

## 10 – AMOS: INTRODUCTION

### I. Historical Background



- Amos prophesied during the eighth century B.C., which is pre-exilic.
- The ministry and the writing of the prophecy occurred between 760-750 B.C.
- He prophesied in the days of King Uzziah's reign in Judah (790-739 B.C).
- He prophesied in the days near the end of Jeroboam II's reign in Samaria (793-753 B.C.).
- While the Assyrian Empire was the dominate military power, they were ruled by a series of weak kings for 60 years.
- This provided an atmosphere for both the Northern kingdom and Judah to prosper.
- This prosperity marked the nation with four areas of sin.
- These areas of sin included materialism, moral corruption, political corruption and religious corruption.

### II. The Prophet

#### A. His Name

- The name "Amos" means "to bear" or "burden-bearer."

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## B. His Home

- The prophecy indicates that Amos was from the region of Tekoa in Judah.
- Tekoa was a rugged area located 6 miles south of Bethlehem and 12 miles south of Jerusalem.

## C. His Occupation

- The scripture records that Amos was a “herdsman” or shepherd as well as a “dresser” of sycamore trees.
- These trees produced a fig-like fruit that was sweet, watery and woody in nature.
- It was eaten by poorer people and had to be pinched or bruised before it would ripen.

## D. His Ministry

- Amos’ ministry was directed to the northern kingdom.
- He is described by some scholars as the first great reformer of the nation.
- He was not of the school of prophets which had begun to share what the people wanted.
- Unlike Hosea, Amos and his prophecy can be summed up in one word, “justice.”

## III. The Occasion, Purpose & Themes of the Book

- The book of Amos was primarily one of judgment, though it ended with words of hope.
- The Lord God Almighty would come as a Warrior to judge the nations that had rebelled against His authority.
- Israel would be punished for her covenant violations against Him.
- While the nation would be destroyed, God will preserve a remnant from among the people.
- One day this remnant will be restored to prominence and covenant blessing.
- At that point, God will use the nation to draw all nations to the Lord.