



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 44. Amos, pt. 1

- **Introduction**

- Author: Amos, one who tended sheep and sycamore figs in Tekoa (south of Jerusalem); possibly the first Major/Minor Prophet to write
- Date: Ministered somewhere between 793–739 BC, most likely around 762 (based on reference to earthquake).
- Context:
 - The Northern Kingdom was enjoying a time of relative peace and prosperity because the Assyrians were too preoccupied to harass them.
 - Prosperity had led to them taking God's blessings for granted, as well as to greed, oppression, and immorality, so God sent a farmer from Judah to Bethel as his prophet against them.
- The book consists first of oracles, then of visions. It is mainly judgment, but it ends with a promise of _____.

- Main themes:

- ALL are accountable to the _____.
- Those called by God's name incur greater _____.
- Those who abuse God's blessings will receive stricter _____.

- Outline

- Chapters 1–2 – Judgment proclaimed on various _____
 - The judgment spirals inward until it gets to Israel.
 - Gentile nations are addressed for harsh treatment of others, especially of Israel.
 - Judah is addressed for rejecting God's Law.
 - The rest of Israel is finally addressed in the greatest detail for oppressing the vulnerable among them and for rejecting God's example of grace to them, followed by the first statement of judgment on them.

- Chapter 3 – An _____ of the problems and the resulting judgments
 - Amos explains how their relationship brings accountability and how their sin is great enough no one should be surprised by God's response.
 - The judgments here are specifically tied to the objects of their chief sins, idolatry and wealth.

- Chapter 4 – God's thoughts about their sins and His _____
 - God makes His displeasure with both of those areas of sin known with biting indictments and sarcasm.
 - He lists several ways He tried to get their attention for these sins as they accumulated only for them to ignore every calamity He brought instead of repenting.

Discussion:

1. What do we mean when we say Christians are judged by God more harshly than unbelievers?
2. Why is wealth such a spiritual challenge for people?

FOR REFLECTION: How often do you evaluate your actions based on how well they reflect your Creator?

Blanks: restoration, Creator, accountability, judgment, nations, explanation, responses