

Amos

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TEKOA (*Tə kō' ā*) A city in the highlands of Judah six miles south of Bethlehem and 10 miles south of Jerusalem; home of the Prophet Amos. God called Amos from among the shepherds of Tekoa to preach to the Northern Kingdom of Israel ([Amos 1:1](#)). **Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary**.

Amos 7:14 (NKJV) Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah: "I was no prophet, nor was I a son of a prophet, But I was a sheepbreeder And a tender of sycamore fruit.

B. The Book

1. The message of Amos is directed primarily to Israel, the northern kingdom. However, the opening words include a condemnation of the neighboring heathen nations.
2. The central theme of the book is "woe" unto those who rule God out. Amos preached doom because of the sinfulness both of the heathen nations as well as God's covenant people (5:27; 9:8).
3. Amos is quoted twice in the New Testament: Acts 7:42-43 (5:22-27) and Acts 15:16-17 (9:11-12).

C. Background

1. Israel was at the zenith of power economically and politically. Business was booming, and the material prosperity of the age led to a spirit of self-sufficiency and smug complacency (6:1ff) Consequently, Israel had become a nation which ruled God out.
2. Background reading for this period: 2 Kings 14:23-29; 15:1-7; 2 Chron. 26.

Minor Prophets by Robert Harkrider p. 26

The Book of Amos consists of three parts: (1.) The nations around are summoned to judgment because of their sins (Amos 1:1-2:3). He quotes Joel 3:16. (2.) The spiritual condition of Judah, and especially of Israel, is described (Amos 2:4-6:14). (3.) In Amos 7:1-9:10 are recorded five prophetic visions. (a.) The first two (Amos 7:1-6) refer to judgments against the guilty people. (b.) The next two (Amos 7:7-9; 8:1-3) point out the ripeness of the people for the threatened judgments. Amos 7:10-17 consists of a conversation between the prophet and the priest of Bethel. (c.) The fifth describes the overthrow and ruin of Israel (Amos 9:1-10); to which is added the promise of the restoration of the kingdom and its final glory in the Messiah's kingdom. **Easton's Bible Dictionary**

..... God hated their feasts. He took no delight in their assemblies and demanded that they take away their songs and music, for it was just "noise." Religious fervor was high, but true spiritual devotion to God was utterly lacking. At the same time, the merchants were practicing dishonesty in trading. They observed the new moons and sabbaths, but chafed under the restraint of waiting until these had passed that they could return to their business (8:4-6). For all this God would bring them to judgment; therefore, "prepare to meet thy God!" (4:12).

A Commentary On The Minor Prophets by Homer Hailey pg.85

Questions Book of Amos

1. **8 times** the phrase, *“Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of -----, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment. . .”* is used in chapters 1-2.

List each **verse** that has this phrase, **who** is being addressed and **why**.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

2. What do we learn about the Lord in 2:9-13?

Questions Book of Amos

3. What is the lesson in [3:1-8](#)?

4. Where does it state, *“For they do not know to do right”* and who is being spoken of? (**chap. 3**)

5. Describe the condition of Israel as revealed in [4:1-5](#).

6. What message is clearly expressed in [4:6-13](#)?

7. Describe the actions required in seeking the Lord as revealed in [5:4-15](#).

8. How might you summarize [5:16-27](#)?

9. Describe the two woes in [Amos chapter 6](#).

10. Comment on the three times the phrase *“showed me”* is used. (**chap7**)

11. Describe the discourse between Amaziah and Amos. (**chap. 7**)

12. How is the **greed** of Israel described? (**Chap. 8**)

13. List the verse that speaks of a famine of hearing the words of the Lord (**chap. 8**)

14. Which verses in [Amos chapter 9](#) might you use that gives hope?