

## Minor Prophets Summer 2025 - Lesson 11

### Judgment Against the Nations - Amos 3-6

*Theme Verse: “For behold, I will raise up against you a nation, O House of Israel,” declares the LORD, the God of hosts.” (Amos 6:14 ESV).*

Read **Amos 3:1-2**. These verses recap the first two chapters. Israel is singled out for being a “chosen people.” And yet, she has not been faithful to the Lord.

#### **The Lion Roars**

Read **Amos 3:3-8**. Amos proclaims judgment upon Israel.

1. If there is such urgency to preach God’s wrath, how much more urgency is there to preach God’s mercy?
2. Read **Amos 3:9-13**. God’s prophets are Israel’s “shepherds.” By this proclamation from God through his shepherd to this people, some will be saved. What comfort is there in this?

#### **Satire, Dirge, and Destruction**

Read **Amos 4:1-5**. In this section, Amos employs satire in a way that must have shocked the people. Since they would not listen to ordinary patterns of speech, Amos had to provoke them – notice that the Israelites did what they “love to do” (v. 5). Their focus is not on what the Lord commanded.

3. What is the connection between the oppression of the poor and worshiping in a way that you “love to do”?

Amos 4:6-11 show that God has been trying to give firm consequences in the hopes of turning the people back to him, but they did not listen. Therefore, they will experience his full wrath (4:12-13).

Read **Amos 5:1-3**. Here God laments the coming destruction of His people. About 90 percent of the people will be killed or carried off. A tiny remnant will remain.

4. Why would God not wipe them all away? What does that teach us about God?

Read **Amos 5:4-6 & 14-15**. In the midst of judgment, the Lord tells His people to avoid false worship at Bethel (which means “house of God” but had fallen into idol worship) and calls to His people, “Seek Me and live” (v. 4).

5. In the midst of promised destruction, why should the people repent?

Read **Amos 6:9-10 & 14**. The “nation” in v. 14 is the Assyrians who will carry Israel off into captivity in 722 B.C.

6. What does “Silence! We must not mention the name of the LORD” (v. 10) mean?

### **God’s Word for Today**

God shows His concern about public worship. Israel mixed the worship of the Lord with things they learned from the culture around them, such as Ba’al worship.

7. What are some of the dangers of bringing contemporary culture into worship today?

### **In Closing**

- Remember that while worship is a thankful response (something we do for God) it is primarily about God serving us with the forgiveness of sins.
- Read Amos 7-9 to prepare for the final class on the Minor Prophets for 2025.

*Prayer:* Almighty God, You have built Your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. Continue to send Your messengers to preserve Your people in true peace that, by the preaching of Your Word, Your Church may be kept free from all harm and danger 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.”*