

# Amos

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By

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# Amos

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- His name in Hebrew meant: burden-bearer. A name well fitting to his mission of bringing judgment upon a rebellious people.
- He was a humble man – 7:14
- His mission (7:15-17)
- He preached to Israel during a time of great prosperity and confidence. Yet in three short decades they would be destroyed by the Assyrians in 722 BC.

# Conditions

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## ■ Spiritual Indifference

- 2:9-12, Israel forgot past blessings and forbade prophets to speak
- 5:21-24, Israel performed empty rituals and refused to return to God
- 5:26, Israel given over to Idolatry

# Conditions

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- Personal Indulgence
  - 2:7b-8a, sexual indulgence
  - 4:1, Drunkenness
  - 6:1-7, Love of luxury and comfort

# Conditions

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## ■ Social Injustice

- 2:6, Oppression of poor
- 5:11-12, Imposing heavy fees, bribes; denial of justice to the poor
- 8:5-6, Dishonest trading

# What do you say to people like this?

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- Appeals to their sense of decency 5:6, 14-15, Seek the Lord, hate evil, love good
- Warn them 4:12, Prepare to meet thy God
  - Described (7:1-9:10)

# Their response

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- 7:10-13, Amaziah ordered Amos to leave
- Their fate was sealed

# What we can learn

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- Prosperity is not a sign of spirituality (6:6)
- Worship if not sincere is an insult to God (5:21-23)
- Social injustice is intolerable to God (5:24)
- Privilege involves responsibility (3:1-2; Lk. 12:48)
- Often there is meaning in calamity (4:6-11)