

## Relevant Lessons from Amos

### Chapter 1

#### ❖ Verse 1

- Amos: (burden: a heavy load; the Lord carries)
  - a herdsman from Tekoa (1:1)
    - Tekoa is rural town of Judah but he is sent to minister to prosperous area in Israel
    - Tekoa known for scraggly sheep and lower class figs
  - God made him a prophet, not his education (7:15)
    - ➔ It doesn't matter what you were; it's who God wants you to be. (1 Cor. 1:26-31; 2:1-5)
  - He wasn't a "by the books" prophet; He was by the Spirit
- In the days of Uzziah king of Judah (2 Kings 15:1-7; 2 Chr. 26:1-23)
  - Uzziah became king of Judah at 16
  - Judah was prospering until Uzziah overstepped his authority (2 Chr. 26:16)
    - ➔ You can prosper in your rightful place
- Jeroboam was king of Israel (2 Kings 14:23-29) - was very prosperous
- 2 years before the earthquake – Zech. 14:5

#### ❖ Verse 2: The Lord Roars: before the lion attacks, he roars

- Jer. 25:30; Joel 3:16
  - judgement is coming; but the Lord is shelter to His Own
- pride and money won't be able to stop the Lord's judgement
- we are to heed God's warnings (Psa. 19:7-14)

#### ❖ Judgement on the Nations

- They center around their treatment of God's Chosen People and their treatment of others.
- Damascus (Cruelty): against the people of Gilead, they were torturers
  - God sent fire, broke bars, destroyed royal palaces & strongholds
- Gaza (Slavery): captured & sold God's People into slavery
- Tyrus - name means "a rock" (Slave Trade): sold Israelites to the Edomites for selfish gain
  - betrayed the agreement between their peoples
    - was fine as long as they had something to gain (1 Kings 5:12)
    - even called Solomon their brother (1 Kings 9:13)
  - betrayal hurts (Mark 14:10-11)
- Edom - red (Backstabbers, cowards)
  - name given to Esau, first-born son of Isaac (Gen. 25:19-34)
  - inherited hatred - some families hate others but have forgotten why

- were unmerciful, hated, and pursued the people of God
- took advantage of them whenever possible, kicked them when they were down
- Israel was commanded not to hate them (Deut. 23:7); SO ARE WE (Mat. 5:43-47; Eph. 4:31)
- Ammon (Covetousness)
  - ripped up pregnant women in Gilead
  - willing to kill just for personal gain; greedy dogs (Isa. 57:11)
  - beware of this sin (Luke 12:15)
  - Examples of: David coveted Bathsheba (2 Sam. 12:1-15); Ahab through Jezebel coveted Naboth's vineyard (1 Kings 21:1-16)
  - WHAT WE SHOULD COVET: (1 Cor. 12:31-Cpt. 13)

## Chapter 2

- ❖ Moab (Cruelty): not to Israelites here, but in general
  - revenge 2 Kings 3:26-27
    - because their king sacrificed his own son while at war with the Edomites
- ❖ Judah (Not sin against man - sin against God)
  - they were just as bad as the rest (Jer. 9:26, Hos. 12:2)
    - because their hearts aren't circumcised (Rom. 2:17-29)
      - circumcision isn't outward, but inward; it's not what you cut off, it's what He cuts out
  - they despised the law of the Lord and didn't keep His Commandments
    - despise: to look down on; to regard as worthless
    - Lev. 26:14-46 - Disobedience leads to destruction
      - GOD WILL DO WHAT IT TAKES TO BRING US TO REPENTANCE
      - Paranoia is the result of unconfessed sin (Prov. 28:1)
        - ◆ we need to have a clear conscience
  - their lies (their idols) caused them to err (Hab. 2:18)
    - Rom. 1:20-25; Jer. 2:5-8
    - their fathers did wrong: they should have learned by the things they went through
    - WHEN YOU FOLLOW THE LIE, YOU BEGIN TO CONFORM TO THE LIE (Rom. 12:1-2)
- ❖ Israel's sins
  - (1) Perverted Justice (Vs. 6) - respectors of persons (Isa. 29:21)
    - self-seeking, self-ambition caused them to play favorites
    - "I'll let you do this if you give me that"  
(James 2:1-9, Rom. 2:10-16, Lev. 19:15)
  - (2) Oppressing the poor (Vs. 7)
    - because of greed, they took advantage of people while they were down.
    - they were cut-throat; willing to get ahead at the expense of others
    - they were covetous
  - (3) Abominable uncleanness (Vs. 7) (Eze. 22:11)
    - Incest

- ❑ Horedoms
  - ❑ Lusts
  - ❑ Defilement of their temples (1 Cor. 6:15-20)
  - ❑ Following pagan religious practices & prostitution
- (4) Pretense & Perpertration (Vs. 8)
- ❑ pledged items (Ex. 22:26-27) were to be returned nightly so poor had cover
  - ❑ made things worse by misappropriating
  - ❑ **THE ANNOINTING ISN'T YOURS BUT FOR A SEASON AND A REASON, DON'T MISUSE IT!**

In Vs. 9-11, the Lord is asking them do they remember where He brought them from. **DON'T FORGET** (Deut. 8:11-20)

- (5) Corrupted the devoted; hindered the prophets
- ❑ Corrupting those devoted & set apart, leading them to sin
    - ❑ Nazarites had taken a vow not to drink alcohol (Num. 6:1-2), but the people were tempting them to break their vow
  - ❑ because they didn't have personal commitment to God, they didn't respect those who did
  - ❑ they didn't want the truth so they tried to silence the truth (Is. 30:1-10)
  - ❑ **ALTHOUGH WE MAY NOT ALWAYS WANT TO HEAR IT, PRAISE GOD FOR SENDING US THE TRUTH.**

## Chapter 3: The Special Relationship

- ❖ Verse 1: "The whole family...": talking to the delivered folk
  - Egypt symbolizes bondage they were delivered from
  
- ❖ Verse 2: Who and Why
  - "You only have I known": they were God's Chosen People
    - they were chosen by God (Deut. 7:6-8)
    - God knew them when He didn't make Himself available to others
    - now we can be His peculiar people and are called to be (Rom. 10:9-12; 1 Pet. 2:9-10)
  - JUDGEMENT BEGINS AT THE HOUSE OF GOD (1 Pet. 4:17)
  
- ❖ Verse 3: The Critical Key to Relationship: Agreement
  - We must walk together
    - in step with each other
    - in order
  - HOW: through agreement
    - MANY OF US ARE TRYING TO WALK WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER WHEN WE DON'T EVEN AGREE
    - What I must agree to:
      - The Word of God is the deciding Authority (2 Tim. 3:16; Psa. 119)
      - The order God has established is not up for discussion (Isa. 55:10-11)
      - I am God's servant and He is not mine (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
  
  - NO FRIENDSHIP, NO FELLOWSHIP: WE CAN'T FELLOWSHIP WITHOUT GOD'S LOVE
  - we can't expect God's Blessings if we continue to disobey Him
    - we need to lose the spoiled brat mentality
  
- ❖ Verse 6: The trumpet has sounded
  - if when the ram's horn sounded in the city & the people were alerted to pending danger by the watchman on the wall, what about God's Watchmen warning us (Eze. 33:22-7)
  
- ❖ Verse 7: God sends warning through His prophets of impending danger from sin
  - BE CAREFUL HOW YOU TREAT GOD'S MESSENGERS
  
- ❖ Verse 8: when God places a burden on your heart, you can't hold it (Acts 4:20; Mat. 12:34, Jer. 20:9)
  
- ❖ Verses 9-10: Oppression
  - God told the same Philistine people (1:6) that His People were oppressing themselves worse than the Philistines did them
  - GUESS WHO YOUR WORST ENEMY REALLY IS: YOURSELF
    - We tear up our own neighborhoods
    - We don't comfort and help each other when one is down (Ecc. 4:1)
    - No justice, we play one against another to get ahead

- God told the Egyptians to watch also
- They don't even know how to do right because they were so wicked
  - Jeremiah 4:22
    - YOU CAN BECOME SO WRONG THAT YOU FORGET WHAT RIGHT IS
    - 2 Kings 22:8: don't lose the Word
- ❖ Verses 11-15: Devastation Foretold
- ❖ Verse 11: they're gonna get hit where it hurts; their strongholds
  - strongholds are nothing when judgement comes
- ❖ Verse 12: Only a remnant will survive
  - Comfort zones and slothfulness finally caught up with them
    - Don't get comfortable in sin; diligently seek God (Prov. 11:27)
    - Don't trample upon God's Grace (Rom. 5:17 – 6:6)
- ❖ Verse 14: Altars of Bethel
  - 1 Kings 12:25
  - If they won't destroy their idol altars, they can perish with them
    - IF WE CHOOSE TO WORSHIP IDOLS, WE CAN PERISH WITH THEM TOO.
  - Horns of altars: their refuge & protection can't help them
- ❖ Verse 15: God will bring down their status and image
  - YOUR CLOUT DOESN'T GIVE YOU ACCESS TO THE GLORY CLOUD
  - FINE LIVING NEVER REPLACES HOLY LIVING

## Chapter 4: Israel

- ❖ Verse 1:
  - "kine of Bashan": large, aggressive cows, hard to keep within their boundaries, would break through hedges to neighbor's grounds (trespass); gored the smaller cows
  - Wealthy women who oppressed the poor and crushed the needy
    - crush them to get all they could out of them
    - cut-throat mentality
    - misused their judicial power to take away rights and property
    - did their best to keep the poor down
  - were spoiled women: only way their husbands could keep them happy was to exploit the poor
    - Pro. 21:9, 19; Mat. 14:3-8
    - Relevant examples:
      - ARE WE SO MATERIALISTIC THAT OUR SPOUSE HAS TO WORK OVERTIME AND/OR 2 OR MORE JOBS JUST TO SATISFY OUR DEMANDS?
      - DO WE CHEAT AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OTHERS FOR A QUICK PROFIT?

- ❖ Verse 2:
  - God has sworn by His Holiness: His Word will come to pass (Psa. 89:34-35)
  - Hooks, fishhooks: (Jer. 16:16; Isa. 37:29)
    - WHEN A FISH IS REALLY HOOKED, THOUGH HE MAY STAY IN THE WATER A WHILE, HE CAN'T GET FAR AND EVENTUALLY WILL BE REELED IN. THOUGH PAYDAY MAY NOT HAVE COME YET FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING, IT IS ON THE WAY.
  
- ❖ Verse 3:
  - just as God has blessed them and given them good pasture, they will surely be removed from it through the breaches (trespasses) they have made in the hedge of protection
    - DON'T TRAMPLE ON GOD'S GRACE AND GOODNESS
  
- ❖ Verses 4-5: Religious Hypocrites
  - Amos tells them they are going through the motions thinking that it will make up for their sins against God
    - Bethel – where Abram first pitched his tent and built altar (Gen 12:8); where Jacob dreamed (Gen 28); now, sight of golden calves (2 Kings 10:29)
    - Gilgal – where Joshua crossed Jordan and made memorial of 12 stones (Jos. 4:19-20), circumcised males, celebrated Passover, etc.; Saul confirmed as king there
  - Vs. 5: they love to do religious acts to be seen (Mat. 23:1-30)
    - They weren't to offer leavened bread with the sacrificial offering
      - "A little leaven leavened the whole lump" (1 Cor. 5:6)
    - they liked going through the motions
  
- ❖ Verses 6-11: (Read Deut. 28)
  - God has done several things to get their attention and to provoke them to repentance; but, they still refuse Him
  - I can imagine they probably blamed everything and everybody but themselves
  - They suffered lack, TRICKLE-DOWN blessings, lack of satisfaction, sickness, devourings, plagues
  - God caused one field to flourish while those around it would dry up
    - ARE YOUR HANDS CLEAN ENOUGH FOR GOD TO BLESS YOU WHEN EVERYONE ELSE IS IN A DROUGHT?
  - The longer they refused God, the worse things got
  - Judgements mentioned in both Amos 4 and Deut. 28
    - Famine is mentioned in Amos 4:6 and in Deuteronomy 28:17-18.
    - Drought in Amos 4:7-8 and Deut 28:23-24.
    - Locusts in Amos 4:9 and Deut 28:38.
    - Plague in Amos 4:19 and Deut 28:60.
  
- ❖ Verses 12-13: time was running out
  - Because they wouldn't repent, they could only prepare for judgement – vs. 12

## Chapter 5: A Call to Repentance

Judgement is Near (vs. 1-3)

- ❖ Verse 1
  - Lamentation – expression of grief and sorrow
  - Read Jer. 7:23-29
- ❖ Verse 2
  - “The virgin has fallen...”
    - Speaks of what could have been and is
      - Had never been overtaken by an enemy since its founding – Jer. 14:17
      - Symbolic of its lost purity – 2 Cor. 11:1-3
- ❖ Verse 3 – their numbers dwindle
  - Symbolic of loss of strength and influence...
- ❖ Verse 4 – The Call to Seek God and Live
  - To answer this call, it would require all of their heart – Deut. 4:29; 2 Chr. 15:1-12; Jer. 29:13
  - The promise of life if we seek Him – Isa. 55:3
- ❖ Verse 5 – Called Away from Idols
  - Don't go back to things I have destined for destruction – Pro. 12:28; Mat. 7:13-14
  - Places (Bethel, Gilgal, Beersheba) that use to be of great significance now are filled with vain, shallow, undedicated worship, idolatry
- ❖ Verses 6-9 – Seek God
  - Vs. 6: if God chooses destruction, no one will be able to stop Him
  - Vs. 7 - DEAL WITH CORRUPTION
    - They had destroyed justice – Psa. 58
    - They had abandoned righteousness – Pro 29:2
  - Vs. 8-9: God can save because He is all powerful
- ❖ Verse 10 – No respect for authority or each other
  - They don't want to hear the truth – 1 Kings 22:8
  - They let evil run wild – Isa. 59:15
- ❖ Verses 11-12: Mistreatment of the poor and others
  - Read Psa 73:6-8; Act 3:13-14; Act 7:52; Jam 5:4, Jam 5:6; Isa. 29:21
- ❖ Verses 13 – The Silence of the Prudent
  - Those trying to live right began to give up and became silent – Psa 11:3-7
- ❖ Verse 14 – We've got to speak up and live right – Micah 3
- ❖ Verse 15 – Life Principles

- HATE THE EVIL – Psa. 97:10; Rom. 12:9
  - LOVE THE GOOD – Isa 1:16-17
  - ESTABLISH JUSTICE – 1 Pet 1:17; Acts 10:34
  - WHY? So God might be gracious not to all but the remnant – Jer. 7:3; Rom. 11:4-5
- ❖ Verse 16-17 – Won't be enough mourners
- Jews would hire professional mourners but had to hire farmers instead – John 11:33
- ❖ Verse 18 – Are you really ready for the Day of the Lord
- Even in sin, they thought they would be okay in the day of the Lord – Isa. 5:19; Jer. 17:15; Joel 1:15; Phil 2:12
  - In sin with wrong expectations – Isa. 5:30
- ❖ Verse 19 – no getting away (Jer. 48:44)
- ❖ Verse 21-23 – God is not interested in vain religion
- Isa 1:11-16; Mat. 5:23-24
- ❖ Vs. 22: offerings no longer accepted – Isa. 66:3
- ❖ Vs. 23: songs are just noise – 1 Cor. 13:1-3
- ❖ **Verse 24 – EXERCISE: IDENTIFY THIS QUOTE**
- “We cannot walk alone, and as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights: "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We can not be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating "For Whites Only." We cannot be satisfied so long as the Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and the Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied and will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream.”
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- ❖ Verse 25 –
- moloch (molech) – Lev 18:21, Lev 20:2-5 (4), 1Ki 11:7, 2Ki 23:10, Jer 32:35



## Chapter 6: At Ease with Judgement Knocking

- ❖ Verse 1 – Woe
  - At ease in Zion – instead of being watchful, they are taking it easy – Joh 8:9; Rom 2:21-24; Luk 11:39, Luk 11:42; Mat 23:14, Mat 23:23, Mat 23:26

Manifestations of them being at ease

- ❖ Vs. 1: Trusting in the mountain of Samaria – overconfident, arrogant – took 3 years but fell – 2 Kings 17:5
  - Their leaders lacked sensitivity to what was going on – Num. 1:4, 16-17
- ❖ Vs. 2: Not learning from others - Calneh: Gen. 10:10; Isa 10:9, Hamath: 2Ki 17:24, 2Ki 17:30, 18:34, 19:13; Gath: 1 Sam. 17:4, 1 Sam. 17:23; 2 Chr. 26:6
- ❖ Vs. 3: Procrastination
- ❖ Vs. 4-6: Self pleasures, party life, lack of empathy – selfishness
  - Vs. 4: beds of ivory, immorality
  - Vs. 5: They made ungodly music and “chanted” it
    - Used instruments made for praising God
    - Invented instruments for themselves, like David (1 Chr. 23:5)
  - Vs. 6: Drink wine in bowls... - Amos 2:2, 4:1; Read Eph. 5:14-21
- ❖ Verse 7 – First to pleasure – first to captivity
- ❖ Verses 8-11
  - Does God hate excellence? NO
    - Excellency: gâ’ôn: exaltation, majesty, pride, arrogance – 1 Pet. 5:5 Pro. 3:34
    - Dan. 6:13: excellent: yattîyr: pre-eminent, surpassing, extreme, extraordinary – Rom. 12:11
  - God will break them
- ❖ Verses 12-14 – What we bring on ourselves
  - Horns are Hebrew symbol for strength – thinking too highly of yourself is deadly
  - God will use your enemies to check you – vs. 14

## Chapter 7: Warnings, Intercession, Accusation, Obedience

### The Power of Intercession

- ❖ Grasshoppers stopped – vs. 1-3
- ❖ Destruction by fire – vs. 4-6

### The Power of the Plumb Line

- ❖ Isa. 28:17
- ❖ Prov. 14:34
- ❖ Psa. 7:11
- ❖ Pro. 14:12
- ❖ Notice that there is no repentance after the plumbline – vs. 8

### Obedience amid Accusation & Threatening (vs. 10-17)

- ❖ Who is Amaziah? Idolatrous priest of Bethel
  - Imitating the high priest of the order of Aaron, counterfeit
  - False altars of Bethel –
    - Kingdom divided with (1 Kings 11-12) with northern 10 tribes (Israel) and the southern (Judah) – 1 Kings 12:16-20
    - Jeroboam I didn't want divided devoted to go back to Jerusalem during feast of Tabernacles and perhaps reunite with Rehoboam of Israel so he built altars in Bethel and Dan – 1 Kings 12:25-33
- ❖ The attempt to influence the leader – vs. 10-11
- ❖ The threats of the enemy – vs. 12-13
  - The enemy does the same thing today by:
    - Trying to dislocate you from your assignment in God
      - Notice that Amaziah acknowledged the gifting but rejected it anyways
      - Told Amos to go back to Judah
    - Trying to silence those speaking God's Word – Amos 2:12
    - Said this is the king's sanctuary, not God's – 1 Kings 12:29, 32
- ❖ Amos says it's not a choice but my calling – vs. 14-17; Amos. 3:8
  - He wasn't a prophet or a prophet's son – vs. 14
- ❖ Obedience calls us to speak the truth in spite the cost – Gal. 4:16; 1 Sam. 15:22
- ❖ We must know the false from the true –
  - The false: Jer. 23:16; Jer. 14:14; Mark 13:22; Mat. 7:15-20; Rev. 19:20
  - The true: John 17:17; 2 Pet. 1:21; Deut. 18:18; 2 Kings 3:14-15; Jer. 20:9