

## *Amos: Prepare to Meet Your God*

### Introduction

**I. The Author**—Amos (“burden bearer”) tells us three important things about himself: 1) his occupation was a shepherd, a herdsman, and a grower (“nipper”) of sycamore figs (1:1; 7:14-15); 2) he was not a professional prophet (7:14); 3) his hometown was Tekoa, a small hilltop village ten miles south of Jerusalem that overlooks the Dead Sea (1:1).

**II. The Audience**—Although Amos was concerned about the whole house of Jacob (3:1, 13), his message was primarily tailored for the N. Kingdom (“concerning Israel” 1:1), especially those associated with the idol worship at Bethel (4:4; 5:5, 6; 7:10, 13). Amos, who was from Judah, delivered a message to the N. Kingdom of Israel (7:12). Amos 1:1 dates the book to the time of Uzziah (king of Judah, 790-739 BC) and Jeroboam II (king of Israel, 793-753 BC) He received his visions “two years before the earthquake.” Archaeological evidence points to a strong earthquake in 760 BC. It was probably viewed as an omen of judgment.

**III. The Aim**—Through a series of prophecies, messages, and visions, Amos announced God’s discipline on Israel for her sin and her final restoration in the messianic kingdom.

### IV. The Arrangement

## AMOS

	Introduction	Oracles against the Nations	Sermons against Nation of Israel	Visions of Judgment	Promises of Hope
	A shepherd's vision	<u>Damascus</u> <u>Gaza</u> <u>Tyre</u> <u>Edom</u> <u>Ammon</u> <u>Moab</u> <u>Judah</u> <u>Israel</u>	Hear this word . . . sons of Israel (3:1) . . . you cows of Bashan (4:1) . . . house of Israel (5:1)	<u>Locusts</u> <u>Fire</u> <u>Plumb line</u> <u>Ripe fruit</u> <u>The Lord by the altar</u>	"In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David. . . . I will also plant them on their land." (9:11,15)
	CHAPTER 1:1–2	CHAPTERS 1:3–2:16	CHAPTERS 3–6	CHAPTERS 7:1–9:10	CHAPTER 9:11–15
<b>Theme</b>	Israel's coming judgment for treating others with injustice.				
<b>Key Verses</b>	3:1–2; 4:12; 5:15, 24				
<b>Christ in Amos</b>	Jesus Christ, who has all authority to judge, is also the One who restores His people.				

## V. The Analysis

At the time Amos wrote, everything looked great in Israel. Yet, in spite of all the prosperity and success, Israel was 40 years from its destruction. Amos has been called the “*Prophet of the 11<sup>th</sup> Hour.*”

### 8 Prophecies of Judgment (1-2)

1. Damascus (Syria) (1:3-5)
2. Gaza (Philistia) (1:6-8)
3. Tyre (1:9-10)
4. Edom (1:11-12)
5. Ammon (1:13-15)
6. Moab (2:1-3)
7. Judah (2:4-5)
8. Israel (2:6-16)

### 3 Messages of Judgment (3-6) “*Hear this word*” (3:1; 4:1; 5:1)

1. Devastation of Israel
2. Depravity of Israel
3. Dirge for Israel

### 5 Visions of Judgment (7-9)

1. Locusts (7:1-3)
2. Fire (7:4-6)
3. Plumbline (7:7-9)
4. Basket of Summer Fruit (8:1-4)
5. God at the Altar (9:1-10)

### Promise of Final Restoration (9:11-15)

## VI. The Application