

Amos 1.1,2 / 7.10-17

Amos: Unwanted Missionary

UNTOUCHED Part of MOST of our BIBLES, RARE to Hear Sermons

IF we do GO HERE most often for ESCHATOLOGY or PROPHECY

MOST of Message of AMOS is FORTHTELLING Not FOREtelling

MESSAGE DIRECTLY Spoken to his LISTENERS in THEIR Day

SITUATION was UNIQUE but PRINCIPLES are ETERNAL

JUSTICE, RIGHTEOUSNESS, HOLINESS are TIMELESS Duties

IF we had NO Struggles with Religious Formalism / Social INJUSTICE We could LEAVE Message of PROPHET AMOS Unopened

But for MOST of US we need to PAY ATTENTION to what he Says

## 1. God's Conditional Covenant

You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, *if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant*, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

Exodus 19.4-6

Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD...Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "*All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.*" And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." Exodus 24.4,6

Covenant FORMULA was very SIMPLE

"If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you...But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish."

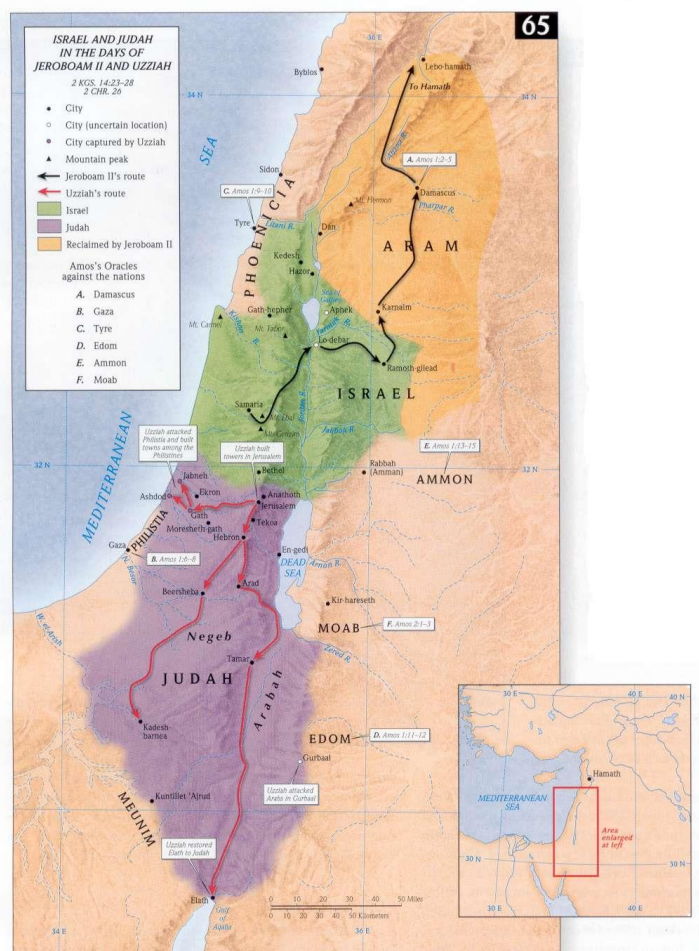
Deuteronomy 30.11-19

## WANT BLESSING? OBEY!! // WANT CURSING?? DISOBEY!!

“But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments, if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant, then I will do this to you: I will visit you with panic, with wasting disease and fever that consume the eyes and make the heart ache...I will set my face against you, and you shall be struck down before your enemies. Those who hate you shall rule over you...And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste”      Leviticus 26.14-33

FAST-FORWARD 1000 yrs >> SEE MAP!

Moses – Joshua – 400 Terrible Years of Judges – KINGS Saul, David, Solomon...



Hear this word that the Lord has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt: “You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”      Amos 3.1,2

DESPITE 1000 yrs of DISOBEDIENCE – GOD is Faithful to His COVENANT

He BROUGHT them OUT of EGYPT because HE LOVED them

Took them to MT. SINAI on a HONEYMOON – Become his LOVELY BRIDE

PEOPLE played HARLOT – DIVIDED Kingdom is Sign of DOOM

FINAL WARNINGS of CONDITIONAL MOSAIC COVENANT > Prophets

“For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets. The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken; who can but prophesy?”  
Amos 3.7,8

MOSAIC Covenant for NATION was CONDITIONAL

REFUSE to LIVE like NATION for GOD > Depart from Me! Never Knew You

God’s DISCIPLINE Administered by ASSYRIANS

SO COMPLETE – NATION was FOREVER DESTROYED

## 2. Amos, God’s Attorney

ROLE of PROPHETS > PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

HOLD God’s Law UP to the FACE of God’s PEOPLE

Amos 1.<sup>1</sup>The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. <sup>2</sup>And he said: “The LORD roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers.”

AMOS was FIRST of Writing Prophets

Ministry STRATTLED the DIVIDED KINGDOM

Amos’ HOMETOWN TEKOA – 20 kms SENT NORTH to Brother Nation

Amos PREACHED during time of JEROBOAM

Many ISRAELITES called it WONDERFUL Time

Borders of NATION were as VAST as Reign of SOLOMON

Time of PROSPERITY – WEALTH Accumulated – LEISURE Possible  
 RELIGIOUS Practice was POPULAR and WIDESPREAD  
 Quite sure BLESSING of GOD was UPON their NATION  
 JEROBOAM truly “Made ISRAEL GREAT AGAIN!”

AMOS came Along with UNWANTED Voice of CONSCIENCE  
 Blessing U R Thanking GOD for came by OPPRESSION of POOR  
 RELIGION Looked GOOD on OUTSIDE > Underneath was SHAM

Israel’s Religious Sites: Bethel, Gilgal, Beersheba – Not Authorized by God  
 CULT SHRINES were an ABOMINATION to GOD  
 GOD’S Official Headquarters STILL in Jerusalem – but YOU LEFT!

Remember COVENANT PROMISE to FATHER ABRAHAM  
 “you are BLESSED to BE a BLESSING”  
 GOD’S STRONG Word thru AMOS like ROAR of a LION  
 Sends CHILLS down your SPINE > Not on TV, cannot TURN OFF  
 MIGHTY LION – GOD OF JUSTICE – COMING – Nowhere to Hide

NAMES Kings: Uzziah king of Judah // Jeroboam the son of Joash  
 HISTORIANS GUESTIMATE about 760 years Before Jesus born Bethlehem  
 MARKED by EARTHQUAKE --- Unknown DATE - NEVER FORGOT  
 LA in 1971... Woke Up BED SHAKING – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Apt SWAYING  
 MEMORY still IMPRINTED on my MIND > MOM Screaming  
 MIGHTY Nation of ISRAEL be Shaking & Screaming all way to ASSYRIA

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him.

Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? “I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.  
Amos 5.18-24

MASSIVE Flood will bring CRASHING BOULDERS

SMASH their RELIGIOUS FORMALISM that is really FAKERY

God’s People FALLEN Asleep in CHURCH > No Marks for Attendance

Amos comes to REMIND them that STALE Testimonies Useless

Religious PROFESSION while Committing OPPRESSION

Will AROUSE God’s AGGRESSION!

### 3. Struggle of the Servant of God

SLICE of Life & Ministry of AMOS – Challenges in MINISTRY – Then & Now

Amos > Speaks POWERFULLY Against Religious Formalism / Social Injustice

Israel’s WORSHIP Center @ BETHEL > REPLICIA of Tabernacle >> BAAL

AMAZIAH the PRIEST was POLITICAL APPOINTMENT

Not sure if BOOK is Chronological – Probably NOT – Weeks, Months, Years??

Whether SHORT Time or LONG Time >> Amos’ Ministry has TOO LONG!

Time for him to PACK BAGS and GO HOME – Not YOUR County Son, Leave!

Amos 7.10 Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. 11 For thus Amos has said, “Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.” 12 And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread



there, and prophesy there, 13but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom." 14Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, "I was no prophet, nor a prophet's son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. 15But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' 16Now therefore hear the word of the LORD. "You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac.' 17Therefore thus says the LORD: "Your wife shall be a prostitute in the city, and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be divided up with a measuring line; you yourself shall die in an unclean land, and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land."

Amos BOLD & COURAGEOUS / PERCEPTIVE & INSIGHTFUL  
SHEPHERD AND LAND OWNER --- Owns ORCHARDS?

LIKELY Wealthy Man – Time and Resources to READ & REFLECT

OR Simple Man who Cared for Sheep and Someone Else's Trees?

Had NO SAFETY Net for Himself or Family > Paid High Price Serve

Either Way LEFT Home in TEKOA about 20 kms from JERUSALEM

Crossed BORDER to COUSIN Nation – from JUDAH to ISRAEL

Obedying God's CALL – Entrusted w/ God's WORD – Speak God's MESSAGE

Amos BEGAN preaching in BETHEL – Just North of BORDER

King Jeroboam AFRAID Israel's DEVOTION would RETURN to Jerusalem

Where GOD'S TEMPLE – Priests, Sacrifices, and Traditions Were

King Jeroboam built ALTAR in Bethel – became Religious Center Israel

Then Built ANOTHER Altar further NORTH in DAN

BOTH had GOLDEN CALVES, Performed SACRIFICES, Formalism

Did EXACTLY what GOD Clear TOLD them NOT to DO

FALSE State RELIGION used to PROP UP this FALSE STATE  
INJUSTICE and OPPRESSION with FORMAL RELIGIOUS Approval

AMAZIAH was PRIEST who worked for STATE, Not GOD

Like the BEAST of STATE RELIGION John sees in REVELATION 13  
INSTEAD of REPENTING at God's Message > Reports God's Messenger

Three TESTS

a. Misrepresentation

vs. 10,11 Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, "Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land."

Did Promise EXILE, NOT Death of Jeroboam --- Died Natural Death at Home –  
WAS Succeeded by SON

People Will MISUNDERSTAND and MAKE ACCUSATIONS about the  
POINTED messages you SPEAK for GOD > SLANDER You and your Ministry  
TWISTED Word of Jesus > Destroy Temple! Caesar! NOT Messiah we WANT!

b. Temptation: Self-Interest, Success, Security

SELF-INTEREST – People think you PREACH for BREAD

v. 12 And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there

Amaziah accuses AMOS of Preaching for the MONEY > Many DO!

Why Not go BACK HOME?? You are Starving Here!

Nobody will PAY for Message that says you are going to be DESTROYED!

How many TV Preachers tell HEARERS you are DOOMED!

Instead, PROMISE you have DESTINY! DREAMS will be FULFILLED!

That's the GOOD NEWS that People will PAY FOR!

c. Confrontation with Authority

v. 13 but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

Not GOD'S Sanctuary...KINGS! Temple Not of KING of KINGS – Jeroboam!

Your MESSAGE Needs OUR Approval OR We will Not HEAR

v. 14,15 Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet's son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’

Not there because he WANTED to be THERE > SENT by God OBEYED

REJECTED --- REVILED --- HATED --- UNWANTED >> STAYED

v. 16,17 Now therefore hear the word of the LORD. “You say, ‘Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac.’ Therefore thus says the LORD: ““Your wife shall be a prostitute in the city, and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be divided up with a measuring line; you yourself shall die in an unclean land, and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land.””

HORRIBLE PROPHECY...WHY?? Grim Judgment

PRIEST of BAAL? DIVIDED KINGDOM? GOLDEN CALVES? No, No, No

God sent MESSENGER of TRUTH and LOVE and they said NO, Go Home!!

That is UNFORGIVABLE SIN > Reject the SAVIOR of WORLD

Why Jesus wept over Jerusalem – Were not Willing – Came to Save, Refused

Could ISRAEL have been SAVED? Yes! – NOT yet Too Late...REPENT!



It was 5 Minutes to MIDNIGHT – ASSYRIAN Destroyers Coming

But before that FINAL MOMENT > AMOS brings Message of Life & Hope

I don't know WHAT time it is for you? Know, Like Amos > Telling you Way

If you REJECT Gospel – like Amaziah, Nation of Israel, -- NO MORE HOPE

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