Amos: Lesson 6 Homework

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1. Dr. Constable's Notes- pages 33-40
   The Old Testament Library- Amos- A Commentary by James Luther Mays- pages 54-71
   The Anchor Bible- Amos- A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary by Francis I. Andersen and David Noel Freedman- pages 369-395

2. The first new learning from this week's lesson was how God is accountable to Himself. "The oracle stresses not Israel's covenantal accountability, but Yahweh's" (Constable 34). Ultimately, God brings judgment because who He is must be congruent to everything in life. It is not that Israel did anything right, but Israel's covenant first and foremost originated and started from who God is and was. This also leads God to act justly by proclaiming his judgments beforehand. "People do not tremble at the news of some coming danger unless someone blows a trumpet to warn them. Calamities do not occur in cities unless God has either initiated or permitted them" (Constable 35). God never brought punishment and judgment without announcing and warning his people beforehand. This is so fair and just, and it truly shows God's character and nature again. God not only keeps his covenant because of who He is. But he also expresses his character through executing covenant promises and standards through just means.
   The second learning from this week's lesson that was compelling to me was God's call on Amos' life. ""…if an untrained rustic farmer is preaching God's Word, *it means God has called him*"" (Constable 36). Amos was called because it did not make sense in the standards of the world for someone like him to be used by God. God's calling is based on who He is and what He desires to do and not on any other standard. The fact that someone like Amos was used is an even clearer indication of God's call and hand using him in his life. Another important thing to note in this week's lesson is the role of God's covenant as the foundation for proclaiming his judgments upon Israel. "Since it bases Yahweh's punishment on the special relation to Israel which he himself inaugurated, the word furnishes a theological framework within which other announcements of coming judgment can be understood" (Mays 54-55). Israel needed to understand the relationship they were called to through God's covenant starting from Egypt. This was showing that God is fair and right and just in bringing the judgments to come.

3. How does God's covenant with Israel affect the church today?