who call themselves Christians, even true believers, ignore God’s Word and commandments. Or, they seek God only for His blessings or to help in times of trouble. Like the Israelites of Amos’s day, some live only to please themselves. Similarly, religion is still heartless and the religious still halfhearted. Wealthy nations and churches still hoard their wealth as much as ever. The rich still neglect, oppress, and exploit the poor. Injustice still dominates most nations and institutions. And most societies are more corrupt and ungodly than ever. God has judged nations and His own people for these sins in the past. And He will do so again. The great book of Amos has forewarned us. Let us all have ears to hear and hearts willing to obey his message.*

- Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible

#### Background, setting, context

#### Who was Amos?

#### Amos 7:14-15 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. <sup>15</sup> But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

His name means “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

He was ...

## 6 Key Themes:

### 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God

#### **Amos 4:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth— the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!

#### **Amos 5:8-9 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> He who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the LORD is his name; <sup>9</sup> who makes destruction flash forth against the strong, so that destruction comes upon the fortress.

#### **Amos 9:5-6 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD of hosts, he who touches the earth and it melts, and all who dwell in it mourn, and all of it rises like the Nile, and sinks again, like the Nile of Egypt; <sup>6</sup> who builds his upper chambers in the heavens and founds his vault upon the earth; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth— the LORD is his name.

### 2. The imminent \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel

#### **Amos 2:13-16 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> "Behold, I will press you down in your place, as a cart full of sheaves presses down. <sup>14</sup> Flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not retain his strength, nor shall the mighty save his life; <sup>15</sup> he who handles the bow shall not stand, and he who is swift of foot shall not save himself, nor shall he who rides the horse save his life; <sup>16</sup> and he who is stout of heart among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day," declares the LORD.

### 3. The universal \_\_\_\_\_ of sin

#### **Amos 9:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the surface of the ground, except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob," declares the LORD.

### 4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord

#### **Amos 5:18-20 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, <sup>19</sup> as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. <sup>20</sup> Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

### 5. The future \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel

#### **Amos 9:11-15 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> "In that day I 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, <sup>12</sup> that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the

nations who are called by my name,” declares the LORD who does this. <sup>13</sup> “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. <sup>14</sup> I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. <sup>15</sup> I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them,” says the LORD your God.

## 6. God’s \_\_\_\_\_ of all the nations:

Amos opens the way for his message to Israel by proclaiming the Lord’s judgment upon six surrounding nations—Damascus (Syria), Gaza (Philistia), Tyrus (Phoenicia), Edom, Ammon, Moab. Then he comes nearer home and pronounces judgment against Judah (Amos 2:4), and against Israel itself (Amos 2:6), and finally against the whole nation (Amos 3:1–2).

It would seem that the people questioned his authority, for he proceeds by a series of seven questions to show that the Lord has revealed His secret to him, and that therefore he can do no other than prophesy (Amos 3:3–8).

He denounces the sins of Israel in more graphic detail than Hosea, dwelling especially on the careless ease and luxury, the oppression of the poor, the extortion and lying and cheating which prevailed, and the utter hypocrisy in worship. The Lord grieves over the people for not attending to His judgments, with the refrain, “yet you did not return to me,” declares the LORD” (Amos 4:6) , and the renewed invitation, “Seek me and live” (Amos 5:4)

### Israel’s 4 named sins:

- Corruption of \_\_\_\_\_
- Mistreatment of \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ deviancy/immorality
- Gross \_\_\_\_\_

### Modern lessons to be learned:

- Every nation and every individual is \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
- God is amazingly \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.
- God’s judgment is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- There is a “tipping” point between \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.

*Next week: Amos, part 2: Privilege and Responsibility*