

# Hebrews 11

## AMOS

### The Farmer Prophet

Amos 7:14-15, *“Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit: And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.”*

Amos 4:12, *“Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.”*

Amos 1:1-2, *“The words of Amos, who was among the herdmen of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.”*

<b>Key Verse:</b>	➤ <i>Amos 7:14-15</i>
<b>Meaning of the name Amos:</b>	➤ Burden or burden-bearer
<b>Theme:</b>	➤ National accountability for national sins.
<b>Time:</b>	➤ 765-755 BC

Hebrews 11:39-40, *“And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”*

## TIMELINE

800 BC	Jereboam II begins
793 BC	An era of prosperity in Israel
792 BC	Uzziah reigns in Judah
760 BC	Amos is called to Samaria
752 BC	Zechariah and Shallum assassinated
750 BC	Hosea and Micah called
740 BC	Isaiah called

### AMOS, A REAL MAN – GOD’S SHEPHERD/FARMER PROPHET

1. Amos means burden bearer. The pressure is likened to a cart full of grain. Amos 2:13
2. His home area was around a village called Tekoa, 10-16kms south of Jerusalem in Judah. He probably lived in a tent.
3. Amos received a call from God to go and prophesy against Samaria and the kingdom of Israel around the year of 760BC. Hence, he was a missionary to the north, but it must not be overlooked that he was also a prophet to other cities/nations. Note the destinations on the list of places where he prophesied.
4. He did not come through the accredited schools of the prophets, nor was he a son of a prophet.
5. Amos was self-supported. He was the oldest of the four prophets of his times, therefore he did not fear reprisals. He would preach with or without the favour of man, but he had the favour and blessing of GOD!
6. He faced severe opposition and persecution.
7. His ministry was fairly short, though he covered a lot of places in the time and focused his ministry on Israel.
8. Amos wrote his book at the conclusion of his ministry, probably with the aid of a scribe.
9. His rural, quiet life meant he could hear the voice of God and see visions from God without any of the distractions of a busy city.
10. Amos was willing and obedient, but he lived a short life and was probably martyred for his faithfulness and delivery of a message which annoyed the leaders in religion and government.

## **THINGS ABOUT HIS TIMES**

- 1.** Both kings experienced prosperity and military success over their traditional enemies.
- 2.** Samaria, the capital city of Israel, enjoyed enormous wealth and luxuries flowed into the city. Stone homes etc.
- 3.** Contrast – people left weary of the battles with Damascus.
- 4.** Many farmers were reduced to poverty and were pressured by the rich aristocracy to debts that they could no repay.
- 5.** When reduced to debt, those who lost their farms were forced into slavery to pay back the rich.
- 6.** The leaders were fearless toward God and the future; they built fortified cities and considered themselves immune from judgment.

<b>Judgment</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Verse</b>
Fire to the house of Hazael. Break the bar – secured city gate. Cut off inhabitants from the plain of Aven The people of Syria shall go into captivity unto Kir.	Because they threshed Gilead with instruments of iron	Damascus	1:3
Fire on the wall of Gaza. Cut off the inhabitants from Ekron.	Because they carried away captive the whole captivity to deliver them to Edom.	Gaza	1:6-8
Fire on the wall of Tyrus	Because they delivered up the whole captivity of Edom and remembered not the brotherly covenant.	Tyrus	1:9
Fire upon Toman	Because he pursued his brother with the sword. Cast off all emotion toward his brother.	Edom	1:11-12
Kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah. Their King and his princes shall go into captivity.	Because they killed and ripped up pregnant women.	Ammon	1:13
Fire upon Moab. Cut off, judge and slay the princes.	Because he burned the bones of the King of Edom into lime.	Moab	2:1-3
Fire on Judah and Jerusalem	They deposed the law of the Lord (WORD). Have not kept His commandments. Lies-leaving the old paths of the fathers	Judah	2:4-5
Israelite army beaten. Cast away everything and flees	Sold righteousness for silver. Sold the poor for a pair of shoes. Stole their land, treated them poorly. Visited shrine prostitutes. Idolatry, stealing clothes, put them in debt they could not pay. Drinking wine that they stole.	Israel	2:6-8
Various enemies would prevail over them	Because of their total disregard for God. Their affluence is destroying them. The people are snared and sin against the Lord.	Israel	3:1-10 3:11-15
Take you away to captivity Chastening and famine	Oppression of the poor and needy; stealing even their drink! Because their sacrifices are to no avail and hypocrisy prevails	Woman of Samaria	4:1-13 6:6
Prepare to meet your God. Premature death	Their affluence causes them to leave the proper worship of God.	Israel	5:4-15
	Slackness in every area	Israel	6
A plague of grasshoppers			7:1-3
A plague of fire			7:4-6
A plumbline			7:7-9
The Lord standing at the altar condemning their hypocritical worship.	Because their worship is false	Israel	9:1

## **KEY TEACHINGS IN AMOS**

- 1.** God is impartial and fair, judging each nation appropriately. Neither Jew nor Gentile is exempt from Divine judgment. Amos 1:3-2:3, 2:4-5.
- 2.** God despises human pride; especially when it is demonstrated through confidence in military power, wealth and indifference toward other people. Amos 6:1-8
- 3.** God is especially harsh against anyone who abuses or cheats the poor. Amos 8:4-6
- 4.** God is not impressed by worship services with music and celebration if the people are far from God, unrepentant and disobedient in heart and life. Amos 4:4-5, 5:21-24
- 5.** Religious leaders who oppose a genuine work of God are subject to special judgment. Amos 7:10-17
- 6.** Some people are blinded by their special status, thinking they will avoid judgment. They are totally misguided. Amos 5:18-20
- 7.** When troubles begin to mount against their nation, they should take it as a warning and repent before it is too late. Amos 4:6-12
- 8.** Even after judgment, when it seems all hope is lost, God is able to bring about redemption and salvation. Amos 9:1-4, 13-15
- 9.** Israel's hope and humanity's only hope will come through the line of David, Jesus Christ. His kingdom will be established on earth. Amos 9:11-12
- 10.** Their greatest enemy was their prosperity. Trusting in uncertain riches places one in danger of failing to trust God. This was Israel and they fell a great fall. The destruction of Samaria 722BC fulfilled the prophecy of Amos 3:15.

## **THE FAITH OF AMOS THE PROPHET**

- I. BY FAITH** he grew up in the country, looking after the sheep. Amos 1:1, *“The words of Amos, who was among the herdmen of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.”*  
He was just like David who protected the sheep, leading and feeding them while quietly listening to God’s voice. Typical country character – tough and able to take any challenge from the Lord. Tough and true to God.
- II. BY FAITH** he experienced the salvation of God and knew how to hear the voice of God. Amos 7:14, *“Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit:”*
- III. BY FAITH** he lived the life of a sheep farmer and also was involved in a fig orchard. He supported himself by his farming work. Amos 7:7, *“Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand.”* He was not speaking for money. Preachers are not to be greedy for filthy lucre.
- IV. BY FAITH** he stepped out and prophesied as a layman. He was not a professional prophet from a prophet family or a prophets’ school. He was taught of the Lord. “thus saith the Lord” was his cry; he did not rely on what other men said! Amos 7:14, *“Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit:”*
- V. BY FAITH** he responded to the call of the Lord who sent him as a missionary. He preached God’s Word to Israel and the nations nearby. He grew up in Judah, Tekoa, 10 miles from Jerusalem. All nations will be judged for their sin. Amos 7:15, *“And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.”*
- VI. BY FAITH** he went forth as a missionary prophet to Israel and other Gentiles north and south of his home base. He spent most of his time in Israel around the rich city of Samaria.
- VII. BY FAITH** he stood even though the northern Kings and priests ordered him to stop prophesying near the King’s chapel and to Israel in general. He was told to “Go

Home!” Amos 7:12, *“Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there:”*

- VIII.** **BY FAITH** he fearlessly prophesied God’s judgment upon Israel, Judah and nations round about. He was calling upon the nations to straighten up using a plumbline of God’s truth to go by. Amos 7:7-8, *“Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand. And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more:”*
- IX.** **BY FAITH** he told of a famine of God’s Word. Amos 8:11, *“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:”* He said that they were at ease, lazy and caring not to open the book and get busy serving the Lord.
- X.** **BY FAITH** he saw the Lord standing upon the altar, pronouncing judgment upon the wicked worship. Amos 9:1, *“I saw the Lord standing upon the altar: and he said, Smite the lintel of the door, that the posts may shake: and cut them in the head, all of them; and I will slay the last of them with the sword: he that fleeth of them shall not flee away, and he that escapeth of them shall not be delivered.”*
- XI.** **BY FAITH** he saw the tribulation and restoration of Israel. He saw the regathering to the Lord and thus gave hope for the future.
- XII.** **BY FAITH** he continued and wrote his letter, giving a resume and a warning to us too!