

Amos

Summary

In this book, the prophet Amos brings a message of judgment, primarily on the Northern Kingdom of Israel, due to their sinful behavior. Amos prophesied to the people of the Northern Kingdom at the height of their power and wealth and warned them of the impending judgment, not only on the nations surrounding them but also on Israel itself. In this book, the prophet exposes their oppression of the poor, their following of empty religious rituals and practices, and their pride and arrogance. He points towards the eventual downfall of the nation of Israel through the conquest of the Assyrians, although this prophecy will not be realized until many years in the future. At the end of the book, Amos concludes with the hope that one day the people of Israel will be restored through the line of David, pointing towards the coming Messiah.

Author

The prophet Amos of Tekoa wrote the book of Amos. Before being called by God to be a prophet to the Northern Kingdom, he was a shepherd.

Date

The prophecies of Amos occurred during the reigns of King Uzziah in Judah and Jeroboam II in Israel, falling between 792 B.C. and 753 B.C. The book of Amos is dated in that timeframe.

Primary Characters

Amos (Amos 1-9)

Amaziah (Amos 7)

Historical Moments

The Reign of King Uzziah in Judah (Amos 1-9)

The Reign of King Jeroboam II in Israel (Amos 1-9)

Amaziah Confronts Amos (Amos 7)

Major Theological Themes

God's Standards Are Universal - God is the Sovereign Creator of the universe and His standards are universal. Through Christ's sacrifice, those who put their faith in God are no longer subject to eternal separation from Him, but the words of the prophet Amos still hold true: all people are under the dominion of God.

God Cares About the Heart - Despite the fact that many of the people in the Northern Kingdom practiced religious rituals, God was displeased with their sacrifices due to their arrogance and ill-treatment of the poor; their hearts were not in the right place.

Lessons Learned from Amos

God Uses Ordinary People for Great Things - Amos was a shepherd used by God to bring His message to the people. Even though Amos never imagined that he would be speaking on behalf of God in a hostile and foreign land, he responded to the call and fulfilled God's purpose for his life. We should never forget that although we are weak and flawed, God can use us to do much greater things through us than we could ever do on our own.

God Cares About How We Live - In the book of Amos, the people are scolded for the way they live their lives, for their treatment of the poor, and for their prideful attitude. Although our works do not justify us, God cares about our actions. By surrounding ourselves with people who can hold us accountable, continuing to stay in God's Word, and remaining open to the work of the Holy Spirit, we can strive to live in a way that is pleasing to God.

There Is Redemption for the Fallen - Despite the punishment required for the terrible behavior of the Israelites during this period, there was redemption for them in the end. No matter how many times the Israelites strayed from the will of God, there is always redemption for God's people. There is no limit to the mercy and forgiveness of God and His love can overcome all of our weaknesses.