
BOOK OVERVIEW

Amos

Author: Amos (means “burden”)

Date: 810-785 B.C., during the reign of Uzziah (Southern Kingdom) and Jeroboam (Northern Kingdom)

Recipients: Israel, the Northern Kingdom

Key words: transgression (12 times), transgress (1 time), “I will not turn away the punishment thereof” (8 times)

Summary: The coming judgement of God on sin, both of Jews and Gentiles.

Key verses: Amos 4:11-12

Notes:

Amos was a contemporary Hosea and possibly Joel and Jonah.

Although the people of Israel were enjoying material prosperity, they had fallen away from their commitment to God. Amos specifically identifies their sins as idolatry, luxury, revelry, debauchery, oppression, extortion, bribery, and injustice.

Amos 6:4 speaks of “beds of ivory.” Ivory was not native to Palestine, but was cherished by wealthy Jews. It has been found at many archaeological sites.

Chapters 1-2 present God’s inevitable judgement on six Gentile nations and ends with His judgement on Judah and Israel.

The book ends with the promise of future blessing for Israel. (Amos 9:11-15)

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