

Amos

The book of Amos is a collection, largely of prophecies, delivered by the prophet Amos to the Northern Kingdom of Israel and its king in the 8th century bc. In addition to the prophecies there are a few fragments of Psalms and a description of a particular encounter between Amos, Amaziah the priest and Jeroboam the king. While most of Amos' prophecies are word based, there are also a few striking visions as well. In his prophecies Amos' great concern is the way in which the rich were oppressing the poor while worshipping God and believing that their sacrifices were all God wanted.



How long will it take?

R : 25 mins
S : Just read 1.1-15; 7.1-17; 9.11-15



Inspiring quotes

²¹ I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²² Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
 (A 5.21-24)

The time is surely coming, says the Lord GOD, when I will send a famine on the land; not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.
 (A 8.11)

¹³ The time is surely coming, says the LORD, when the one who plows shall overtake the one who reaps, and the treader of grapes the one who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. ¹⁴ I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.
 (A 9.13-14) and change



Anything

tricky?

As with many
 anger can feel
 remember that
 people to listen

pr



As with many of the prophetic books these are thought to be the words of Amos, though they may have been collected and written down by someone else.

Was it written by Amos?

Amos was not a prophet in the formal sense – he said so in 7.14. He was, instead a shepherd and a dresser of sycamore trees (sycamore trees are otherwise known as mulberry trees; a dresser of sycamore trees punctured the fruit

before harvesting to help the fruit ripen). He was not paid to be a prophet but was sent by God with a clear message for Jeroboam, from the southern kingdom of Judah, where he was born to the northern kingdom of Israel. This probably happened around 750 bc. The time in which he prophesied was a time of peace and prosperity in which the rich had become so complacent that they thought simply sacrificing to God was all that was required of them. Amos' message was simple – God requires justice as well as worship.

