

## Minor Prophets Summer 2025 - Lesson 10

### Judgment Against the Nations - Amos 1-2

*Theme Verse: "The LORD roars from Zion and utters His voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers" (Joel 2:13 ESV).*

Amos and his contemporary Hosea prophesied against Ephraim (Israel), warning that disaster would follow unrepentance. Amos, whose name means "to carry a load," tells us more about himself in the first verse of his book than any of the other prophets. Amos came from the town of Tekoa, a fortified city (2 Chronicles 11:5-12) located about six miles from Bethlehem. Amos tended sheep and took care of sycamore and fig trees. The Lord called Amos to be a prophet. Amos preached repentance to Ephraim (Israel), Judah, and six other foreign nations on their borders.

#### **A Shepherd Called**

1. Amos was a shepherd before the Lord called him to be a prophet. Why is the image of a shepherd fitting for a prophet or for a servant of the Lord?
2. Amos was not a "prophet's son" (from Amos 7:14). Why would God choose someone like Amos?

#### **Six Foreign Nations Judged**

Read **Amos 1:1-2:3**. The Lord roars in the longest oracle against foreign nations in the Minor Prophets.

3. What will His judgment do to the nations?

Some may think that God is unfair when He judges nations that have not received His revealed Word.

4. Read Romans 2:1-2, 9, 21-24; 3:10. How do people distinguish between right and wrong apart from the Scriptures?

#### **Judah and Israel Judged**

Read **Amos 2:4-5**. Beginning with verse 4, God's judgment turns to Judah and Israel.

5. Why would the Lord's judgment be harsher against His people than against the nations?
6. This is the only passage where the Book of Amos explicitly mentions Judah. God judges Judah because "their lies have led them astray" (v. 4). Read **Jeremiah 16:19-20**. What were those lies (in which "their fathers walked")?

7. Read **Amos 2:6-16**. This oracle is against Israel and it is longer than all the others. Up until this point, the people in Israel were likely thinking that Amos was a great preacher. Now, instead of hearing the Gospel, Amos issues God's judgment. Why are the Israelites judged?
8. In Amos 2:9-12 we see that God repeatedly saved Israel. We know that the Lord is slow to anger, but His patience with Israel finally came to an end. Read **2 Peter 3:9-10**. What can be learned from God's timing in judging the Israelites that can be applied to us today?

### **God's Word for Today**

Each year, Israel celebrated the Passover to remember how the Lord brought them up out of Egypt. Amos 2:10 recalls the deliverance out of Egypt. In Hosea 2:13, God lamented that Israel "went after her lovers and forgot [Him]." The Passover story grew old and boring for Israel. She forgot the Lord and needed to go after more exciting things.

9. How are Christians today tempted to feel bored or forgetful about the death and resurrection of Jesus, their Baptism, and the Lord's Supper?

### **In Closing**

- Pray that the Lord stop injustice and inhumanity against our fellow human creatures around the world.
- Remember how your Baptism is connected to the Exodus (see 1 Corinthians 5:7; 10:1-4, 16-18).
- Read Amos 3-6 for September 7 (**no Bible study next week** - stay fresh and rested for Nathan's ordination at 4pm).

*Prayer:* O Lord, absolve Your people from their offenses that, from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves, we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*This study is based on:*

*"God's Word for Today: Hosea, Joel, and Amos - Faithfulness amidst Unfaithfulness."*