

Calvary Chapel of Vista Men's Bible Fellowship

AMOS A Prophet of Judgment

INTRODUCTION

Amos was a man of God – a person whose life was devoted to serving the Lord and whose life-style reflected this devotion – but he was a layperson. Herding sheep and tending sycamore-fig trees in the Judean countryside. Amos was not the son of a prophet; he was not the son of a priest. As a humble shepherd, he could have stayed in Tekoa, doing his job, providing for his family, and worshiping his God. But God gave Amos a vision of the future (1:2), and told him to take his message to Israel, the northern kingdom (7:15). Amos obeyed, and thus proved he was a man of God.

Amos' message has had an impact on God's people throughout the centuries, and it needs to be heard today, by individuals and nations. Although they were divided from their southern brothers and sisters in Judah, the northern Israelites were still God's people. But they were living beneath a pious veneer of religion, worshiping idols, and oppressing the poor. Amos, a fiery, fearless, and honest shepherd from the south, confronted them with their sin and warned them of the impending judgment.

The book of Amos opens with this humble shepherd watching his sheep. God then gave him a vision of what was about to happen to the nation of Israel. God condemned all the nations who have sinned against Him and harmed His people. Beginning with Syria, He moved quickly through Philistia, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, and Moab. All were condemned, and we can almost hear the Israelites shouting, "Amen!" And then, even Judah, Amos' homeland was included in God's scathing denunciation (2:4, 5). How Amos' listeners must have enjoyed hearing those words! Suddenly, however, Amos turned to the people of Israel and pronounced God's judgment on them. The next four chapters enumerate and describe their sins. It is no wonder that Amaziah the priest intervened and tried to stop the preaching (7:10-13). Fearlessly, Amos continued to relate the visions of future judgment that God gave to him (chapters 8;9). After all the chapters on judgment, the book concludes with a message of hope. Eventually God will restore his people and make them great again (9:8-15).

Amos speaks with brutal frankness in denouncing sin. He collided with the false religious leaders of his day and was not intimidated by priest or king. He continued to speak his message boldly. God requires truth and goodness, justice and righteousness, from all people and nations today as well. Many of the conditions in Israel during Amos' time are evident in today's societies. We need Amos' courage to ignore danger and stand against sin. As you read Amos' book, put yourself in the place of those Israelites and listen to God's message. Have you grown complacent? Have other concerns taken God's place in your life? Do you ignore those in need or oppress the poor? Picture yourself as Amos, faithfully doing what God calls you to do. You, too, can be God's person. Listen for His clear call and do what He says, wherever it leads.

Purpose of the Book: To pronounce God's judgment upon Israel, the northern kingdom, for their complacency, idolatry, and oppression of the poor.

To Whom Written: Israel, the northern kingdom, and God’s people everywhere.

Date Written: Probably during the reigns of Jeroboam II of Israel and Uzziah (Azariah) of Judah (about 760 – 750 B.C.)

Setting: The wealthy people of Israel were enjoying peace and prosperity. They were quite complacent and were oppressing the poor, even selling them into slavery. Soon, however, Israel would be conquered by Assyria, and the rich would themselves become slaves.

Key Verse: *“But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream”* (5:24)

Key People: Amos, Amaziah, and Jeroboam II.

Key Places: Bethel and Samaria.

Special Features: Amos uses striking metaphors from his shepherding and farming experience – a loaded cart (2:13), a roaring lion (3:8), a mutilated sheep (3:12), pampered cows (4:1), and a basket of fruit (8:1,2).

Major Themes:

- 1) Everyone answers to God. Amos pronounced judgment from God on all the surrounding nations. Then He included Judah and Israel. God is in supreme control of all the nations. Everyone is accountable to Him. APPLICATION; All people will have to account for their sin. When those who reject God seem to get ahead, don’t envy their prosperity or feel sorry for yourself. Remember that we all must answer to God for how we live.
- 2) Complacency. Everyone was optimistic, business was booming, and people were happy (except for the poor and oppressed). With all the comfort and luxury came self-sufficiency and a false sense of security. But prosperity brought corruption and destruction. APPLICATION; A complacent present leads to a disastrous future. Don’t congratulate yourself for the blessings and benefits you now enjoy. They are from God. If you are more satisfied with yourself than with God, remember that everything is meaningless without Him. A self-sufficient attitude may be your downfall.
- 3) Oppressing the Poor. The wealthy and powerful people of Samaria, the capital of Israel, had become prosperous, greedy, and unjust. Illegal and immoral slavery came as the result of over-taxation and land-grabbing. There was also cruelty and indifference towards the poor. God is weary of greed and will not tolerate injustice. APPLICATION; God made all people; therefore, to ignore the poor is to ignore those whom God loves and whom Christ came to save. We must go beyond feeling bad for the poor and oppressed. We must act compassionately to stop injustice and to help care for those in need.
- 4) Superficial Religion. Although many people had abandoned real faith in God, they still pretended to be religious. They were carrying on nominal religious performances instead of having spiritual integrity and practicing heartfelt obedience toward God. APPLICATION; Merely participating in ceremony or ritual falls short of true religion. God wants simple trust in Him, not showy external actions. Don’t settle for impressing others with external rituals when God wants heartfelt obedience and commitment.

Outline:

- 1) Announcement of Judgment. (1:1-2:16)
- 2) Reasons for Judgment. (3:1-6:14)
- 3) Visions of Judgment. (7:1-9:15)

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AMOS – A Prophet of Judgment

LESSON ONE

AMOS CHAPTER ONE

Remember to pray each day as you begin to study, that God would speak to your heart and help you to apply His Word.

Lesson Introduction:

In chapter one, Amos is communicating coming judgment. This lesson will look at how God communicates to us today, including what our attitude should be toward our enemies and in witnessing. In addition, we will look at ways God awakens us to sin. Even though God is communicating to nations here, as you read this chapter be sensitive to the areas in your life that may need attention as God communicates to us as individuals.

DAY ONE

Read Verses 1-2

QUESTIONS:

- 1.** In Verse 1, Amos says, “The words of Amos ... which he saw concerning Israel”. What do you suppose it means, “the words Amos saw”?

- 2.** Do you think God is limited to one form of communication with us today? Discuss this with your group. Read Joel 2:28, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Hebrews 1:2 to help with this question.

- 3.** Men and women who claim to have a vision or a word from God have started many cults. With this in view, what should we do to verify that it is God who is doing the communicating? (Read Acts 17:11 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17 before you answer).

Memory verse: This week's verse is Acts 17:11.

"These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

DAY TWO

1. In Amos 2:1-2, what aspect of God's character is displayed by the fact that He warns before sending judgment?

2. In Amos 2:2, what does the judgment of fire cause to happen?

• What are the results for us when we don't follow God's direction?

3. Amos 2:2 sets the tone for the book of Amos. We will see a lot of destruction of nations and people's discussed over the next few chapters. We understand that because God is righteous, He must bring judgment where it is due. Read the following verses and record what you think the attitude of heart is even in judgment?

God's heart ... Matthew 18:14 and Luke 19:41

Paul's heart ... Romans 10:1

Our Heart ... Mark 12:30-31

Memory verse: This week's verse is Acts 17:11. Fill in the blanks from memory.
"These were more _____ than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and _____ the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

DAY THREE

1. In addition to the last question on day two, what other reason should we not rejoice over the problems of our enemies? (Read Proverbs 24:17 before you answer).

Can you give an example where you have rejoiced over your enemy's trials and it's come back to bite you?

Discuss this with your group.

2. Read the following verses: Amos 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 13; Amos 2:1, 4, 6; Amos 3:11, 12; Amos 5:3, 4 and Amos 7:17

What are the three common phrases in each of these verses?

3. In the first of these common phrases from question two today, who is really speaking?

Memory verse: This week's verse is Acts 17:11. Fill in the blanks from memory.
"These were more _____ than those in _____, in that they received the word with all readiness, and _____ the Scriptures daily _____ whether these things were so."

DAY FOUR

1. In light of question 3 on day three, if the people want to disagree with the message that Amos is giving, who is their argument with?

2. It is not our job to argue people into the Kingdom of God.
Read Colossians 4:5-6 and 1 Peter 3:15 and discuss what our attitude should be?

3. Regarding the common phrase Amos used ... "Thus says the Lord", what lesson can we learn that would help us in our witness to others?

Memory verse: This week's verse is Acts 17:11. Fill in the blanks from memory.

“These were more _____ than those in _____, in that they _____ the word with all _____, and _____ the Scriptures daily _____ whether these things were so.”

DAY FIVE

Read Amos 1:3-15

1. Here in chapter one and throughout the Old Testament we see Gods warnings of Judgment upon various nations using prophets to deliver the message. In Gods righteousness, He always sends warnings before judgment. The United States seems ripe for judgment. In what ways do you think God has, will, or is warning our nation of it's impending doom?

(Read Matthew 24:4-8 before you answer)

2. In what ways would you incorporate Hebrews 1:1-2 into the answer you gave to question one today?

3. Knowing God judge's not just nations, but people also, in what ways might He warn us as individuals regarding areas in our life needing attention?

Personal reflection: Are you seeing any of these in your life at present? If so, reach out to a brother for help to get back on track. (Galatians 6:1-2)

Memory verse: This week's verse is Acts 17:11. Write down the entire verse from

memory.

Prayer & Praise Log

Date: _____

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AMOS – A Prophet of Judgment

LESSON TWO

AMOS CHAPTER TWO

Remember to pray each day as you begin to study, that God would speak to your heart and help you to apply His Word.

Lesson Introduction:

This week's lesson will look at the common ground in witnessing and the meaning of fire as judgment and how it might pertain to our lives. In addition, God's grace expressed through His care and categories of sin that we might even unknowingly be guilty of.

DAY ONE

Reviewing Amos 1:3 through 2:4, notice the types of transgressions mentioned as Amos names each nation and it's transgressions. (1:3, 6, 9, 11, 13; 2:1, 6)

1. In Amos 2:4, what were the transgressions of Judah?

2. In Amos 2:4, What do you think is meant by the phrase "the law of the Lord"?

3. How are Judah's transgressions mentioned in Amos 2:4 different than the other nations transgressions?

Memory verse: This week's verse is Ephesians 2:8-9.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

DAY TWO

1. According to Amos 1:1, what nation was Amos' prophecy directed to?
2. Amos' prophecy begins by speaking out about the sins of the various nations who are Israel's enemies, then turns to the sins of Judah, (their estranged brothers) then speaks directly to Israel itself. Since Amos 1:1 says the prophecy was directed to the Northern Kingdom of Israel, why do you suppose Amos did not begin by speaking directly to Israel?
3. What are some of the things we might do in our witnessing in order to apply the same approach that Amos did?

Memory verse: This week's verse is Ephesians 2:8-9. Fill in the blanks from memory.
"For by _____ you have been saved through _____, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

DAY THREE

Read Amos 2:6-16

1. In Amos 1:3-2:3, there is a 4 point pattern in the prophecy's against all the nations mentioned. The pattern in each case, is

- Their **transgressions** have reached their fullness, (three transgressions...and for four).
- God will hold them **accountable**, (their punishment will not be turned away).
- **Nature of transgressions** are revealed.

What one word in the following verses describes the 4th pattern?
(Read Amos 1:4, 7, 10, 12, 14; 2:2, 5)

2. In the context of the verses mentioned in question 1 today, what does the word "**fire**" mean is going to happen? It's what God must do when sin occurs.

3. Recognizing that fire destroys and purifies, what type of things do you think God uses in our lives that could be considered as fire in order to get us back on the right track?

Memory verse: This week's verse is Ephesians 2:8-9. Fill in the blanks from memory.
"For by _____ you have been saved through _____, and that not of _____; it is the gift of _____, not of _____, lest anyone should boast."

DAY FOUR

1. Review the pattern discussed in day three of this week's lesson. When the prophecy gets to Israel, there is a change in the pattern. In Amos 2:6-8 the pattern starts out the same, then (verses 9-12) while reviewing their transgressions, God inserts a new issue in the pattern before announcing judgment. What is the new issue?

2. Define the word "Grace." (Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and Titus 3:4-7 before you answer)

Memory verse: This week's verse is Ephesians 2:8-9. Fill in the blanks from memory.

“For by _____ you have been _____ through _____, and that not of _____; it is the gift of _____, not of _____, lest anyone should _____.”

DAY FIVE

1. At this time, Israel was at the top of their strength and glory. They were not under the threat of war from any side. They even considered themselves to be in favor with God, yet God gives an extensive list of their transgressions. How would you categorize their transgressions?

Amos 2:6

Amos 2:7

Amos 2:8

Amos 2:12

2. Our nation, like Israel, is considered at the top of its power and in many people’s minds, still considered to be a godly nation. Do any of the sin categories you identified in the above question appear to be present in our nation today? If so, which ones?

Read Amos 2:14-16

3. According to these verses, what did God do to the nation of Israel? If our nation parallels that of Israel, as it was when Amos wrote, what do you suppose God has in store for our nation?

Memory verse: This week's verse is Ephesians 2:8-9. Write down the entire verse from memory.

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AMOS – A Prophet of Judgment

LESSON THREE

AMOS CHAPTER THREE

Remember to pray each day as you begin to study, that God would speak to your heart and help you to apply His Word.

Lesson Introduction:

This week we are going to see what it means to be part of God's family, including child-rearing principals. We will touch on God's mercy and the purpose of God's warnings. We will see how gross sin looks when committed by God's people, (including us), and we will touch on the issue of fairness.

DAY ONE

Read Amos 3:1-15

When God spoke in chapter one about Israel's enemies, He mentioned one or two of their transgressions and then pronounced judgment without listing all of their evil deeds. Yet in chapter two, when God turns his attention to Israel, He puts forth a list of transgressions, amplifies them, then throughout most of the rest of the book of Amos, continues to add to them including listing various judgments.

Now read Amos 3:1-2

1. According to these verses, why do you think God (who loves His people) was going to punish Israel for all their iniquities but was not going to punish Israel's enemies for all of theirs? (Read Deuteronomy 7:6, 14:2 as you think this through)

2. Considering your answer to question one above, As Christians, what can we learn from Amos 3:2 that would help us in raising our children? (Read Hebrews 12:5-11 before you answer).

Memory verse: This week's verse is Jeremiah 17:9.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; who can know it?"

DAY TWO

Read Amos 3:3-8

1. In these verses, there is a series of rhetorical questions asked and then in Amos 3:7, a statement is made. Record here a summary of Amos 3:3-8 regarding what you think God is trying to get across to the nation of Israel?

2. In Amos 3:7, we see that God is not just wiping them out with instant judgment, but warning them first. What character quality of God's would you say this is?

3. How would you define the word "Mercy"?

- Give an example where someone has extended mercy to you.

Memory verse: This week's verse is Jeremiah 17:9. Fill in the blanks from memory.
"The _____ is deceitful above all things, And desperately _____; who can know it?"

DAY THREE

Read Amos 3:7 again.

1. Here we see, that God warns before judgment. Aside from the fact that God is merciful, what are some other reasons why God “reveals His secrets to His servants the prophets”? Keep in mind, that aside from judgment, God also tells us good things that He is going to do. (Read the entire chapter of Deuteronomy 28 before you answer.)

2. In light of what you read in Deuteronomy 28, (especially regarding all the good things God promised) why in the world do you think the people of Israel did not respond positively to the many warnings that God had given them over a long period of time?

3. If we were to find ourselves in the same situation as that of Israel, what 3 things might we do to get back on track? (Read 2 Chronicles 7:14)

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Memory verse: This week’s verse is Jeremiah 17:9. Fill in the blanks from memory.
“The _____ is _____ above all things, And desperately _____; who can _____ it?”

DAY FOUR

Read Amos 3:9-10

1. For what reason do you think God invites two Gentile nations to come together on the mountains of Samaria? (Matthew 18:16 may shed some light on this)

2. Record the sins mentioned in Amos 3:9-10 and Amos 2:6-8.

3. Aside from just being witnesses, why do you suppose God wanted Israel to know Gentile nations were going to look at their sins? (To help with your answer, look at the principal regarding the Gentiles that Paul the apostle brought out in 1 Corinthians 5:1).

Memory verse: This week's verse is Jeremiah 17:9. Fill in the blanks from memory.
"The _____ is _____ above all _____, And _____; who can _____ it?"

DAY FIVE

Read Amos 3:11-15

1. Based on what Amos 3:12 says, what kind of salvation from the coming judgment do you think Israel could expect?

2. It's been said that the punishment should fit the crime. In what ways do you think the punishment (Amos 3:11, 15) fit their crimes (Amos 3:10)?

Memory verse: This week's verse is Jeremiah 17:9. Write down the entire verse from memory.

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AMOS – A Prophet of Judgment

LESSON FOUR

AMOS CHAPTER FOUR

Remember to pray each day as you begin to study, that God would speak to your heart and help you to apply His Word.

Lesson Introduction:

This week's lesson will be dealing with the effects our lifestyles can have on others and how the need for more can effect the order in marriage. We will also take a look at what it means to worship.

DAY ONE

Read Amos 4:1-13

1. The area of Bashan was noted for it's fertile pastures. The cattle of that area were well feed, good looking and fat. In light of the fact the nation of Israel was in great prosperity and Amos compares the women of that time to fat sleek cattle, what do you think this says about the lifestyle of these women?

2. One of the issues here in Amos 4:1 is, "a lust for more". What did their lust cause them to be guilty of?

3. The word oppression is used in Amos 4:1 in connection with these women. Define the word oppression?

· Definition:

Memory verse: This week's verse is Romans 14:12-13.

"For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us shall give account of himself to God."

DAY TWO

Read Amos 4:1 again.

1. In lesson one, we see the women's lust for more ended up bringing destruction to the poor and needy. From this we can see that the effects of lust in its various forms are not limited to our own harm. Most people attribute lust to Satan. But according to James 1:14, where does lust come from?

2. How would you define the word "lust"?

3. Below are four categories of legitimate needs and desires. What words would you use to describe each category below if it were taken out of bounds?

- Eating
- Sexual fulfillment
- Money
- Possessions

Memory verse: This week's verse is Romans 14:12-13. Fill in the blanks from memory.
"For it is written: "As I live, says the _____, every knee shall _____ to Me, and every _____ shall confess to God." So then each of us shall give account of himself to God."

DAY THREE

Read Amos 4:1 again

1. In the latter part of Amos 4:1, the following phrase is stated. “Which say to their husbands, bring let us drink”. What role does this suggest the husbands were playing with regard to the following:

- Oppression of the poor and needy?

- Their wives materialistic life style?

2. Who do you think was really running these households?

3. If you had a wife, how would you lovingly handle this situation in your household? Take a look at 1 Peter 3:7 before you answer.

Memory verse: This week’s verse is Romans 14:12-13. Fill in the blanks from memory.
“For it is written: “As I _____, says the _____, every _____ shall _____ to Me, And every _____ shall confess to God.” So then each of us shall give _____ of himself to God.”

DAY FOUR

Read Amos 4:2-3

1. In light of Amos saying they will be taken away with fish hooks, think about a fish and what happens to it when it is removed from it's environment and contrast here what changes you think are going to take place in these women's lives?

Read Amos 4:4-5

2. Bethel was established as a place of worship. In your own words, what does the word "worship" mean to you?

3. In this passage, the phrase is used, "come to Bethel and transgress". In light of what worship means, and the life style they were living, what do you think this says about their worship?

Memory verse: This week's verse is Romans 14:12-13. Fill in the blanks from memory.
"For it is _____: "As I _____, says the _____, every _____ shall _____ to _____, And every _____ shall _____ to God." So then each of us shall give _____ of himself to God."

DAY FIVE

Read Amos 4:6-11

1. In each of these verses there is a common phrase repeated. What is the common phrase?

2. There are various calamities mentioned in these Amos 4:6-11. In light of the common phrase you identified in question one today, what reason other than their sin, do you think God brought these calamities upon them?

Read Amos 4:12-13

3. What do you think God is saying here?

Memory verse: This week's verse is Romans 14:12-13. Write down the entire verse from memory.

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LESSON FIVE

AMOS CHAPTER FIVE

Remember to pray each day as you begin to study, that God would speak to your heart and help you to apply His Word.

Lesson Introduction:

We will look in this lesson at God's feelings, as He, a righteous God, must deal with His sinning people. We will touch on God's promises and His faithfulness to them and what they mean for us today. We will look at Israel's sin, the resulting penalty and what God does before bringing judgment. We will also contrast the difference between religion and Christianity.

DAY ONE

Begin by reading Amos chapter five in its entirety. Read Amos 5:1-2

1. In Amos 5:1, God says "hear this word against Israel" ... then says, "a lamentation". Define the word lamentation.

2. In light of the definition of lamentation, what word would you use to express what you think God is feeling over Israel?

Memory verse: This week's verse is 1 John 1:9.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

DAY TWO

Read Amos 5:2

1. Here God compares Israel to a virgin who has fallen. What is it about Israel that would cause God to use this metaphor?

Read Amos 5:2-3

2. Notice the promise God gives regarding Israel in Genesis 13:15 and 17:19. Yet In Amos 5:2, God makes the statement “she will rise no more”. Has God forsaken his promise (lied) to Israel? Look for a clue in Amos 5:3 and Romans 9:27. Also notice what Numbers 23:19, Titus 1:1-2, and Hebrews 6:18 say about God’s character.

Memory verse: This week’s verse is 1 John 1:9. Fill in the blanks from memory.
“If we confess our _____, He is faithful and just to _____ us our sins and to _____ us from all unrighteousness.”

DAY THREE

1. In day two, question two, we looked at God's promise to Israel. We see that God's promises do not fail. According to 2 Peter 1:4, what is the purpose of God's promises in the life of the believer?

2. According to Amos 5:7, 10-11, 12, what issues was God accusing Israel of?

3. God gives warnings of judgment in this chapter. What are they?

Memory verse: This week's verse is 1 John 1:9. Fill in the blanks from memory.
"If we _____ our _____, He is _____ and just to _____ us
our sins and to _____ us from all _____."

DAY FOUR

1. In day three, you recorded the things Israel was guilty of and the judgments that would result. In light of the fact that God desires restoration and not condemnation, what does God do in Amos 5:4, 6, 14-15?

2. The words of Amos in this chapter could just as easily apply to us today. In light of your answer to question one, what things could we be doing today to demonstrate that we hate evil and love good? As you think this through, list a few scriptures to support your answers.

3. How do you think the unbelieving world would respond to you, if you were to do the things you listed in question two, today? (Support your answer with scripture references)

Memory verse: This week's verse is 1 John 1:9. Fill in the blanks from memory.

*"If we _____ our _____, He is _____ and _____ to _____
us our _____ and to _____ us from all _____."*

DAY FIVE

1. In Amos 5:21-23 the people were doing religious activity to the Lord. What specific religious activities are mentioned in these three verses? What would be the equivalent for us today?

Read Amos 5:24

2. In Amos 5:21-23, God uses specific words to describe His feelings about their religious activity. Below are some of the words. Define and discuss each one.

- (V21) Hate
- (V21) Despise
- (V21) Savor (I do not)
- (V22) Accept (will not)
- (V23) Hear (will not)

3. Regarding your answer to question one today, is there a difference between religion, and Christianity and if so, what is the difference?

Memory verse: This week’s verse is 1 John 1:9. Write down the entire verse from memory.

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LESSON SIX

AMOS CHAPTER SIX

Remember to pray each day as you begin to study, that God would speak to your heart and help you to apply His Word.

Lesson Introduction:

In this lesson we will look at wealth and security and the cares and busyness of this life and its effect on godliness. We will see how security creates complacency and what God does when His people drift into that condition and have no desire to change it.

DAY ONE

Read Amos 6:1-14 in its entirety, then study Amos 6:1-3

1. Amos begins by saying, "Woe to you who are at ease in Zion".
Define the word: "Ease."

2. In light of the definition of the word "ease", and the other things written in Amos 6:2-7, what do you think Amos is saying about these people?

Memory verse: This week's verse is 1 Timothy 6:10.

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

DAY TWO

1. Israel had been receiving the Lord's blessings for many years and now had become lax, trusting in themselves and not the God who had brought them to this position of military and economic strength. What is it about wealth and security that causes a shift of our focus away from God? (Read Mark 10:20-25 and Matthew 13:22, before you answer).

2. In what ways might we be attached to:

- Money:
- Material things:
- Status:

3. The assets and status we have which cause our focus to shift don't necessarily have to be large amounts. Many worldly things at all levels of society can cause our focus to shift. What can we do to change our focus from trusting and being full of the cares of this life? (Read Proverbs 3:5-6, Isaiah 26:3, Matthew 6:33, Luke 12:34 and Philippians 4:6-7 before you answer).

Memory verse: This week's verse is 1 Timothy 6:10. Fill in the blanks from memory.
"For the _____ of _____ is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have _____ from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

DAY THREE

1. We see from Amos 6:1-7 that it's easy to slip into trusting ourselves instead of trusting God. What does the Bible say about trusting ourselves? (Read Psalm 127:1, John 3:27 and John 15:5)

2. What does God want us to trust in?
(Read Matthew 6:20-21, Luke 12:33-34 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19)

Memory verse: This week's verse is 1 Timothy 6:10. Fill in the blanks from memory.
"For the _____ of _____ is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have _____ from the faith in their _____, and pierced themselves through with many _____."

DAY FOUR

Read Amos 6:7 again.

1. This verse starts with the word “therefore” which refers the reader back to something stated previously.

- What condition is God referring back to?

- What is God going to do regarding their condition?

Read Amos 6:6.

2. Israel was not grieving over the conditions their nation had fallen into. When we become complacent and secure, it blinds us to the conditions in the world around us. We reach a point where we fail to have feelings about things that should be grieving us. Discuss the things in the following three areas that we should be grieving over with your group.

- The condition of the church at large.

- The condition of our nation.

- Areas of our personal lives.

Memory verse: This week’s verse is 1 Tim 6:10. Fill in the blanks from memory.

“For the _____ of _____ is a _____ of all kinds of _____, for which some have _____ from the _____ in their _____, and pierced themselves through with many _____.”

DAY FIVE

Read Amos 6:6 again.

1. In light of the fact that Israel was not grieved over the condition of their nation, (in fact, they seemed to be proud of it) what does Amos 6:14 say is going to happen to them?

2. In light of your answer to question two on day four, what do you think God is going to do to America due to the prevailing conditions here?

Reflection:

Think about all the aspects of your lifestyle. Are there areas of complacency, indulgence, and security in the wrong things? Pray with your group that God will enlighten you to any area of your life that needs examination.

Memory verse: This week's verse is 1 Timothy 6:10. Write down the entire verse from memory.

Prayer & Praise Log

Date: _____

This study is adapted from CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA Men's Tuesday Night Bible Study - Summer 2000

Calvary Chapel of Vista Men's Bible Fellowship

AMOS – A Prophet of Judgment

LESSON SEVEN

AMOS CHAPTER SEVEN

Remember to pray each day as you begin to study, that God would speak to your heart and help you to apply His Word.

Lesson Introduction:

In this week's lesson we are going to look at intercession and its benefits, and the benefits of having our faith tested. We will also look at the effects that seeing instead of hearing about something has on us. We will discuss things that cause us to compromise when our faith is tested. We will touch on what we should be doing while waiting on God's call in our lives.

DAY ONE

Read Amos 7:1-17

1. What did the Lord show Amos in the following verses?
(Before you answer, read Deuteronomy 28:38, Psalm 78:46 and Joel 1:4).

Amos 7:1-2

Amos 7:4

2. In light of what the Lord showed Amos in question one, how did Amos (7:2, 5), respond to the coming devastation that the Lord showed him? (Before you answer also read Jeremiah 27:18 and Numbers 14:19).

Amos 7:2

Amos 7:5

3. What does Amos' response tell us about Amos' heart?

Memory verse: This week's verse is 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18.

“Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

DAY TWO

Read Amos 7:3, 6.

1. In Amos 7:2, 5, Amos pleaded with the Lord. What was the Lord's response to Amos' plea?

2. Define the word “relented”

3. Continuing our thinking from day one regarding intercessory prayer, can you think of three or more benefits of interceding on behalf of someone who is sick, emotionally down, bound up in sin, or caught up in the cares of this life?

1)

2)

3)

Memory verse: This week's verse is Thessalonians 5:17-18. Fill in the blanks from memory.

“_____ without ceasing. In everything give _____; for this is the _____ of God in Christ Jesus concerning _____.”

DAY THREE

1. In Amos 7:7-8, what did the Lord show Amos?

2. Define “plumb line”.

3. In Amos 7:8 the Lord now tells Amos he is going to use the plumb line test in the midst of His people Israel. In light of your definition (verse 7) of a “plumb line,” and looking at the condition of the nation of Israel, why do you think the plumb line test might be appropriate for Israel?

4. When we are tested, what should be the result?
(Read James 1:2-4 before you answer).

Memory verse: This week's verse is Thessalonians 5:17-18. Fill in the blanks from memory.

“_____ without _____. In _____ give _____;
for this is the _____ of God in Christ Jesus concerning _____.”

DAY FOUR

1. In Amos 7:9, What did the Lord tell Amos?

Read Amos 7:2, 5, 8, 9

2. After seeing the destruction (verses 1, 2, 4), Amos pleaded with the Lord (verses 2, 5) to spare Israel. Why then do you think Amos said nothing in response to the destruction the Lord told him about in Amos 7:9?

Read Amos 7:10-17

3. The focus of this chapter now switches to a dialog between Amaziah (the Priest of the house of worship in Israel), and Jeroboam the king of Israel (verses 10-11), then to Amaziah's conversation with Amos (verses 12-13) and then Amos answers back to Amaziah (verses 14-17). Describe what you think is being said in each of these three sections and what the implications are for those who are the subjects of the conversations?

1) Amos 7:10-11

2) Amos 7:12-13

3) Amos 7:14-17

Memory verse: This week's verse is Thessalonians 5:17-18. Fill in the blanks from memory.

“_____ without _____. In _____ give _____; for this is the _____ of _____ in _____ concerning _____.”

DAY FIVE

Read Amos 7:10-13 again.

1. What were the specific charges leveled against Amos?

2. It would appear that in light of what is being described in Amos 7:10-13, that Amos (a man of God in someone else's land), is himself being put to the plumb line test. If you were in Amos' position, how do you think you would respond and what compromises might you be tempted to make?

Read Amos 7:17

3. Now that we have discussed how we would respond to the circumstances that Amos encountered, based on Amos 7:17, how did Amos respond?

4. Amos, in 7:14-15 gives an answer to the charges Amaziah leveled at him. Notice what Amos says here. He does not defend himself, rather, gives a brief testimony of how he came to be in their land. What is he affirming here about his message?

Read Amos 7:15

5. What should we be doing while we are waiting for God's call on our lives? (Read 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 before you answer).

Memory verse: This week's verse is 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18. Write down the entire verse from memory.

Prayer & Praise Log

Date: _____

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AMOS – A Prophet of Judgment

LESSON EIGHT

AMOS CHAPTER EIGHT

Remember to pray each day as you begin to study, that God would speak to your heart and help you to apply His Word.

Lesson Introduction:

In this weeks lesson we are going to look at God's intended purpose for Israel and how that applies to us. We will look at what Israel was doing to the poor and needy, God's thoughts on His relationship with the poor and our dealings with them today. We will touch on how the need for more, lead to deceitful business practices and the Christian's perspective on the need for more. We will see again, the results of not following God's word and the effects of having, and not having God's word.

DAY ONE

Read Amos 8:1-14

1. In chapter 7, the Lord gave Amos three visions. Locust and Fire, (representing destruction for Israel) and a Plumb line (representing Israel being measured for judgment) Now, here in Amos 8:1, the Lord continues with a fourth vision. A basket of summer fruit. Fruit in a basket, is ripe, that is, **“ready for it's intended purpose,”** eating. In each of the following verses, what was Israel's intended purpose when God ordained them as His people?

- A. Exodus 19:5-6 & Psalm 135:4
- B. Deuteronomy 14:2
- C. Deuteronomy 26:18-19

Read Amos 8:1-2

2. We now see what God intended Israel to be. We know from the first 7 chapters of Amos, and our reading of chapter 8, that Israel was not bearing the fruit of their intended purpose. We know the basket of summer fruit is ripe fruit. Therefore, by showing Amos this basket of ripe summer fruit, what was God actually revealing that Israel was ripe for? (Read Matthew 13:6-7 before you answer).

3. Are we part of God's special treasure?
(Read Titus 2:14 and 1 Peter 2:9 before you answer).

Memory verse: This week's verse is 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”.

DAY TWO

Read Amos 8:4

1. Proverbs 30:14 says, “there is a generation whose teeth are as swords and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men”. Solomon wrote this about 150 years before Amos’ call to speak to Israel about such issues. Using Amos 2:6-7; 4:1; 5:11-12; 8:4, 6, list below, the things Israel was doing about the poor and needy, and their treatment.

2. Do you think the generation Amos spoke to matches the words in Proverbs 30:14?

Why?

3. God loves the poor and has much to say about them. From each of the following verses, what do you see about God’s relationship to the poor and needy, what He does for them and what He wants us to do for them?

- Psalms 72:4

- Proverbs 31:9

- Isaiah 41:17

- Matthew 19:21

- Matthew 25:34-40

- Luke 4:18

- Luke 14:13

- James 2:5

4. Knowing that there are charlatan’s (pretending to be what they are not) out there, how can you know when it’s appropriate to give something to someone standing on the corner with a sign asking for money or someone coming up to you on the street looking for a hand out?

Memory verse: This week's verse is 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Fill in the blanks from memory.
“All _____ is given by inspiration of _____, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in _____, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every _____ work.”

DAY THREE

Read Amos 8:4-6

In Numbers 28:11-15 and Exodus 20:8-11, we see a description of two religious days that were to be set aside for worship, sacrifice and rest. The “New Moon” was celebrated once every month and the Sabbath once every week. There was to be no business of any kind transacted on these days.

1. In light of what Amos indicates they are saying in Amos 8:5, what would you say was the main focus of those Amos is speaking about? What resemblance's, if any, do you see with Easter and Christmas in our society today?

Read Amos 8:5-6

2. Based on what Amos is saying here, what business practices were they using in order to pursue their preoccupation for more?

3. What do the following verses say about those who are caught up in the pursuit of more?

- Proverbs 1:19

- Proverbs 15:27

- Proverbs 28:8

- Matthew 16:25-27

4. As Christians, what do the following verses say we should be pursuing more of?

- Proverbs 3:14

- 1 Timothy 6:6

Memory verse: This week's verse is 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Fill in the blanks from memory.
“All _____ is given by _____ of _____, and is profitable for
_____, for _____, for _____, for _____ in
_____, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for
every _____ work”.

DAY FOUR

Read Amos 8:3 and 8:8-14

1. In chapter 8, The Lord started out by talking about a basket of summer fruit. The summer fruit was the last crop of the agriculture season. It would be needed to sustain them through the long hot dry season ahead. Usually this was a time of celebration as the Lord would bless their crop and a plentiful supply was gathered. But here, the Lord used this analogy “summer fruit” to indicate that He was at the end of His patience with Israel. Looking at these verses, describe what kind of harvest the Lord had in store for Israel?

- Amos 8:3

- Amos 8:8-14

Reflection: Are you serious about your walk with God, or has it become just a ritual you go through? Explain.

Read Amos 8:14

2. This verse mentions “Samaria” where foreign settlers brought into the worship of God, a goddess “Ashimah”. Also mentioned is “Dan and Beersheba” where calf worship had become prevalent. This not only violated the commands of God, but because it came in gradually, it was perceived as not being harmful to their faith. In our society today, there are things that gradually creep into the church that are just perceived as part of the changing times with no threat to our walk with God. Based on this verse, (they shall fall and never rise again) we see God is serious about His commands and statutes. What are some of the things going on within the church today, which are perceived by many as not being harmful to our faith?

Memory verse: This week's verse is 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Fill in the blanks from memory.
“All _____ is given by _____ of _____, and is profitable for

_____, for _____, for _____, for _____ in
_____, that the _____ of God may be _____, thoroughly
_____ for every _____ work.”

DAY FIVE

Read Amos 8:11-13

1. What kind of famine did Amos say was going to come upon them?

Read Amos 8:12-13

2. What would the effects of the famine in Amos 8:11 be?

3. We need God's word. What do the following scriptures say about the importance of God's word in our lives?

- Psalm 1:1-3

- Psalm 119:105

- Psalm 119:11

- Joshua 1:8

- 1 Kings 2:2-3

- Matthew 4:4

- Matthew 13:23

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Memory verse: This week's verse is 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Write down the entire verse from memory.

Calvary Chapel of Vista Men's Bible Fellowship

AMOS – A Prophet of Judgment

LESSON NINE

AMOS CHAPTER NINE

Remember to pray each day as you begin to study, that God would speak to your heart and help you to apply His Word.

Lesson Introduction:

In this lesson we will look at hiding from God and why we do it? We will discuss the benefits of meditating on who God is and touch on what God has called us out of and into. We will look at “hope” and how ours differs from the world's.

DAY ONE

Read Amos 9:1-15

1. In Amos 9:1, Amos sees a vision of the Lord standing at the altar in the house of God. What does the Lord say is going to happen to the house of God, and to the people who worship there?

Read Amos 9:2-4

2. There are five responses of those who appear to escape the calamity described in Amos 9:1. What are they?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

3. What are the Lord's five responses to those who attempt to hide from Him?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

Memory verse: This week's verse is 1 Timothy 1:1.

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope.”

DAY TWO

1. Read Psalm 139:7-12, Numbers 32:23, Ecclesiastes 12:14, and Luke 12:2. What does the scripture say regarding hiding from God?

2. We all have hidden things in our lives that others don't see. What is it that makes us “think” we can hide them from God?

3. Who in the Old Testament can you think of that tried to hide from God?

4. What was the result?

Memory verse: This week's verse is 1 Timothy 1:1. Fill in the blanks from memory.
*“Paul, an apostle of _____, by the commandment of God
our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our _____.”*

DAY THREE

Read Amos 9:5-7

1. In the first few verses of this chapter the Lord describes what He is going to do and how He is going to deal with those who try to hide from His judgment. Here in Amos 9:5-7, the Lord says some things about what He has done, and what He can do. What are they?

2. Why do you think the Lord pauses here (Amos 9:5-7) in the midst of pronouncing judgment, to remind them of who He is?

3. What are the benefits of meditating on who God is?
(Read Joshua 1:8-9, Psalm 1:1-6, 63:6-7, 77:12, and 119:15 before you answer).

Memory verse: This week's verse is 1 Timothy 1:1. Fill in the blanks from memory.

*“Paul, an _____ of _____, by the commandment of
_____ our _____ and the Lord _____, our
_____.”*

DAY FOUR

Read Amos 9:7

1. God called Israel out of Egypt. What has God called us out of and into?
(Read Romans 12:12-14, Ephesians 4:24-32, 6:11, & Colossians 3:1-17 before you answer).

Read Amos 9:8-10

2. Why do you think God said he would destroy Israel from the face of the earth, yet not totally destroy the house of Jacob? (Read Genesis 28:10-15, Romans 9:6-7, 27, and Romans 11:1-5, 26 before you answer).

Memory verse: This week's verse is 1 Timothy 1:1. Fill in the blanks from memory.

“_____, an _____ of _____, by the
_____ of _____ our _____ and the _____
_____, our _____.”

DAY FIVE

Read Amos 9:11-15

1. In Amos 7:1-6, we saw God pronouncing total destruction upon Israel. Yet when Amos interceded for them, God's reply was I will not do it. Then God went on to pronounce other judgments upon Israel. What we saw there (Amos 7:1-6) was a slight ray of hope for Israel. Define the word “hope”.

2. Our world is good at putting incorrect names on things. They would see positive thinking or wishful thinking as “hope”. In what way do you think the world's kind of hope differs from the kind of hope we talk about?

3. Here in Amos 9:11-15, we see God moving on behalf of the people. The ray of hope we saw in Amos 7:1-6 is enlarged here. In these verses there are four words used to describe what God is going to do that should give them a lot of hope.

Define these terms. (Take a look at)

- Repair:

- Raise up:

- Rebuild:

- Possess:

4. What is our hope in? (Read 1 Thessalonians 1:3, 1 Timothy 1:1, and Titus 1:2, 2:13, 3:7 before you answer).

- What makes our hope credible?

Memory verse: This week's verse is 1 Timothy 1:1. Write down the entire verse from memory.

Prayer & Praise Log

Date: _____

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