

**“VOICES – THE MINOR PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT”**  
**AMOS: GOD’S ELECTION BRINGS RESPONSIBILITY**      **SEPTEMBER 9, 2018**

**Biblically, prophets were MESSENGERS of God**

*“The Bible asserts that God prepared his prophets for a very specific ministry. They brought the divine word to people who desperately needed to hear it.”* Bill T. Arnold

**The Essence of Their Message**

- A call to **REPENTANCE** = change, turn around, move away from sin
- A promise of **SALVATION** = restored relationship with God, made right with God, for those who would turn back to him

*“This message was given to Amos, a shepherd from the town of Tekoa in Judah... when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam II, the son of Jehoash, was king of Israel. This is what he saw and heard: ‘The LORD’S voice will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem! The lush pastures of the shepherds will dry up; the grass on Mount Carmel will wither and die.’”* Amos 1:1-2

**The Essence of His Message**

1. He called Israel to **REPENT** of their sin
  2. To establish **JUSTICE** as the law of the land
  3. Israel is **NO BETTER** than the other nations
  4. God would now **JUDGE** Israel
- God desired his people to **LOVE** Him and to **REFLECT** that love to their fellow citizens

**The Time of His Message: 767 B.C. and 753 B.C. [1:1-2:16]**

**ECONOMIC** Prosperity & **POLITICAL** Stability



Israel’s **SPIRITUAL** Decay



**SOCIAL** Injustice

The rich **EXPLOITED** the poor

The powerful **DOMINATED** the weak

Morality meant **LITTLE** or **NOTHING**

**Amos Reminded Israel [3:1-6:14]**

- That God’s **ELECTION** brought responsibility
- They were His **CHOSEN** people
- Brought out of **CAPTIVITY**
- **BLESSED** more than other nations
- **ACCOUNTABLE** for her sins

**Amos’s Methodology [3:1-6:14]**

1. **RHETORICAL** questions – obvious yes-or-no answers
2. **COMPARING** Israel’s actions to those of other nations
3. **TARGETING** the rich, pampered women of Samaria
4. **SARCASTICALLY** challenging the Israelites to persist in their sacrifices
5. **SINGING** Israel’s funeral song
6. **PROPHETIC** visions

**Amos Called the People to Embrace TRUE VALUES [5:4-17]**

In seeking the Lord, there was life  
The people preferred their own ways  
They sought spiritual guidance from false gods  
They rejected authority & mistreated the poor  
God hated their religious rituals  
They had become complacent and arrogant

**What God really wanted was JUSTICE and RIGHTEOUSNESS  
in the land**

**Amos’s Five Visions [7:1-9:10]**

1. Locust plague = God **RELENTED**
2. Great fire = God **RELENTED**
3. Plumb line = God found Israel **CROOKED**
4. Summer fruit = Israel was ripe for **JUDGMENT**
5. Total destruction = No **ESCAPE** from the sovereign Lord

**Amos’s Message of Hope [9:11-15]**

- A promise of **RESTORATION**
- Fulfilled in **JESUS** and the establishment of His **CHURCH**