

Amos 1-6

Intro

What's something you find disgusting?

Historical background

Amos was around the year 750BC.

A couple of centuries earlier, the people of God had split into 2 nations: Israel and Judah. Look at the map to see them and the surrounding nations.



Amos was a prophet from Judah (in the south) sent by God to speak to the people of Israel (in the north).

In 805BC Assyria defeated Syria (to the north of Israel). Assyria then slowed down it's conquering exploits.

With Syria out of the way, the King of Israel now had a virtual free hand. He now had control over trade routes and wealth began to accumulate.

However the wealth was found mainly in the hands of commercial barons. The wealthy exploited the poor, trampling over them in order to build up their own stores.

Religiosity was also rife at unsanctioned places of worship.

Into this Amos preached the contempt of God for Israel in their sins, and Amos announced God's coming judgment.

What God has said

Read Amos 2:6-16; 4:1-13; 5:11-17

What did God have against Israel? (2:6-12; 4:1-11; 5:11-15)

What does God therefore promise them? (2:13-16; 4:12-13; 5:16-17)

Read Amos 5:18-27

How does God feel about Israel?

How does all of this help us appreciate and understand what Jesus did for us when he himself bore our sins in his body on the tree (1 Peter 2:24)?

Loving the God who has said it

What's a key truth we're learning about God from what we've read?

What do we lose if this is not true?

What do we gain because it is true?

Living for the God who has said it

- What wrong thoughts can result when you forget this truth?
(e.g. What wrong thoughts might come into your heart / mind? What hard to control feelings might come? What might you put your hope in instead of putting your hope in God? What sins might result?)

- What right thoughts can result when you embrace this truth?
(e.g. What hope is God giving you in this truth? What assurance from God is given to you in this truth? What fears are put to rest by this truth? What fruits of righteousness flow from this truth?)

Pray that these truths and right thoughts and actions will penetrate deep into one another's hearts.

Amos 7:1-9:10

Intro

What's something you find terrifying?

In 7:1-9:10 Amos turns his focus on God's coming judgment. In chapters 1-6 his emphasis fell on Israel's sin. Here Amos turns to the terrifying coming wrath of God.

What God has said

Read Amos 7:1-9

How does Amos respond to the visions God showed him?

Read Amos 8

What are Israel ripe for in this vision?

Read Amos 9:1-10

How do these verses make you feel?

How does all this help us appreciate and understand God's coming final day of judgment where the Day of the Lord will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire and the elements will melt in the heat, and the ungodly will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:7-12)?

How does what we've read in Amos help us appreciate and understand what Christ did for us when he died under the judgment of God for us?

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Amos 9:11-15

Intro

What's something you're looking forward to?

In the closing few verses of his book, Amos gives some welcome relief... there's hope beyond the judgment of God.

What God has said

Read Amos 9:11-12

What does God promise will come?

Read Acts 15:14-18

How has this promise come true?

Read Amos 9:13-15

What does God promise will come?

Read Hebrews 12:22-24; Revelation 21:1-4; Revelation 22:1-5

When will this promise come true?

Loving the God who has said it

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Living for the God who has said it

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