

## Purpose

To pronounce God's judgment upon Israel, the northern kingdom, for its complacency, idolatry, and oppression of the poor

## Meaning of Name

"Burden"

## Date Written

During the reigns of Jeroboam II of Israel and Uzziah of Judah (app 760-750 BC)

## Setting

The wealthy people of Israel were oppressing the poor, even selling them into slavery.

## Key Verse

"I want to see a mighty flood of justice, a river of righteous living that will never run dry." *Amos 5:24*

## Key People

Amos, Amaziah, Jeroboam II

## Key Places

Bethel and Samaria

## Special Features

Amos uses striking metaphors from shepherding and farming — a loaded wagon (2:13), a roaring lion (3:8), a mutilated sheep (3:12), fat cows (4:1), and a basket of ripe fruit (8:1,2).

## An Overview (9 Chapters)

- The Announcement of Judgment (1:1-2:16)
- Reasons for Judgment (3:1-6:14)
- Visions of Judgment (7:1-9:15)

## Major Themes

- *Everyone Answers to God:* Amos pronounced judgment from God on all the surrounding nations. Then He included Israel and Judah. God is in supreme control of all the nations. Everyone is accountable to Him; all of us will have to give an account to Him for our sins.
- *Complacency:* A complacent present will lead to a disastrous future. Don't congratulate yourself for the blessings and benefits you now enjoy. They are from God. If you are more satisfied with yourself than with God, remember that everything is meaningless without Him. A self-sufficient attitude may be your downfall.
- *Oppressing the Poor:* God made all people; therefore, to ignore the poor is to ignore those whom God loves and whom Christ came to save. We must go beyond feeling bad for the poor and oppressed. We must act compassionately to stop injustice and to help care for those in need.
- *Superficial Religion:* Although many people had abandoned real faith in God, they still pretended to be religious. They were carrying on superficial religious exercises instead of having spiritual integrity and practicing heartfelt obedience toward God. Merely participating in ceremony or ritual falls short of true religion. God wants simple trust in Him, not showy external actions. Don't settle for impressing others with external rituals, when God wants heartfelt obedience and commitment.