

FAMISHED



Prophetic Word of Amos

January - March 2010

This Book Belongs to _____

The Heart of Amos

A Compilation of Scriptures
(Congregation to read the bold type)

Amos answered, "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.'

Now then, **hear the word of the Lord.**

The Lord roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds dry up, and the top of Carmel withers.

This is what the Lord says:

"For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath.

**They sell the righteous for silver,
and the needy for a pair of sandals.**

**They trample on the heads of the poor...
and deny justice to the oppressed."**

"The days are coming," declares the Sovereign Lord,

"when I will send a famine through the land--
not a famine of food or a thirst for water,

but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord.

Men will stagger from sea to sea

and wander from north to east,

searching for the word of the Lord,

but they will not find it.

Seek the Lord and live.

Away with the noise of your songs!

I will not listen to the music of your harps.

**But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!**

"In that day I will restore David's fallen tent.

I will repair its broken places,

restore its ruins,

and build it as it used to be.

I will bring back my exiled people...

they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them.

Seek good, not evil, that you may live.

Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you,
just as you say he is.

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Prophetic word of Amos

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JANUARY 10

Hear Then the Prophet

Isaiah 6, Joel 2:28 - 32 & Acts 2

Introduction

Understanding the prophets is like understanding poetry. You have to hear with the heart *and* with the head. When you think of how radical most of the prophets were, you wonder how they'd be accepted in our churches today.

Think about Amos – the hick from the sticks sent to the metropolitan center with a word of condemnation. Or consider the voice of Isaiah – chosen too young to have influence and given a message of condemnation to people three times his age. Or Jeremiah – who is given negative message upon negative message to preach. The only promise by God to Jeremiah; the next sermon you preach will make you even less popular.

Hearing the prophets is difficult. They say things we don't want to hear. They challenge our materialistic way of life. They condemn our comforts. And yet, we need them...don't we?

This series of lessons and discussions will challenge us because their messages are challenging. We begin with Amos, shift to Jesus and John the Baptist, focus on Peter for the summer months and then tackle the Revelation of God to John as we close the year. Will we let them speak? Will we embrace their Word?

We need to be challenged and encouraged. When we need these two together, there is no greater place to find these words than in the writings of God. Hear then the prophet.

Sermon Notes

- A prophet was more of a _____ than a _____.
- Prophets often supported God's message with _____ illustrations.
- Prophetic messages were designed more to _____ than to _____.
- To hear a prophetic message requires...
 - Openness to _____.
 - Appreciation for _____.
 - An embrace of God's _____.
- 2010 Messages:
 - A word of _____.
 - A word of _____.
 - A word of _____.
 - A word of _____.

Word of Thought

What's the best sermon you ever heard that made you flat out uncomfortable?

Word of Study

Our study is based on Isaiah 6, Joel 2:28-32 and the beginning of Acts 2. How would you have been affected had you been Isaiah and witnessed what he experienced?

When we think of prophets, we often think of men. However, the job of the prophet was simply to declare the word of the Lord. What verses let us know that women also served as prophets?

Word of Discussion

1) If something from the sermon on Sunday caught your attention share it with the group.

2) If prophets weren't primarily fortune-tellers, then why do you think we commonly think of them this way? And, when you consider that prophets were simply given the task of declaring the Word of God, how does that change your perspective of the prophets?

3) The prophets often warned the nations that God would punish them for their national sins. How do nations sin? After all, don't individuals commit sins and so only individuals should be held accountable for their sins?

4) God suggests the possibility that a nation could, "... understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed." What does it mean for a nation to be healed?

5) Studying the prophets is a bit risky for an American church. So many of the messages condemn the abuse of wealth and the destruction of life through military might. This has to be balanced with the acknowledgement that God often sent His people into war (and uses wars to accomplish His purpose). How can these messages be good for us to hear at this point in history?

Word of Action

Isaiah's response to God's call captures our hearts, "*Here am I. Send me!*" How do you need to embrace this attitude more in your own life?

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