

“The Book of Amos”

Part 1: The Purpose--A Warning of Retribution

- The meaning of Scripture is always defined by what it meant to the original audience.
- Modern “Social Justice Warriors” have hijacked the book of Amos to defend Critical Race Theory (See Amos 5:24). But Amos and CRT have nothing to do with each other. Amos teaches that justice, especially for the poor, comes from the overflow of a heart that loves God. Amos is a call of repentance to love God and love your neighbor, CRT is a godless, Marxist theory that teaches the dominant culture is forever racist and bigoted without ability to reform and must be torn down. Amos ends in unity, reform, and restoration. CRT ends with constant division, revenge, and destruction.
- Amos (“burden-bearer”), a sheep-breeder from Tekoa, just south of Jerusalem in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, was called by God around 760 B.C. to prophesy against the Northern Kingdom of Israel after 13 kings who did “evil in the sight of the LORD,” spanning 150 years of history.
- The chief accusation: Lack of true worship. The chief evidence: Unrighteousness and injustice.
- Ch 1: Judgment on the other Nations; Ch 2: Judgment on Moab, Judah and Israel
- Ch 3: The prophet must speak; Israel will be punished
- The transcendent message: Justice results from a heart that loves God. God-honoring social policy will only come from hearts transformed by the Gospel.

Part 2: The Poetry--A Call to Repentance

- 1/3 of the Old Testament is poetry. Only two of the prophetic books do not include poetry.
- God has designed us to appreciate poetry. It causes us to think deeply and helps us to memorize.
- Poetic Devices: *Parallelism of lines* 2:4; 2:6-8; *Irony* 2:9-12; *Inclusio* 4:1-2; *Sarcasm* 4:4-5
- *Parallelism of sections* 4:6-4:13

The Heart of the Book

Chiasm 5:1-3 Lament

4-6 Admonition

7 Accusation

8a Hymn

8b “The LORD is His name”

9 Hymn

10-12 Accusation

13-15 Admonition

16-20 Lament

- *Word Play* 7:7-8 “Plumb Line” = “I”; 8:1-2 “Summer” = “End”
Metaphor 8:11 “Famine in the Land”

Part 3: Prophecy--A Promise for Restoration

- Prophecy is not just predicting the future. In its general sense it means to declare the truth.
- However, the predictive nature of prophecy can be very confusing because there is often a near fulfillment a far fulfillment.
- God promises restoration in 9:11-15, but which restoration is he talking about?
- Israel was conquered by Assyria in 722 BC. Judah was conquered by Babylon in 607 BC and the temple was destroyed. Israel returned in 537 BC and rebuilt the temple.
- After Pentecost, Gentiles were grafted into the Kingdom (see Acts 15:16-18)
The second temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD and the Jews were scattered. They returned to their homeland in 1948. The utensils for the temple have been remade. Is the "far" fulfillment of Amos going to happen in the Millennial Kingdom when the temple is rebuilt again?

Application:

Nations are made of cities, made of churches, made of families, made of parents, made of individual hearts. To reform a nation, repentance must happen one heart at a time. We will continue to preach the Gospel and make disciples of the individuals of LWF in order to glorify God through marriages, families, the church, the community, the country, and the nations. We must not replace the Gospel with the social gospel. God-honoring social policy flows from hearts transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.