



Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart.”

Course Text: Amos

Amos prophesied during the Divided Kingdom period before either Israel or Judah had been taken into captivity. The first chapter mentions Uzziah, king of Judah, and Jeroboam, king of Israel. They were the last two kings to rule for a significant period of time before Israel was taken into captivity. Amos warns Israel of this coming catastrophe, but he is ignored. The Jeroboam mentioned here is not the same as Jeroboam son of Nebat, whose revolt divided the Kingdom some 200 years before.

Read II Kings 14:23-29 and notice in particular verses 24 and 27. Even though Jeroboam did evil, God still used him to preserve the country of Israel. This is why it is so important that we pray for our leaders, no matter what we think of them. Even though Israel was a wicked country with a wicked king, God still gave them another generation to repent, before calamity befell them.

Most of Amos is written in the form of Hebrew poetry. That means you should expect to see a lot of parallelism and figures of speech.

Suggested methodology:

1. Let the students have a copy of the lesson well before the class meets. (Perhaps the previous meeting)
2. The students read the Bible book and answer the questions in this lesson before the group meets.
3. At the class meeting allow time for greetings and fellowship. (Save most of this for the end)
4. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
5. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
6. Discuss the questions on page 7. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers, when provided, are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. It might be good to establish the norm that only those who have actually read the book should discuss it aloud.
7. Discuss whatever other questions people have on their mind about the Amos.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, this class is expected to take about two hours.

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Amos Chapters 1 to 4

Amos 1 Even though Amos was primarily a prophet to Israel, he begins by talking about the judgment of God against the countries around Israel. Perhaps the idea was to make them realize that God was ruler over us all. Read Amos chapter 1 and answer the following questions:

[1A] For what offense was Gaza judged? _____

[1B] For what offense was Ammon judged? _____

Amos 2 Amos continues with coming judgments on the countries around Israel. Moab was distantly related, being the descendants of Lot, Abraham's nephew. Judah was the "Southern Kingdom" and also descendants of Israel. Read Amos chapter 2 and answer the following questions:

[2A] What lead the people of Judah astray? _____

[2B] Who will flee naked in the day of God's judgment? _____

Amos 3 Amos continues his focus on Israel for the rest of the book. More of God's judgment is announced. Read Amos chapter 3 and answer the following questions:

[3A] What must a trap have to catch something? _____

[3B] Who will God use to bring about His judgment? _____

Amos 4 For this chapter to make sense you need to know that Bethel and Gilgal were two places they had set up idol worship. Read Amos chapter 4 and answer the following questions:

[4A] What does "cleanness of teeth" in Am 4:6 mean? _____

[4B] The judgment of Israel is compared with His judging of a nation (Described in Exodus) and two cities (Described in Genesis). Name them: _____

----- ANSWERS -----

[1A] For what offense was Gaza judged? They sold an entire population into slavery. Am 1:6 Gaza was where the Philistines lived.

[1B] For what offense was Ammon judged? They ripped open pregnant women. Am 1:13

[2A] What lead the people of Judah astray? Their own lies Am 2:4

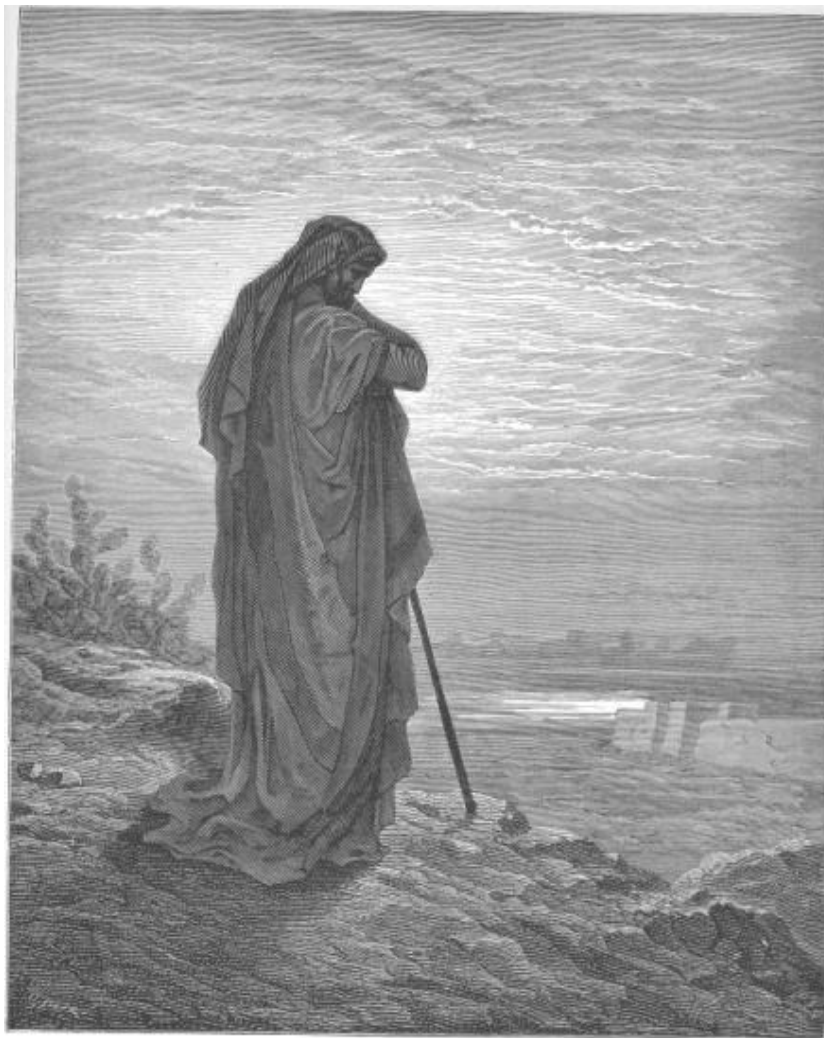
[2B] Who will flee naked in the day of God's judgment? Even the bravest among the warriors Am 2:16

[3A] What must a trap have to catch something? Bait Am 3:5

[3B] Who will God use to bring about His judgment? An enemy Am 3:11

[4A] What does "cleanness of teeth" in Am 4:6 mean? Starvation We know this because it is paralleled with "lack of bread" in the next line. They did not have enough food to even get their teeth dirty.

[4B] The judgment of Israel is compared with His judging of a nation (Described in Exodus) and two cities (Described in Genesis). Name them: Egypt Sodom and Gomorrah Am 4:10-11



AMOS

The words of Amos, who was among the herdsmen of Tekoa . . . Thus saith the Lord: For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof . . . (Amos 1: 1, 3) (1:3)

Amos Chapters 5 to 9

Amos 5 A dirge is a song sung at a funeral. Am 5:2-3 is the dirge Amos sings about Israel's coming destruction and captivity. The rest of the chapter he is trying to get them to change their behavior so that the coming judgment will be unnecessary. Read Amos chapter 5 and answer the following questions:

[5A] If they do not repent and seek the Lord, He will break forth like what? _____

[5B] Why does he tell them to seek good instead of evil. _____

[5C] Rather than sacrifice and offerings God wants something to roll down and flow. What?

Amos 6 Those who depend on their wealth or their foreign allies will do no better than those who depend on false gods. Read Amos chapter 6 and answer the following questions:

[6A] Who will be carried into captivity first? _____

[6B] What the difference between what happens to the great house and the small house? _____

Amos 7 The Amaziah mentioned in this chapter is a priest at Bethel where Israel has idol worship and the king of Israel lives, not the king of Judah mentioned in Kings and Chronicles. Read Amos chapter 7 and answer the following questions:

[7A] What does Amaziah tell Amos to do? _____

[7B] What does Amos say he is? _____

Amos 8 Instead of running of to Judah as instructed, more judgments of Israel are announced by Amos. Read Amos chapter 8 and answer the following questions:

[8A] What will happen to the songs of the palace? _____

[8B] What will happen to the festivals? _____

Amos 9 The ruin of Israel, as bad as it will be, will not be beyond the power of God to restore it. Read Amos chapter 9 and answer the following questions:

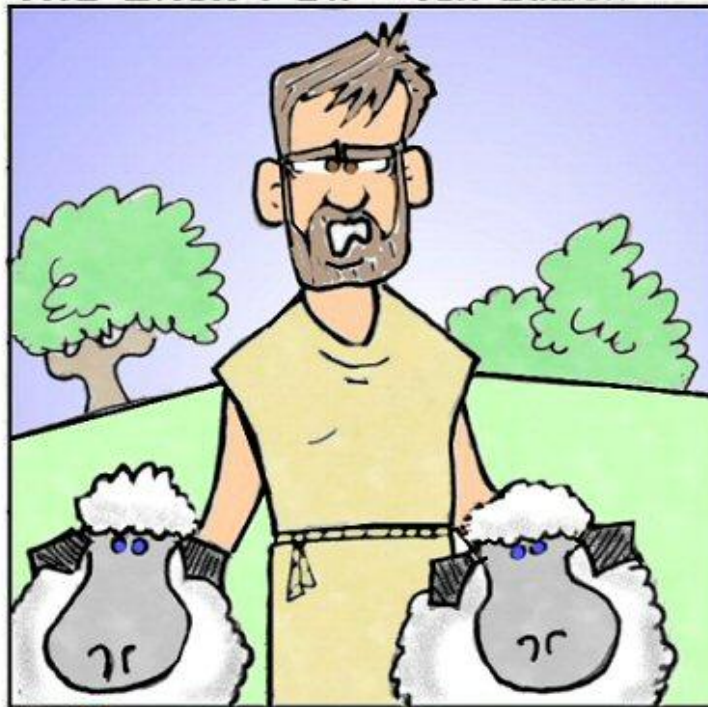
[9A] Who created heaven? _____

[9B] What will happen to the ruined cities of Israel? _____

----- ANSWERS -----

- [5A] If they do not repent and seek the Lord, He will break forth like what? Fire Am 5:6
[5B] Why does he tell them to seek good instead of evil. So that they might live Am 5:14
[5C] Rather than sacrifice and offerings God wants something to roll down and flow. What? Justice and/or righteousness Am 5:24
- [6A] Who will be carried into captivity first? The wealthy Am 6:1-7
[6B] What the difference between what happens to the great house and the small house? Nothing Am 6:11
- [7A] What does Amaziah tell Amos to do? Go to Judah to live and prophecy. Am 7:12
[7B] What does Amos say he is? A heardsman and fig farmer. Am 7:14
- [8A] What will happen to the songs of the palace? They will turn into wailing. Am 8:3
[8B] What will happen to the festivals? They will become mourning Am 8:10
- [9A] Who created heaven? The Lord God of hosts. Am 9:5-6
[9B] What will happen to the ruined cities of Israel? They will be rebuilt Am 9:14

THE BACK PEW - Jeff LARSON



AMOS was a mild mannered shepherd by day, and 'Man of God' by night.

(1) Compare Amos 2:4 with First John 1:5-10. What is similar? What is different?

Think & Pray _____

(2) Compare Numbers 6:1-21 with Amos 2:11-12. What was wrong with Israel forcing Nazirites to drink wine?

Think & Pray _____

(3) Do you see any similarity between Amos 8:11 and what is happening in the world today? Why or why not?

Think & Pray _____

(4) If someone asked you what Amos was about what would you say?

Think & Pray _____

(5) How can the lessons of Amos be applied to our own life?

Think & Pray _____

(6) Which verse or passage would you select to memorize from Amos? Why?

Think & Pray _____

If you have any questions about Amos, now is the time to discuss them with your classmates.

----- ANSWERS -----

(1) AMOS 2:4 & 1st John 1:5-10 The common themes I see in both passages is people being led astray by their own lies. First they lie, then they believe their own lies, and finally they do not believe God because of their own lies.

(2) AMOS 2:11 & Num 6:1-21 Both passages speak of Nazarites, people set aside to dedicate themselves to God with prayers and fasting. And in verse 12 they are forced to break their vows by a wicked people. Another important thing for me is that the verse in Amos makes it clear that the people that decide to take such vows should be, or are, the ones that God designed for that purpose.

(3) AMOS 8:11 When you consider Christianity world wide, it is growing like always, because the gospel is being preached all over the world today. However, in these United States, it seems to me, we live in a time starving for God's word. There are a lot of messages out there that claim to be from God, that are crowding out the Gospel message – feel good about yourself, self-improvement messages, that claim to be from God, but are actually warmed over psycho babble dressed in "Biblical" terms.

(4) Amos Summary Amos prophesied during the Divided Kingdom period before either Israel or Judah had been taken into captivity. Amos warns Israel of this coming catastrophe, but he is ignored. Even though Israel was a wicked country with a wicked king, God still gave them another generation to repent, before calamity befell them.

(5) Amos Life Application The message I heard when I read this book is that God is infinitely patient and has mercy without end. However, He will not tolerate our nonsense forever. There is a time limit for us personally, for us as a nation, and for us as the human race.

(6) Something to Remember I like Amos 5:24 "But let justice roll down like waters, And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."