

Paging Through the Scriptures

The Prophet Amos

Amos 1-9

1. The Prophet

The personal details of Amos are found only in his writings, and only in a few places. He is from the region of Tekoa (Amos 1:1) which is in Judah approximately ten miles south of Jerusalem. He is said to be from among the shepherders there (Amos 1:1) which may indicate that he was a breeder of livestock rather than a common shepherd (cf. 2 Kings 3:4). If so, Amos's departure from this business to travel and preach in a foreign country is similar to the situation of Elisha prior to his calling to ministry (cf. 1 Ki. 19:19-21).

2. The World of His Day

His ministry was during the reign of Uzziah in Judah and the days of Jeroboam in Israel. This would have put his ministry around the same time that Jonah was sent to Nineveh and probably preceding the ministry of Hosea to Israel (Hos. 1:1) and Isaiah to Judah (Isa. 1:1). This was a time of relative peace and prosperity for both Judah and Israel.

3. The Main Themes of His Book

A. The Sovereign Power of God (Amos 1-2; 4:13; 5:8-9; 9:5-6)

B. The Immanent Judgment of Israel

I. The Wickedly Greedy (Amos 2:6)

II. The Unrepentant Rich (Amos 6:4-6 ; also Amos 3:10, 15)

III. The Oppressive Women (Amos 4:1)

IV. The False Religious Leaders (Amos 4:4-5; 5:4-7, 21-23)

V. The Wicked Merchants (Amos 8:4-6)

VI. The Unjust Judges (Amos 2:6-7; 5:7, 10, 12; 6:12)

C. The Day of the Lord (Amos 5:18-20)

D. The Restoration of Israel (Amos 9:11-15)