

# *Amos*

## *"The Country Prophet"*

### **Background Information**

The name "Amos" means either "burden" or "burden-bearer," and is suitable for his work and message.

Amos is the only prophet who shares what his occupation was before he received a message from the Lord. He was from a small village about 10 miles south of Jerusalem named Tekoa, and was a breeder of sheep (1:1) and one who tended sycamore fruit (7:14).

Though he was from Judah (the southern kingdom), his primary message was for the northern kingdom of Israel.

### **Time Covered and Outline**

1:1 mentions an earthquake that, obviously, the original hearers of this message would have remembered. It happened two years prior to this message. Amos worked during the time of Uzziah in Judah and Jereboam II of Israel, which would put the book in the mid-700s BC. Likely, less than 30 years are in view in his work.

The book falls into three parts:

- I. A Call for Judgment Against the Nations (chapters 1-2)
  - A. Against Israel's enemies (1:3-2:3)
  - B. Against Judah (2:4-5)
  - C. Against Israel (26-16)
- II. Israel's Specific Sins (chapters 3-6)
  - A. Irresponsibility (3:1-15)
  - B. Idolatry (4:1-13)
  - C. General moral decay (5:1-6:14)
- III. Judgment and Restoration Envisioned (chapters 7-9)
  - A. The Lord will spare His people (7:1-6)
  - B. When the Lord will no longer spare His people (7:7-9:10)
    - 1. The plumb line vision (7:7-9)
    - 2. The fruit basket vision (8:1-14)
    - 3. A vision of the altar (9:1-10)
  - C. The Lord will ultimately restore (9:11-15)

### **Major Themes**

Genuine worship  
Justice  
The remnant  
The wrath and forgiveness of God  
Powerful preaching

## God's Character in Amos

Holy (4:2)

Providence (3:6)

## Jesus in Amos

There are no specific prophecies about Jesus in Amos, but the continuing restoration of Israel is a reminder of God's love for, and protection of, His church in the New Testament.

## Key Words in Amos

Seek (Hebrew *darash*); "to continue to seek [or ask]." 5:4-6; 5:14

## Elsewhere in the World...

The Greek empire spreads into modern-day Spain and also develops what becomes known to history as classic Greek art.

## Elsewhere in Scripture...

Amos is a contemporary prophet with Jonah (see 2 Kings 14:25), Hosea, and Isaiah. For more about Uzziah's reign, 2 Chronicles 26 gives an overview.