



Minor Prophets

Lesson 2

Amos Chapters 1-6

After the kingdom of Israel split in two, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin remained faithful to the line of David under his son Rehoboam.

The other 10 tribes followed Jeroboam the son of Nebat (933-911 B.C.). Under his leadership, Israel (now the designated name of the 10 tribes of the north) fell into spiritual darkness. All the kings of Israel following Jeroboam were wicked and caused the nation to plunge deeper and deeper into sin. Though they continued in external worship of Yahweh through Sabbaths, tithing, and the legalities of the Law, they did not know personally the God who had delivered them from Egypt and gave them the land they possessed. Extreme military unrest in the form of battles with Judah (the southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin) and significant moral decline due to the adulterous worship of the gods of the surrounding nations continued to plague them. During this time of apostasy, God

raised up prophets that would be His voice to his unfaithful people.

Around 800-750 B.C. Jeroboam II came to power in Israel. Despite his wickedness, Israel rose to the height of its power militarily and economically under his leadership. But, as with many prosperous nations, as the rich grew richer the poor grew poorer. Extreme greed led to oppression of the poor and underprivileged. Though the tithes to God increased, God's people turned a blind eye to the miseries of the suffering. At this time, God raised up one of the first of the minor prophets - Amos, a shepherd from Tekoa. Although Tekoa was located in the southern kingdom of Judah, Amos was called across the border to Israel to proclaim God's warning.

READ II KINGS 14:23-29 & 15:1

1. *Who was king in Judah when Jeroboam II came to power? 2 Kings 14:32 Who became king in Judah after him? 15:1*

2. *Who was Jeroboam II compared to in his leadership of Israel? 14:24*

3. *What good did Jeroboam II do, and whose prophecy did it fulfill? 14:25*

READ AMOS 1-2

4. *Who were the kings in Judah and Israel during the ministry of Amos? Amos 1:1*



Damascus was a significant city that lay just north of the border of Israel. It was located at one time in the area of Syria. Syria was later invaded by the Arameans and became Aram. Under David and Solomon's reign Damascus was conquered and became part of the Hebrew kingdom. During the declining years of Solomon, Damascus once again returned to Aramean rule. Eventually Ben-hadad became the king of Damascus, and for many years conflicts between Israel and Damascus continued. But the prophet Elijah had been given a prophecy that Hazael, a high court official under Ben-hadad, would become king in his place. Later, when Ben-hadad became sick, he sent Hazael to the prophet Elisha to see if he would survive. When Hazael talked with Elisha, the prophecy about his rise to power was restated.

READ II KINGS 8:7-15

5. *How did Ben-hadad eventually die? Vs.15. Did Elijah and Elisha's prophecies come true?*

6. *In Amos 1:3-5, what was Amos' prophecy against Damascus/Aram and its infamous rulers Ben-hadad and Hazael? (Kir is believed to be a city in Assyria)*

7. *What other cities/regions did Amos give prophecies against? Amos 1:9, 11, 13; 2:1, 4, 6*

8. *What were some of Judah's and Israel's sins that Amos mentions in 2:4-8? What does God's anger toward these things tell you about Him?*



Note the personal nature of Judah and Israel's prophecies compared to the other nations/areas.

READ AMOS 3-4

9. *What amazing statement about Israel's privilege and personality does God make through Amos in 3:2 & 10?*
10. *What rebuke does God direct toward the women of Israel, and what will be their discipline? 4:1-3*



The area of Bashan was a well-known area fertile and ideal for crops and livestock. It was famous for producing large, well-fed prize cattle. The reference in Amos compares the rich and pampered women of Israel to these cows

11. *What things does Amos say God did to Israel to get her attention? 4:6-11*

READ AMOS 5-6

12. What additional sins of Israel are given in 5:10-12?

13. What does God give as a remedy for their condition? 5:14-15

14. What will be Israel's penalty for apostasy? 5:25-27; 6:7,14

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
