

# Old Testament Introduction

## *The Book of AMOS*

Jerry Akers

### INTRODUCTION

1) Amos means “\_\_\_\_\_.” His name describes both his calling and his character.

- Until called by the Lord Amos was a native of Tekoa—a rough, desolate wilderness region about 10-12 miles south of Jerusalem.
- Amos was, by occupation, a shepherd and a gatherer of sycamore fruits.

2) Like Elijah and John the Baptist, Amos was a \_\_\_\_\_ prophet.

- He was not of the priestly line or the prophetic guild called “*the sons of the prophets*.”
- He had no formal, professional, or special training.
- His origins were simple and humble; nevertheless he was called of God to prophesy to Israel.

3) Amos was called to preach a stern message of \_\_\_\_\_ to Israel.

- Israel was at the peak of her power.
- Under Kings Joash and Jeroboam II, Israel had expanded her territory.
- She was experiencing an economic boom—the rich were getting richer, but the poor were becoming more and more oppressed.
- The people of Israel were very devoted to religion, but their religion was worship of the Golden Calf which had 200 years before become the nation’s religion. This Golden Calf worship was also mixed with the worship of \_\_\_\_\_.
- It was an age of false security, luxurious ease, gross materialism, brotherly unconcern, injustice, and immorality.
- The preacher Amos directed his fiery message against these \_\_\_\_\_.

### AUTHORSHIP

Amos is the author. Most of the nine chapters are the “words” (\_\_\_\_\_) or \_\_\_\_\_) of Amos (**1:1 & 8:1-2**).

### RECIPIENTS

Although Amos was from \_\_\_\_\_ (*Southern Kingdom*), his message was directed to wicked, but prospering Israel (*Northern Kingdom*) (**3:1**). His warnings also had implications for his own countrymen (**2:4-5**).

### DATE OF WRITING

Amos ministered during the reigns of Jeroboam II (782-753 B. C.) of Israel and Uzziah (767-755 B. C.) of Judah. The reigns of the two kingdoms under these kings overlapped 765 B. C. to 755 B. C. The Book of Amos was written during this time.

- Amos probably knew Elisha and Jonah during his younger years, Isaiah and Micah as an older man.
- He prophesied just prior to \_\_\_\_\_, who was the last prophet to the Northern Kingdom.
- It is also interesting to note that when God called Amos to prophesy to the Northern Kingdom it would only be about 30 years until the Assyrians conquered and carried them away captive (\_\_\_\_\_ B. C.).
- Looking back, it seems apparent that Israel had reached the “*point of no return*,” spiritually speaking, yet God still raised up a prophet to call them back to Himself.
- Throughout the book of Amos is the appeal to “*Seek the LORD*” (**5:4**).

### PURPOSE OF BOOK

**Historical purpose** = To call the idolatrous, prosperous, and materialistic Northern Kingdom under Jeroboam II to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Doctrinal purpose** = Amos teaches the holiness of God’s law and His hatred of evil. There are numerous references to the Law of Moses (*Torah*) in this book.

**Christological purpose** = Christ is the “*Sufferer*” and the “*Restorer*” of the nation of Israel (**9:9-15**).

Though Amos is mainly a book about God’s judgment, it also looks forward to the establishment of Messiah’s kingdom when God’s chosen people will be forgiven and enjoy his \_\_\_\_\_.

### **THEME OF THE BOOK**

The \_\_\_\_\_ judgment of God on sin which separates us from God and must be judged.

### **OUTLINE**

- I. The Vigilance of the Prophet **(1-2)**
- II. The Voice of the Prophet **(3-6)**
- III. The Visions of the Prophet **(7-9)**