



Group Guide

Amos

July 7, 2024

Main Passage: Amos 1-2, 9

Theological Theme

God sent judgment and wrath on His people and their land in response to their idolatry and evil ways. But He followed this with a promise of hope and restoration.

Introduction

- ❓ What are some of your favorite happy videos to watch on social media?
- ❓ Why do you think we seek out these kinds of videos or celebrations? How might you be tempted to hide if you knew something negative was coming your way?

1. Amos the Prophet (Amos 1:1-5)

This introduction to Amos tells us some things about him as a man and a prophet. He was a shepherd from Tekoa, a town outside of Jerusalem. His name means “burden” or “burden bearer” and as we see from this book, that is an appropriate description of Amos’s life and calling.

- ❓ When have you had to share tough truth or carry a burden from the Lord? What makes this so difficult?
- ❓ Israel became ungodly in a time of great prosperity. How do we face this temptation today?
- ❓ Application: Where is injustice rampant in our world today? How can we act on behalf of those who are victims of injustice in the world? Why is it important that we do?

2. Reasons for Wrath (Amos 2:1-6)

Amos proclaimed six judgments against Gentile nations as part of his message to Israel. The Lord promised judgment against Moab for their cruel sins against Edom. This is a reminder that all people will answer for their actions whether they honor the Lord or not. Moab would answer for their actions just as Israel and Judah would.

- ❓ How is it comforting and/or challenging to know all people will be held accountable for their actions? How does this free us from seeking vengeance on our own? How does it encourage us in spreading the gospel?

- ❓ Where are you currently out of step with God's desire for your life? Why is it grace to have these things revealed? How do you need to respond?
- ❓ Application: What are the most common places you find lies against God's Word challenging you? How can you guard against this?

3. Promise of Restoration (Amos 9:1-4,11-15)

A lot happens in the middle chapters of Amos. Amos called out the leaders who had given no thought or care to those around them as they neglected their relationship with the Lord, while enjoying their lives of luxury. God gave visions to Amos describing the details of destruction to come and those visions disturbed the prophet so much he begged God to relent and hold off. This happened more than once and God did relent, then the third vision came, and Amos accepted the inevitability of God's judgment on the people as the necessary way of turning the hearts of His people back to God.

- ❓ How have you seen hard times (not directly related to sin) or difficult consequences (due to sin) turn people back to the Lord?
- ❓ How can this reminder of God's ultimate power and presence serve as both a warning and a comfort?
- ❓ Application: What future hope do all who are in Christ have? How can this reality sustain you in difficult seasons, even ones you've brought on yourself?

Conclusion

- ❓ What is your biggest takeaway from the book of Amos?
- ❓ Where have you allowed lies into your life that threaten to turn you away from God and His ways?
- ❓ Who can you share the gospel with by sharing the account of Amos?