

The Message of the Old Testament

A Book-by-Book Study

Amos

- ▶ One of the _____ prophets in the Book of the Twelve.
- ▶ 760-750 B.C.
- ▶ Speaks to the Northern Kingdom.
- ▶ Delivered in the most successful days of the Northern Kingdom.
- ▶ Not a professional prophet.
- ▶ A sheep and fruit farmer.
- ▶ From Tekoa located in Judah south of Jerusalem.

Outline

- ▶ God Roars Against Sin (1-2)
- ▶ God Demands to Be Heard (3-6)
- ▶ God Rises Against Israel (7-9:10)
- ▶ God Restores David's Fallen Tent (9:11-15)

Amos's Opening Word

The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. (1:1-2)

The Message of Amos

The Message of Amos is that the entire world is _____ and judgment is coming from the Judge. The world will face judgment as will Israel itself. Yet the God who judges is also the God who _____.

God Roars Against Sin

"The Lord _____ from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers." (1:2)

This is the image of a roaring _____. (3:4; 3:8; 3:12)

From the very beginning, the roaring of the Lord targets Israel, Judah, and six surrounding countries—Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, and Moab.

He speaks like this:

Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of the Ammonites, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead, that they might enlarge their border. So I will kindle a _____ in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour her strongholds, with shouting on the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind; and their king shall go into exile, he and his princes together," says the Lord. (1:13-15)

Of Judah, He says,

"For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have rejected the law of the Lord, and have not kept his statutes, but their lies have led them astray, those

after which their fathers walked. So I will send a _____ upon Judah, and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem." (2:4-5)

Of Israel, He speaks,

"For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals—those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth and turn aside the way of the afflicted; a man and his father go in to the same girl, so that my holy name is profaned; they lay themselves down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge, and in the house of their God they drink the wine of those who have been fined." (2:6-8)

☛The point is _____ that God will judge each nation once a certain number of sins are reached—perhaps three, perhaps four—but that he will judge each nation for its _____ sins. And Amos does not so much cite the idolatry of these nations; rather, he condemns their _____ against fellow humans. (Dever, 727)

God Demands to Be Heard

_____ this word that the Lord has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt (3:1)

"_____ this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria," (4:1)

_____ this word that I take up over you in lamentation, O house of Israel" (5:1)

What the people must hear ---

1. No calamity comes except what _____ brings.

"Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet?
Does a lion roar in the forest, when he has no prey?
Does a young lion cry out from his den, if he has taken nothing?
Does a bird fall in a snare on the earth, when there is no trap for it?
Does a snare spring up from the ground, when it has taken nothing?
Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid?
Does disaster come to a city, unless the Lord has done it?" (3:3-6)

2. God has the _____ to punish because He is the Creator.

"Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!" For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth—the Lord, the God of hosts, is his name!" (4:12-13)

3. If the people want to escape punishment, all they have to do is _____ God.

"Seek me and live; but do not seek Bethel, and do not enter into Gilgal or cross over to Beersheba; for Gilgal shall surely go into exile, and Bethel shall come to nothing." Seek the Lord and live, lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel, O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth!" (5:4-7)

4. This is an evil time because the rich take _____ of the poor; they will therefore not enjoy the fruit of their labor.

"Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you

shall not drink their wine.

For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate. Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time.” (5:11-13)

God Rises Against Israel

Israel is _____ to sin and thus to receive the penalty for their actions. God threatens and relents threatens and relents and then he relents no _____.

God Restores David’s Fallen Tent

Though Amos focuses on Yahweh’s anger at sin, the book closes on a _____ note.

In that day (the aftermath of the Day of the Lord), God will restore David’s dynasty.

“In that day I will raise up
the booth of David that is fallen
and repair its breaches,
and raise up its ruins
and rebuild it as in the days of old,
that they may possess the remnant of Edom
and all the nations who are called by my name,”
declares the Lord who does this.” (9:11-12)

Overall Message of Amos: The God who roars is also the God who heals and restores.

Obadiah

- ▶ Obadiah means servant or worshiper of _____
- ▶ Hometown unknown
- ▶ Probably from Judah
- ▶ Prophecy was a response to the role of _____ in the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon
- ▶ Prophecies probably delivered shortly after fall of Jerusalem (586 BC)
- ▶ Edom was located in the highlands and sandstone cliffs on the southeastern side of the Dead Sea

Outline

Edom’s Pride and Destruction (1-9)

Edom’s Crime (10-14)

Edom’s Fate on the Day of the Lord (15-21)

The Message of Obadiah

Edom’s Pride and Destruction

Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom:

We have heard a report from the Lord, and a messenger has been sent among the nations: "Rise up! Let us rise against her for battle!"

Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you shall be utterly despised.

The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in your lofty dwelling, who say in your heart, "Who will bring me _____ to the ground?" Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars, from there I will bring you _____, declares the Lord. (1-4)

Edom's Crime

Because of the violence done to your _____, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever. On the day that you stood aloof, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were like one of them.

But do not _____ over the day of your brother in the day of his misfortune; do not rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their ruin; do not boast in the day of distress. Do not enter the gate of my people in the day of their calamity; do not gloat over his disaster in the day of his calamity; do not loot his wealth in the day of his calamity. Do not stand at the crossroads to cut off his fugitives; do not hand over his survivors in the day of distress. (10-14)

Edom's Fate on the Day of the Lord

For the day of the Lord is near upon all the nations. As _____ have done, it shall be done to _____; your deeds shall _____ on your own head. For as you have drunk on my holy mountain, so all the nations shall drink continually; they shall drink and swallow, and shall be as though they had never been. (15-16)

▶ Although God is judging his own people for their sins, surrounding nations should not _____ that they are to be judged as well. In His judgment he will remember _____ for His people.

Jonah

- ▶ Unique among the prophets as a _____ rather than a collection of oracles.
- ▶ The event is set in the first half of the eighth century BC.
- ▶ Movement through the prophets:
Hosea—God loves His people
Joel—Terrible Day of the Lord
Amos—Though God will judge, He holds out hope to His people
Obadiah—God judges Edom as an enemy
- ▶ So does God care for the _____? Is God concerned about anyone besides Israel?
The answer of the book of Jonah is _____!!

Outline

- I. At Sea
Jonah is at sea because he does not want to obey God and preach to the Ninevites.
- II. In a Fish
Jonah is in a fish because God sent it to save Jonah and change his mind.
- III. In Nineveh
Jonah is in Nineveh to proclaim God's impending judgment.
- IV. Outside the City
Jonah is outside the city because he wants to see God judge the wicked Ninevites.

The Message of Jonah

1. Even when Jonah tried to run to avoid preaching to non-Jews, God saved non-Jews.

So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish." (1:6)

Therefore they _____ to the Lord, "O Lord, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you." So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men _____ the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. (1:14-16)

2. Jonah recognized salvation was from the Lord.

Those who pay regard to vain idols
forsake their hope of steadfast love.
But I with the voice of thanksgiving
will sacrifice to you;
what I have vowed I will pay.
Salvation belongs to the Lord!" (2:8-9)

3. Jonah preached God's word and the people _____.

Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. (3:4-5)

4. God _____.

The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish."

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it. (3:6-10)

5. Jonah was _____.

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. (4:1-2)

6. Jonah was _____.

Jonah went out of the city and sat to the east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, till he should see what would become of the city. Now the Lord God appointed a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be a shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort. So Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the plant. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the plant, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint. And he asked that he might die and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Do you do well to be angry for the plant?" And he said, "Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die." And the Lord said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?" (4:5-11)

✦ If Jonah pitied a plant that he had no part in creating or causing to grow, should not God pity people whom he created? All peoples answer to God but all peoples are precious to God. His pity stretches beyond Israel to the entire globe.