

Deborah Caviness
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Dr. Russell Mack
OT 655 – The Book of Amos

2 – What was one new perspective you gained from Barton’s treatment of popular religious beliefs in Chapter 2? In popular religious belief, Israel worshipped many gods after they were rescued from Egypt. They [Israel] worshipped the Baals and the Lord spoke about the removal of the word Baal from their mouths in Hos. 2:16-17. This says that Israel worshipped others rather than God alone.

3 – The purpose of Amos in this third chapter was to announce the punishment of Israel for her injustice to her people. Then using rituals to atone for their sins hoping God would change his mind about covenant-breaking.

4 – God would punish the other nations for their war crimes, and He would punish Israel for her idolatry but would spare a remnant of Judah for the sake of renewed heaven and earth and a future King.

5 – This chapter is about the different criticisms of all those who want to replace what Amos said to those that they think he said, by removing or twisting his words to explain, act, and release an idea of what the relationship of God is to Israel and its people.

6 – All the different criticisms lead back to Amos and his prophecy. These searches, for the original words of Amos, lead the critics from the Old Testament to New Testament and to its leaders to find answers.

7 – Of all Amos’s prophecies, Israel was not annihilated. Christians should read Amos to understand how God wanted Jews and Christians to be just with one another which runs throughout the Old and New Testaments.

The different approaches in chapter five could be summed up this way: Instead of adding or subtracting words from the authors, they change the intent for the audiences they were targeting. Childs put it best when he said, “What the Christian who studies the Bible should do, on the contrary, is to begin by treating the Bible as the Church’s book.”¹

1

John Barton. *The Theology of the Book of Amos*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012, 137.