

Order of Worship

Announcements

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Scripture

Lord's Supper

Contribution

Sermon

Closing Prayer



Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9 a.m.

Worship 10 a.m.

Sunday Evening

Worship 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday Evening

Bible Classes 7 p.m.



New York Avenue CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 2, 2026

The Paint Job Doesn't Repair Rotted Wood

We come to a longer book among the Minor Prophets, Amos. This one is nine chapters.

Amos was primarily a shepherd (1:1), but he also served as a "dresser of sycamore figs" (7:14). Sycamore figs are smaller than other figs and they grow attached to the bark of the tree. It is noted that only the poorest laborer harvested the sycamore fig because the labor was so hard.

God called Amos to be His prophet during the reigns of King Uzziah of Judah (a good king) and King Jeroboam the son of Joash of Israel. Jeroboam was an evil king and an able administrator, who "... restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the Lord, the God of Israel ..." (2 Kings 14:25 (ESV)) From what we know historically, it appears that Israel prospered during Jeroboam's reign. However, from Amos we also learn that their prosperity only corrupted them more and drove them further away from God.

When you begin reading Amos, the first chapter and a half (1:1 – 2:5) are God's judgements against Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, the Ammonites, Moab and Judah. They are all short proclamations, two or three verses at most. Beginning in 2:6 through the rest of the book, however, Amos' prophesies against Israel. A subject that comes up several times is the oppression of the poor by the rich and powerful. (2:6, 7; 4:1; 5:12; 6:4-7; 8:4) In one colorful passage (4:1), he describes the selfish wives of the rich this way, "Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to your husbands, 'Bring, that we may drink!'" (ESV) Israel was guilty of other sins as well, but their oppression of the poor was high on God's list of wrongs.

Amos even reminds them in 4:6-11 that God had warned them in various ways. God had blessed them (4:6); He had withheld rain (4:7, 8); He struck their crops with blight and mildew (4:9); He had sent pestilence (4:10); and God had overthrown some of their cities (4:11). In each case the refrain was, "yet you did not return to me." A good summary of Israel's spiritual heart is in 3:10 – "'They do not know how to do right,' declares the Lord, 'those who store up violence and robbery in their strongholds.'" (ESV)

Yet, we also see Amos' heart for his country. In chapter 7:1-9, Amos pleads with God and expresses his worry that God's judgments are too harsh. "O Lord God, please cease!" he says. "How can Jacob stand? He is so small!" (7:5) God replies that He will not relent. (7:7-9) In chapter nine verses nine and ten, God says, "For behold, I will command, and shake the house of Israel among all the nations as one shakes with a sieve, but no pebble shall fall on the earth. All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, who say, 'disaster shall not overtake or meet us.'" (ESV)

However, as is the usual case, God's judgment is never the end of the story. Amos closes (9:11-15) with God's promise that He still has a future planned for His people: "I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit." (9:14 (ESV))

Amos is a powerful reminder that just because the economy is thriving and the military is strong, it doesn't mean the spiritual health of a nation is good. It doesn't even necessarily mean that God is blessing that nation. God measures more by how those who are rich and powerful treat the poor. He measures not by the number of sacrifices and the attendance at religious functions and festivals, but rather by the sincerity of the worshipper. God reminds us not to measure ourselves by outward prosperity but by our relationship with Him. ~ Terry



***“Be gracious to me, O
Lord, for I am languish-
ing; heal me, O Lord, for
my bones are troubled.”***

~ Psalm 6:2