

FIRST WRITING PROPHET!

PT.3

THIS MONTH STUDY IS ABOUT THE FIRST WRITING PROPHET. "AMOS" HIS PROPHETIC WORK IN THE HEBREW BIBLE THAT WARNS THE NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL OF IMPENDING DIVINE JUDGEMENT, DUE TO:

1. RAMPANT SOCIAL INJUSTICE!

2. RELIGIOUS HYPOCRISY!

AMOS WAS A SHEPHERD AND SYCAMORE FIG FARMER FROM THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM OF JUDAH. HE WAS CALLED BY GOD AROUND 760 – 750 B.C. THE PROPHET'S MESSAGE WAS TO DELIVER A MESSAGE OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO A NATION APPEARED PROSPEROUS, BUT VERY MORALLY CORRUPT.

AMOS 5:24 {PLEASE STUDY THE WHOLE BOOK OF AMOS}

HERE, AMOS IS SAYING LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN LIKE WATER. HE IS URGING REPENTANCE AND A RETURN TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS OVER HOLLOW RITUALS.

AMOS 1: 1-7

AMOS BEGINS BY DECLARING GOD'S JUDGEMENT ON SURROUNDING NATIONS FOR BRUTALITY, TURNS TO ISRAEL.

AMOS 2: 6

I WILL PUNISH THEM FOR SELLING THE RIGHTEOUS FOR:

- 1. SLAVES**
- 2. TRAMPLING THE POOR!**
- 3. TAKING BRIBES**

GOD'S ANGER IS TRIGGERED BY TREATING PEOPLE WHO ARE MADE OF HIS IMAGE WITH CONTEMPT. GOD WAS SAYING, I WILL DO JUDGEMENT, ON INJUSTICE SODOM AND GOMORRAH. I WILL TOTALLY DESTROY, BY BRIMSTONE AND FIRE FROM HEAVEN.

AMOS 5 :5-15

HERE WE SEE DECEPTION OF PROSPERITY DESPITE MATERIAL WEALTH. ISRAEL HAD BECOME SPIRITUALLY CORRUPT. AMOS WARNED THAT FALSE CONFIDENCE IN THEIR SAFETY, ASSURING GOD APPROVED OF THEM, BECAUSE THEY WERE AFFLUENT, WOULD LEAD TO THEIR DOWNFALL.

AMOS 5: 21 – 24

GOD REJECTS THE FESTIVAL SONGS AND THE SACRIFICES OF THE ISRAELITES BECAUSE THEY DID NOT JUSTLY OBEY GOD. TRUE WORSHIP IS INSEPARABLE FROM HOW PEOPLE TREAT OTHERS, PARTICULARLY, THE VULNERABLE.

AMOS 5:14 – 15

HERE IS A CALL TO REPENTANCE AND HOPE. THE CORE MESSAGE IS, {SEEK ME AND LIVE} EVEN IN THE FACE OF COMING EXILE. AMOS PROMISES THAT IF THE PEOPLE HATE EVIL, LOVE GOOD AND ESTABLISH JUSTICE, GOD WILL SPARE THEM.

AMOS 9: 13 – 15 [THE FINAL RESTORATION]

HERE IS THE POETIC PICTURE OF THE

1. FERTILITY OF THE LAND!
2. THE SECURITY!
3. STABILITY

THAT GOD WANTS FOR HIS PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY IN HIS FUTURE KINGDOM.

AMOS CONTAINS, NO DIRECT REFERENCES TO JESUS.

MATTHEW 11 : 21 – 22

HERE JESUS SEEMS TO ALLUDE TO AMOS 1: 9 – 10

THIS IS ABOUT THE COMING JUDGEMENT ON TYRE.

EVEN THE BOOK OF REVELATION, JOHN PICKS UP A CONCEPT FROM AMOS. AMOS SPEAKS OF GOD'S PROPHETS AND SAYS THAT GOD DOES NOTHING WOTHOUT REVEALING HIS PLAN TO HIS SERVANTS THE PROPHETS. REVELATION 10 : 7

THE MAIN TOPICS OF AMOS:

1. JUDGEMENT!
2. MATERIALISM!
3. SOCIAL JUSTICE

BUT THE BOOK CONCLUDES WITH A MESSAGE OF HOPE, THE ISRAELS COULD BE SAVED FROM DESTRUCTION BY TURNING BACK TO GOD AND HIS WAYS.

THE BOOK HIGHLIGHTS HOW GOD USED AMOS TO ADDRESS ;

1. ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION!
2. SOCIAL INJUSTICE!
3. RELIGIOUS CORRUPTION

THESE THEMES ARE AS RELEVANT TO DAY AS THEY WERE IN AMOS TIME.

WE IN AMERICA ARE EXPERIENCING THESE SAME PROBLEMS. GOD IS NO LONGER INVITED INTO THEIR HOMES AND THEIR LIFESTYLES. THE FOCUS TO DAY IS ON SELF AND THEIR WORLDLY DESIRES, INSTEAD OF GOD.

OUR SPIRITUAL EYES NEED TO BE OPEN QUICKLY TO SEE THE TREND OF AMERICA BEFORE ITS TOO LATE.

NEXT MONTH: THE PROPHET OF WORSHIP!

“OBADIAH”

