Amos – the shepherd from Tekoa.

The prophet to ISRAEL.

**UZZIAH** (Azariah) was king of JUDAH 792-740BC

Borders of Israel & Judah reached the extent they had under David & Solomon.

Prophets: Isaiah, Hosea & Amos

**PERIOD OF BUILDING & EXPANSION**

Massive EARTHQUAKE/ECLIPSE

AMOS …concerning Israel 2 years before the earthquake.

*ie early in Uzziah’s reign

2 Chron.26:1-22

**JEROBOAM**, son of Joash was king of ISRAEL: 793-753BC

Suffering under the Arameans (Syria), Moabites & Ammonites.

**PERIOD OF GRACE**

BUT Persistence in apostasy, social injustice, material prosperity

↓

Certain judgment

AMOS

My sword I will rise against Jeroboam.

*ie late in Jeroboam’s reign.

2 Kings 14:23-29

The LORD roars from ZION!

I was neither a prophet nor a prophet’s son. But I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. But the LORD took me from tending the flock and said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel’ 7:14,15

Amos lived in Judah.

Reigns of:

**UZZIAH** 792-740BC

**JEROBOAM** 793-753BC

Sent to Israel in north from 760-750BC
God’s patience with the nations was finished.
- DAMASCUS
- GAZA
- TYRE
- AMMON
- MOAB
- JUDAH

God’s patience with ISRAEL was finished.
God was going to judge his unfaithful, disobedient, covenant-breaking people.
WHY?

God had called for social justice as expression of the people’s piety.
AMOS 5:24
Justice  Righteousness

BUT

Despite
- Special selection of Israel
- Kindness during the exodus
- Conquests under Joshua
- Stability during David & Solomon

PEOPLE CONTINUALLY FAILED TO HONOUR & OBEY GOD

Political security had brought
- Complacency 6:1
- Expected DAY OF THE LORD when God’s darkness would engulf other nations and allow Israel to bask in His light 5:18-20

I WILL NOT ACCEPT
I WILL HAVE NO REGARD
I WILL NOT LISTEN

They thought
- Performance of rites was all that God required...
- And then they could do whatever they pleased...

....CHEATING. PERVERTING JUSTICE. CRUSHING POOR.
AMOS’ MESSAGE

THEY THOUGHT

- They were prosperous so they MUST be blessed by God!!

…..but prosperity increased Israel’s moral and religious corruption.

I WILL PUNISH YOU FOR ALL YOUR SINS

Amos 2, 5, 8

- Oppress poor
- Blatantly immoral
- Pagan devotion & despise prophets
- Corrupt justice & despise truth
- Oppress righteous & deprive poor
- Exercise greed & dishonest

EXCESSIVE OPPULENCE

Amos 3

- Summer houses
- Winter mansions
- Houses adorned with ivory
- Lush vineyards
- Beds inlaid with ivory
- Abundance of feasting
- Deprive poor

NOW!

TOTAL DESTRUCTION!

No more warnings! 4:6-11

- Empty stomachs
- Drought
- Plague
- Conquest

…YOU HAVE NOT RETURNED TO ME.

THEREFORE I WILL SEND YOU INTO EXILE!

5:27

ASSYRIA 722-721 BC

2 Kings 17
VISIONS OF AMOS: Locusts

7: 1-3 Mass starvation – but God repents at prophet’s plea.

VISIONS OF AMOS: Fire

7: 4-6 Total calamity – but God repents at prophet’s plea.

VISIONS OF AMOS: Plumb line

7: 7-8 Israel were ‘out of plumb’ with God’s standards

I will spare them no longer

VISIONS OF AMOS: Basket of ripe fruit

8:1-2 Israel was ready to be plucked

I will spare them no longer

ISRAEL TO BE DESTROYED

I will never forget anything they have done 8:7
- Earthquake 8:8
- Eclipse 8:9
- Kill with the sword 9:1
- Bring them down 9:2
- Hunt them down 9:3
- Sword to slay them 9:4
- I will destroy 9:8
- I will shake the house of Israel 9:9
- People will die by the sword 9:10
- Bloodshed followed bloodshed Hos. 4:2

BUT!
ISRAEL TO BE RESTORED & MERCY ON THE REMNANT

I have given them 9:15
• I will restore 9:11
• I will repair 9:11
• Remnant 9:12, 5:15
• Sowing & reaping in abundance 9:13
• I will bring back 9:14
• They will rebuild 9:14
• They will plant 9:14
• Never be uprooted 9:15

GOD HAD A GLORIOUS FUTURE FOR THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL BEYOND THE IMPENDING JUDGEMENT

God would not abandon his chosen program of redemption

God rules over the whole universe

4:13, 5:8, 9:5-6

Thanks be to God, that although Israel had a unique relationship with God, it was not exclusive.....
“God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory”.

Col.1:27