

Instructions

Thinking of your reading this week and the definitions for prophets and prophecy that you developed, I would like you to write an answer to the following question, in 400-500 words: How does Amos fit your definition of a prophet?

A prophet is someone who received God's call to foretell the future, something pertaining to the Israel and the kingdom of God. According to the prophet God has a specific message at a specific time and for a specific purpose. God is the God of justice and righteous so where there is God justice and righteousness must reign. Amos before his call was no prophet but was a sheep breeder , a tender sycamore fruit. His call as a prophet was to prophesy to Israel. Under King Jeroboam II the Northern Kingdom greatly prospered but the kingdom has turned into unrighteousness and injustice and the worship of idolatry. The rich oppressed the poor in such a way that God sent a message to Amos to warn Israel to repent, seek God and live, to do good and not evil and live Amos 5:4; 5:14.

God is the lover of the poor and of the rich. In Amos days the rich have turned the temple into an ungodly temple and where only the rich were seen and injustice and unrighteous were the lots of every day's life. Through the mouth of the prophet God constantly reminded them to "Let justice run like water and righteousness like a mighty stream." But they would not listen and be healed. God had had enough of these social vices and told his prophet that He would judge Israel for her wrong doings. In fact, Amos predicted Israel's captivity by the Assyrians and other punishment of God's punitive retaliation to a stiff-necked king and their leaders... From that point forward we see a series of devastations brought about by devouring locusts on the crops, the burning fire on the that consumed and devoured the territory etc., In addition to that the Assyrians army took Israel captive. And on the top of that the temple was destroyed as Amos prophesied. This was a way for God to get rid of these idolatrous rich who oppressed the poor. God rebuked them for their ways. He demanded justice rather than dirty money and offering they were offering in the temple in the pretention it was for God.

It is in this sad reality that Amos prophesied for the restoration of Israel where the remnant of Israel and the Gentiles will rebuild the nation and prospered. Israel returned from their captivity and God dealt with that generation of evil and wicked and heatless rich men and their associates. This is actual nowadays in a world of evil and corruption and injustice there is hope that stream out from the heart of God of those remnants who still believe in God's restoration in every aspect of their lives. our world is like the world of Amos in those days, but God's faithfulness is keeping His own safe and sound for every good work. We must not keep silent and minimize the message of prophet Amos but we must speak up and pray to God to stop injustice. When we do so He will surely take revenge on the enemies...

Amos is the kind of prophet we still need today. A prophet who is not ashamed of proclaiming what God has said regardless of who it may concern. Amos was an authentic prophet and he perfectly fit in the definition of a prophet as stated earlier in our discussion questions. The lesson to learn is that God punish wrong doers if they don't repent. and last but not the least, God honors those who faithfully fulfilled their mission in the midst of opposition. He is able.