

4. Amos - The Party is Over

Read 6:4-7 Your kids throw a big party while you are away. You come home early and what happens? Now that the party is over, who is going to clean up?

Setting: "Jeroboam II ruled over Israel. Under Uzziah, or as he is called Azariah (2 Kings 14:21; 15 (chapter)), Israel-Judah had regained the power and splendor which it had enjoyed in the days of Solomon, 1016-977, after having been at the mercy of the enemies for about 150 years, 977-825. ... Now came for the two kingdoms an almost unprecedented era of prosperity. ... With increasing wealth more conveniences and luxuries were demanded. No longer a house built of unhewn stone seemed satisfactory; the latest style was to build homes of cedar wood and hewn stone squared and laid up in a manner more pleasing to the eye than the homes built from rough quarry stones. The homes became palaces. Amos constantly speaks of armonim, high building rivaling in size and beauty and grandeur of construction the palaces of the kings. ... Side by side with this immense wealth and pomp was poverty, need, want, pauperism, poverty so great that the people were sold into slavery because they could not pay a ransom sufficiently large to buy a pair of sandals (Amos 8:6), being absolutely penniless." (Laetsch, "The Minor Prophets," 12)

See Bible Project Video for outline

Amos is a shepherd and a fig tree farmer (7:14-16)

1-2 The Burdens of the Nations and Israel (Eight Total)

The Lord roars from Zion - (see 3:8)

"For three transgressions and for four" - Three is enough, four is overwhelming

Why do you think the Lord begins with the nations and ends with Israel? How would "God's people" feel about being included in this list?

3-6 Judgments of Israel

Hear the word of the Lord (3:1... 4:1.... 5:1)

3:1-2 I chose you, Therefore I will punish you... Does this logic make sense to you?

5:10-13 These words keep coming up: poor, oppressed, righteous, needy - why are these words/topics so important to the prophet when he is describing the spiritual state of Israel? Should these be of concern to us also today?

5:14-15 What is the response that Amos is calling for?

6:1 Reflect: What does the word "apathy" mean? How does a state of apathy impact the religious life of God's people? If a person has apathy toward God, what would you expect their life to begin looking like? What does this state of affairs look like to those outside the church when the church has apathy?

What would be the opposite of apathy?

5:24 Righteousness =
Justice =

7-9 Visions

Vision 1 = _____ Then ____ said: _____, and _____
Vision 2 = _____ Then ____ said: _____, and _____
Vision 3 = _____ Then ____ said: _____, and _____
Vision 4 = _____ Then ____ said: _____, and _____

In the fourth vision of the fruit basket, the LORD declares a famine of the Word (8:11) - What do you think this looks like and when in history might you say that this happened? Would you say that it is happening now in any way?

Final Vision: The Lord beside the altar...
9:8 I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob

9:11-13 In all this destruction, what is the goal?

Amos begins with the burdens of the six nations and then Judah and Israel...

Amos ends with all the nations belonging to Israel...

See NT cross reference - How is this hope of Amos realized?