



“Amos was God’s prophet to prosperous Israel, steeped in religiosity, immorality, and complacency. Amos was one of the most colorful personalities among the prophets. He was humble and rugged, a son of the wilderness, like Elijah and John the Baptist. One writer says that his was ‘one of the most wonderful appearances in the history of the human spirit.’” (Jensen, *Jensen’s Survey of the Old Testament*, pp. 403-404)

**B.L.U.F.** (bottom line up front): *God is serious, we need to listen.*

## 1. What Upsets God? 1:1-2:16

Eight “burdens” are on Amos’ (and God’s) heart. Each is prefaced by the formula “for 3 transgressions and for 4.” This is not arithmetic but “you have stepped one step too far!”

**“for 3 transgressions and for 4”**

1<sup>st</sup> time God rebukes  
2<sup>nd</sup> time God threatens  
3<sup>rd</sup> time God lifts His hand  
4<sup>th</sup> time God smites!

***Cruelties against others is the sin judged*** (except Judah & Israel)

- Syria (Damascus – Syria’s capital city) 1:3-5  
Atrocity – cruelty in war. Tearing & mangling bodies with iron instruments.
- Philistia (Gaza – Philistia’s fortress city) 1:6-8  
Atrocity – slavery of a whole region
- Phoenicia (Tyre) 1:9-10 Atrocity – slavery of a whole region
- Edom 1:11-12 Atrocity – constant hatred of Judah
- Ammon 1:13-15 Atrocity – extermination for expansion
- Moab 2:1-3 Atrocity – cruel revenge
- Judah 2:4-5 Sin – rejecting God’s law
- Israel 2:6-16 Sins – bribery, greed, adultery, selfishness, ingratitude, drunkenness

## 2. What Do We Need to Understand? 3:1-6:14

Israel is enjoying a time of peace, prosperity & religious revival. People were attending services and bringing offerings. But God saw their hearts.

- 1) Message of Explanation 3:1-15 "Therefore..." v. 11  
Privilege brings responsibility. Cause & effect.
- 2) Message of Accusation 4:1-13 "Therefore..." v. 12
- 3) Message of Lamentation 5:1-6:14 "Therefore..." v. 16  
Amos weeps over the sin that will bring judgment.

### 3. What is Coming? 7:1-9:15

The future doesn't look good. There are lots of problems coming. But the end is optimistic!

#### Outline:

**Theme:** Justice for Abused Privilege

**Key Verses:** Amos 3:2; 5:24

**Contrast to Hosea, a Contemporary**

**Preacher:** "The contrast between

Hosea and Amos is impressive, and it has

much to teach us. They both ministered in the reign of Jeroboam II, but they dealt with the situation in different ways. God chooses men to present different aspects of truth to the same people, and these varying emphases are not contradictory but complementary. Amos is a preacher of righteousness, but Hosea, of mercy. Amos embraces heathen nations in his survey, but Hosea never goes beyond Israel and Judah. What Amos has in width, Hosea has in depth. Amos sees the nation purified by judgment, but Hosea sees it surviving judgment by repentance. The emphasis of Amos is on the justice of God, but the emphasis of Hosea is on His love. Amos is very stern, but Hosea is very tender. Amos preaches God's sovereignty, but Hosea proclaims His salvation. – Scroogie, quoted in Phillips, *Exploring Minor Prophets*, p. 88-89

#### Today's Preacher:

1<sup>st</sup> Optimism – end with hope.

2<sup>nd</sup> Unpopular – truth trumps popularity.

3<sup>rd</sup> Repentance – the only thing that averts judgment.

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|------|---|---------------------------------|
| I.   | HE LOOKS AROUND (8 Burdens)   | 1:1-2:16                        |
| II.  | HE LOOKS WITHIN (3 Sermons)   | 3:1-6:14                        |
|      | A.  | Message of Explanation 3:1-15   |
|      | B.  | Message of Accusation 4:1-13    |
|      | C.  | Message of Lamentation 5:1-6:14 |
| III. | HE LOOKS AHEAD (6 Visions)  | 7:1-9:15                        |
|      | A.  | Locusts 7:1-3                   |
|      | B.  | Fire 7:4-6                      |
|      | C.  | Plumbline 7:7-9                 |
|      | Historical Interlude: The Prophet of God vs. the Priest of Bethel 7:10-17 |                                 |
|      | D.  | Summer Fruit 8:1-14             |
|      | E.  | Altar 9:1-10                    |
|      | F.  | Millennial Kingdom 9:11-15      |



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