

OLIVET BIBLE STUDY

Amos the Prophet

According to the information within the book itself, we learn that the prophet Amos was a resident of the southern kingdom of Judah who prophesied in the northern kingdom of Israel during the middle part of the 8th B C E. century. Amos is identified as a resident of Tekoa, a village (6 mi.) S of Jerusalem, on the boundary of the Judean wilderness. Amos 1:1 describes him as a *nœqet¼* (“shepherd”), while in 7:14 Amos refers to himself as a *bôqer* (“herdsman”) and a “tender of sycamore fig trees.”

This combination of vocational terms suggests that Amos was either a seasonal worker of varied skills or possibly a person of some means who owned sheep, cattle, and land sufficient to raise sycamore figs as cattle fodder.

Historical Setting

Amos 1:1 places his activity during the reigns of Jeroboam II in Israel (786-746) and Uzziah in Judah (783-742). These two monarchs were able to exploit a period of relative weakness among the regional superpowers of Egypt and Assyria, thereby securing political stability and territorial expansion.

AMOS

OUTLINE ONE (AMOS 1-2)

These chapters describe Amos's vision of God's judgment on Damascus, Philistia, Tyre, Ammon, Moab, Judah, and Israel.

- I. THE REVELATION OF GOD'S JUDGMENT (1:1-2): In a vision Amos sees divine wrath falling upon certain nations.
- II. THE RECIPIENTS OF GOD'S JUDGMENT (1:3-2:16)
 - A. **Damascus** (1:3-5)
 1. *Their sin* (1:3): They have ravished the Israelite city of Gilead.
 2. *Their sentence* (1:4-5): Damascus will be burned, and its people will be enslaved.
 - B. **Philistia** (1:6-8)
 1. *Their sin* (1:6): They have sold God's people into slavery.
 2. *Their sentence* (1:7-8): The Philistine cities will be torched, and the people will be killed.
 - C. **Tyre** (1:9-10)
 1. *Their sin* (1:9): They have broken their treaty with the people of Israel and have betrayed them.
 2. *Their sentence* (1:10): The city will be burned.
 - D. **Edom** (1:11-12)
 1. *Their sin* (1:11): They have hounded Israel with the sword.
 2. *Their sentence* (1:12): Their cities will be burned.
 - E. **Ammon** (1:13-15)
 1. *Their sin* (1:13): They ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead.
 2. *Their sentence* (1:14-15): Their cities will be burned, and their people will be enslaved.

F. Moab (2:1-3)

1. *Their sin (2:1)*: They have desecrated tombs, showing no respect for the dead.
2. *Their sentence (2:2-3)*: Their cities will be burned, and their people will be killed.

G. Judah (2:4-5)

1. *Their sin (2:4)*: They have rejected the law of God.
2. *Their sentence (2:5)*: Jerusalem will be destroyed.

H. Israel (2:6-16)

1. *Their sins (2:6-12)*
 - a. *Bribery (2:6)*: They pervert justice with dishonest scales.
 - b. *Cruelty to the poor (2:7a)*: They trample helpless people in the dirt.
 - c. *Immorality (2:7b)*: Father and son sleep with the same woman.
 - d. *Hypocrisy (2:8)*: They go to religious festivals in stolen clothing.
 - e. *Tempting the godly to sin (2:9-12)*: They cause the Nazirites to sin by making them drink wine.
2. *Their sentence (2:13-16)*
 - a. They will groan as an overloaded wagon (2:13)
 - b. *Their enemies will defeat them (2:14-16)*: The runners, the warriors, and those on horses will be unable to get away.