

Prepare to Meet Your God

“What Matters to God” – Amos 1:3-2:16 – May 11, 2008

Overview of Our Study

PREPARE TO MEET YOUR GOD			
An 8-Week Study of the Book of Amos			
Outline of Amos	Message Title	Bible Text	Date
8 Prophecies	Prepare to Meet Your God	Amos 1:1-2	May 4
	What Matters to God	Amos 1:3-2:16	May 11
3 Sermons	How to Return to God	Amos 3:1-4:13	May 18
	Martin Luther King’s Speech	Amos 5:1-6:14	May 25
6 Visions	Three Visions from God	Amos 7:1-17	June 1
	A Famine of God’s Word	Amos 8:1-14	June 15
	Judgment Day	Amos 9:1-10	June 22
	The Day of the Lord	Amos 9:11-15	June 29

Eight Prophecies Against the Nations for Their Injustice (1:3-2:16)

1. Prophecy #1: against Damascus [Syrians] (1:3-5)
2. Prophecy #2: against Gaza [Philistines] (1:6-8)
3. Prophecy #3: against Tyre [Phoenicians] (1:9-10)
4. Prophecy #4: against Edom [Edomites] (1:11-12)
5. Prophecy #5: against Ammon [Ammonites] (1:13-15)
6. Prophecy #6: against Moab [Moabites] (2:1-3)
7. Prophecy #7: against Judah [Southern Jews] (2:4-5)
8. Prophecy #8: against Israel [Northern Jews] (2:6-16)

The Progression of the 8 Prophecies

- Remember: Amos is a southern Jew (Judah) prophesying to the northern Jews (Israel).
- The Progression of the 8 Prophecies:
 - First 6 are prophecies against 6 nations that are enemies of all the Jewish people
 - 7th prophecy is against the Southern Jews (Judah)
 - 8th prophecy is against the Northern Jews (Israel)(his audience)
- Amos’ audience (the Northern Jews: Israel) would have reacted in the following way:
 - Applauded the first 6 prophecies against their enemies (lots of Amens!)
 - Been amazed at the 7th prophecy that Amos would have the guts to prophesy against his own people
 - Felt rudely confronted by the 8th prophecy against them! There would have been two reactions: (1) some would have been convicted of their sin; (2) most would have been angry and mad at Amos.

- If Amos were to come to America, we would probably...
 - Clap at the first six (lots of Amens)
 - Be amazed at #7
 - Be confronted by #8 and react in one of two ways: (1) Be convicted of our sin; OR, (2) Be angry and mad.
- Application #1 – How will I respond to God’s message to me through Amos? When God hits me with truth that reveals my sins, am I going to get...
 - (1) Convicted – which leads to repentance and change? OR
 - (2) Mad – which leads to a hard heart and no change?

What Matters to God (Amos 1:3-2:16)

1. Treating people with _____ decency _____ (1:3,6)

- The Syrians (Damascus) treated the people of Gilead inhumanely when they defeated them. God hates cruelty.
- The Philistines (Gaza) raided Jewish villages, captured people, and sold them as slaves. God hates slavery.
- Moreover, the Philistines sold them as slaves to Edom – this is brother enslaving brother! God hates family feuds.

2. _____ Keeping _____ your word (1:9)

- The Phoenicians (Tyre) also sold Jewish captives as slaves to Edom.
- But what made the Phoenicians’ sin even worse was that they had signed a treaty of friendship and brotherhood with Israel (1 Kings 5:1,12; 16:30-31). God hates breaking treaties.
- **1 Kings 5:12** - *The LORD gave Solomon wisdom, just as he had promised him. There were peaceful relations between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty.*

3. Loving your _____ own family members _____ (1:11)

- The Israelites (descendants of Jacob) and the Edomites (descendants of Esau) were brothers. (Jacob and Esau were brothers – twin sons of Isaac.) God hates family disharmony.

4. _____ Life _____ (1:13)

- In order to enlarge their land, the Ammonites invaded Gilead. Not satisfied with just attacking the Gilead men who were defending their homeland, the Ammonites killed women and unborn children (2 Kings 3:12; 15:16). To the Ammonites, land was more important than people.
- God hates the killing of innocent children.

5. _____ Respect _____ (2:1)

- The sin of Moab was disrespect for the dead. The Moabites humiliated the people of Edom by disgracing the memory of their kings by digging up their graves and burning their bones. God hates disrespect.

6. Obeying and worshipping _____ God alone _____ (2:4)

- Judah was not obeying God’s laws and was worshipping false gods.
- All the other nations were violating basic laws of humanity. But Judah had the privilege of having God’s revealed laws. God had spoken to them! Yet, they chose to rebel against the God of the universe.
- God hates disobedience and idolatry.

7. Fair treatment of _____ the poor _____ (2:6-8)

- LAWSUITS - Supported by corrupt judges, the rich were suing the poor who could not pay their bills and forcing them into servitude and slavery. They trampled on the poor like one would trample on dirt.
- FORCED IMMORALITY - Fathers and sons were having sex with the same cult prostitute (who had to be a prostitute because she was so poor).
- UNFAIR BANKING - Wealthy men would take the poor’s garments as collateral. The Law of Moses’ commanded them (the rich) to return the garment by sundown, but instead the wealthy would take the garment to a pagan altar, get drunk with the poor’s money, and then fall asleep next to the pagan altar (thus both defiling the garment and disobeying God’s law).
- And all of this was being done by God’s chosen people (“believers”).
- God hates injustice!

What If Amos Came to America

Amos	Nation Then	What God Hates	What America Has Done
1:3-5	Syrians	Cruelty	America enslaved over 4 million Africans in 1860 and treated them cruelly
1:6-8	Philistines	Slavery	
1:9-10	Phoenicians	Breaking treaties	The United States government made and broke over 300 treaties with Amer.Indians
1:11-12	Edomites	Family disharmony	50% of all marriages in America end in divorce; 22% of women have been physically assaulted by their partner
1:13-15	Ammonites	Killing of innocent children	Since 1973, there have been 40 million abortions in America.
2:1-3	Moabites	Disrespect	74% of Americans answer their cell phones in the middle of a conversation
2:4-5	Judah (south)	Disobedience and idolatry	Among US Christians (age 23-41), 59% believe it is OK to cohabit, 44% believe it’s OK to have sex outside marriage, 35% believe it is OK to get drunk
2:6-16	Israel (north)	Injustice toward the poor	Only 47% of Americans do something to help the poor

Application #2 – Let’s _____ repent _____. Let’s tell God that we are sorry for these things. Lord, I repent on behalf of America for all these things. But, I also repent for my participation in...

- Treating someone else cruelly
- Helping enslave someone else
- Not keeping my word
- Being in disharmony with so-n-so
- Aiding or participating in an abortion
- Disrespecting my parents, my spouse, my children, or someone else
- Disobeying God’s Word regarding...
- Worshipping myself, money, sex, television, Hollywood, or...
- Not caring about the poor and less fortunate

Application #3 – Let’s change our ways and do the things that matter to God. Lord, by the power of Your Spirit living in me, I want to live differently. Specifically, I ask for Your power to...

- Treat _____ with decency
- Honor and keep my word to _____
- Love _____ in my family
- Choose life and help save the unborn by _____
- Respect _____
- Obey Your Word regarding _____
- Worship You and You only
- Reach out to the less fortunate by _____

Application #4 – Two tangible ways to help the less fortunate:

1. The Church Has Left the Building
 - Sunday, July 27, 2008 – Rather than having worship services on campus, we are going to worship by going out into the community and serving the less fortunate in over 40 different projects.
 - Sign up today on the porch to be a part of a specific project.
2. Helping orphans
 - Orphan’s Hope Small Group – Meet some of the group’s members today at the “Special Events” kiosk or contact Morgan at mpylant@whatisgrace.org or 281-646-1903 x.130 for more info.

Application #5 – Is there any reconciliation work I need to do?

Questions to Discuss with My Family, Friends, and Small Group

1. What “pushes your buttons”? What is something that matters to you so much that it makes you angry when it is “violated” or opposed or contradicted?
2. Read Amos 1:3-2:16 and discuss its meaning and applications using these sermon notes. What are your applications? Pray for each other. Pray for CHLB.