

Alliance Theological Seminary

Amos

OT 755. NA – Amos (English)

OT 655. NA – Amos (Hebrew)

Spring 2020

Monday 6:15 - 9:10 PM

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Midterm Examination

Part One: Define all of the following terms.

1. Roeh – The term is used to refer to man of God, seer, prophet, and/or prophetic vision as in Isaiah 28:7.
2. Merism(us) – The word is used to represent God.
3. Gaza – Is one of the five chief towns of Philistia. It's 140 square miles of land located along the Mediterranean coast between Syria and Egypt.
4. Suzerainty treaty – The treaty was drafted between powerful overlords to dependent weaker vassals (land owners), guaranteeing them certain benefits like protection. In return the vassal was obligated to keep specific stipulations certifying loyalty only to the suzerain (overlord).
5. Minor Prophet – The twelve shorter prophetic books of Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.
6. Historicity – The quality of being true as history; of real existence or occurrence.
7. Assyria – They were the Semites (descendants of Noah's son Shem). One of the foreign nations used by God to discipline Israel. The prophet Nahum gave a word of judgment against Assyria in 650 BCE because of their oppression of the people of Judah.
8. Parallelism – The primary source for conveying rhythm of thought in biblical poetry, to repeat in the second line the corresponding ideas or grammatical characteristics that appeared in the first line of a Hebrew poetry.

9. Genre – The categorization of literature according to common characteristics like tone, vocabulary, structure, style, content and purpose.
10. Oracle – A message from God spoken through the prophets to individuals (Kings) and / or individual nations (Judah, Assyria).
11. Major Prophet – The longer prophetic books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel.
12. Vision – A graphic revelation that communicated what God was planning to do. Some visions were considered prophetic meaning God would fulfill the prophecy right away. Other visions were apocalyptic meaning that they describe cataclysmic future events.
13. Narrative – A story that records a series of events in prose form.
14. Apocalypse – God's plan to totally eradicate evil from the world and inaugurate His glorious Kingdom, where He will reign forever.
15. Nineveh – It was the capital city of Assyria. A wicked city which God sent a message for them to repent by the prophet Jonah in about 780 BCE.
16. Hesed – God's loyalty to His covenant people. It leads the Lord to acts of grace and mercy. However, justice is also built into the covenant to ensure accountability.

Part Two: Essay Question: Answer all of the following (100 words minimum).

1. Select one of the Neo-Assyrian Prophets. Outline the content of the book. List 3 major themes in the book. What are some of the unique features of this book.
1. Outline the book of Amos. What are some of the major themes of the book? What are some of the unique features of the book? How is Yahweh depicted in Amos?
1. List the Old Testament terminology for a prophet. Define each term and discuss the significance of each term.

Essay Questions

1. In my mind's eye, the Neo-Assyrian Prophet Hosea was a very special individual. His ministry covers the reign of four Southern Kingdom Kings; Kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. His prophecy was God's last voice to the Northern Kingdom before its destruction under King Jeroboam II (Hos.1:1-2; 2 Kings 14:22-29).

The Book of Hosea outlined, in chapters 1-3 Hosea uses his marital experience as a parable for the relationship between God and Israel. The chapters 4-14 express the details of the parable, Hosea message.

Three major themes of the Book of Hosea are:

- a) God viewed the sin of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, the worship of the Canaanite god Baal and the golden calves as acts similar to the unfaithful act of prostitution.
- b) God made accusations against His people by imitating the court language of a lawsuit. One of God's accusation was that there was no faithfulness or truth in Israel's dealings with Him, for the people were deceptive in all their ways (Hos. 11:12-12:2).
- c) God would step back and wait for Israel to repent, to seek to know Him and acknowledge Him as their God (Hos. 5:15-6:3).

Some of the unique features of the Book of Hosea consist of:

- a) God commanded the Prophet Hosea to marry a woman who would prove to be unfaithful in their marriage relationship.
- b) The Prophets wife Gomer had three children. They were given names that would say something about God's relationship with Israel (Hos. 1:4-9).
- c) Another unique feature is when Gomer came to a terrible end, and landed at a point to be auctioned off as a slave. God told Hosea to go buy Gomer back and to reinstate her as his wife (Hos. 3:1-3).

Yahweh really pressed the Prophet Hosea with His command. Reading the information on him really causes one to exam themselves and their individual relationship with God. How much do you really trust Him?

2. The Prophet Amos spent most of his life caring for someone else's sheep and cultivating the fruit of the sycamore tree. He was not trained in any school of the prophet, which was started by the Prophet Samuel (Amos 1:1; 7:14-15). He was from the town of Tekoa, in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. The Prophet Amos ministry covers the reign of King Uzziah of Judah and Jeroboam II of Israel.

The Book of Amos is outlined in the following manner:

- I. Introduction/ Announcement of Judgment (Amos 1:1-2)
- II. Oracles Against the Nations (Amos 1:3-2:16)
- III. Additional Oracles/ Oracles Against Israel (Amos 3:1-6:14)
- IV. The Warning of Judgement (Amos 7:1-9:10)
- V. Restoration of Israel (Amos 9:11-15)

The major themes of the Book of Amos are:

- a) God would judge people for the sin of oppression of the weak (Amos 1:1-2:16). Included in this group are the members of the upper class in the Northern Kingdom of Israel (Amos 3:9-4:3).
- b) God did not accept the worship of the people. He considered it useless worship (Amos 4:4-13).
- c) Emphasized in a series of visions, the end of the Northern Kingdom of Israel was sure to come (Amos 8:1-3).
- d) A proclamation of salvation assured the people that, in spite of their present judgment God promised restoration of the nation (Amos 9:11-15).

Some of the unique features of the Book of Amos are:

- a) God shows both His sovereignty and power over all peoples of the earth. He directed the Prophet Amos to pronounce judgement on the nations that surrounded Israel and caused them harm (Amos 1:1-2:16).
- b) Amos pleaded with Yahweh to grant mercy on Israel (Amos 7:1-6).

- c) Amaziah the priest at Bethel ordered the prophet to return to Judah and carry his prophetic work there (Amos 7:12). The Prophet Amos gave a self-defense reply, "I am not a prophet, nor am I the son of a prophet (Amos 7:14-15).

3. The Old Testament terminologies which were applied to the prophets are: "prophet" (nabbi), "seer" (ro'eh), "man of God" (ishha-elohim), and "visionary" (hozeh). Each prophet was sent with a message from God and it was the prophet's job to communicate that message.

The title prophet stresses the active work of the person, in speaking the message from God during their time period in history, situations and current events. Basically, the prophet was a preacher. One who proclaimed God's word to Israel (Exodus 7:1-4).

The phrase "man of God" implies that the individual was possessed by God for a special service. It emphasizes the holy calling, moral character, and the God-given ministry of the prophet. The prophet predicted and was a forthteller (2 Kings 1:9-17).

The terms "seer" and "visionary" are descriptive of the individual prophet's experience. A "seer" has extraordinary insight that comes from God to the prophet. The prophet that is a "visionary", God speaks to the individual by way of dreams, and visions. Both the seer and the visionary were given the message by God of what was to come (1 Samuel 9:9-19).