

Amos: Introductory Analysis

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Author/audience: what questions do you have about the author and audience?

Why was Amos a shepherd? (1:1) Was the book of Amos really written by Amos, or was that a pseudo name? (1:1)

Who is Haz'ael and Ben-ha'dad? (1:4)

People Syria? (1:5)

Who are the remnant of the Philistines? (1:8)

Who is the ruler and its princes with him? (2:3)

What is Zion and Smar'ia? (6:1)

Who is Joseph? (6:6)

Who is the house of Jerobo'am? (7:9)

What exactly is a herdsman and dresser of sycamore trees? (7:14)

Who are the Ethiopians? (9:7)

Who is Uzziah and Jeroboam? (1:1)

Who is the king in the Valley of Aven? (1:5)

Where is Kir, and who are the people of Aram? (1:5)

Are the Nazirites and prophets literally from the physical lineage of the Israelites? (2:11)

Who are the bravest warriors? (2:16)

Why is LORD God Almighty used here? (4:13)

The LORD is his name: what reference to God is being made here? (5:8)

Who is the remnant of Joseph? (5:15)

Why is God referred to as Sovereign LORD and the LORD God Almighty here? (6:8)

Who is Jacob here? (7:2)

Who is the Pride of Jacob? (8:7)

Who is the sinful kingdom? (9:8)

Who are the descendants of Jacob? (9:8)

Who is the remnant of Edom? (9:12)

Who is the reaper, plowman, planter, and one treading grapes? (9:13)

What are shepherders from Tekoa? Where is Tekoa? (1:1)

Who is the LORD? (1:2)

Who are the shepherds? (1:2)

Who is “every inhabitant” here? (1:5)

Who is the one who holds the scepter, from Beth-eden? (1:5)

Who are the people of Aram? (1:5)

Who is Gaza? (1:6)

Who is Edom? (1:6)

Why is Gaza referred to as “her” here? (1:7)

Who are the remnant of the Philistines? (1:8)

Who are the pregnant women of Gilead? (1:13)

Why is God referred to as The LORD God of armies is His name here? (4:13)

History/geography: what historical or geographical references do you wish you knew more about and why?

Why was there an earthquake? (1:1)

Why are people hiding and hushing? (6:10)

Where is this grass of the land? (7:2)

Where is Harmon? (4:3)

Where is the vineyards located? (5:17)

Where is Zion and Mount Samaria? (6:1)

Where is Bethel, the king’s sanctuary, and the temple of the kingdom? (7:13)

Where is this pagan country? (7:17)

Where is Egypt, Caphtor, and Kir? (9:7)

What is this exile? (9:14)

Where is Israel’s own land and that was given by God? (9:15)

Language/literary features: what strikes you as curious about the language used (for example: repetition, figures of speech, literary conventions)? What questions do you have about the original Hebrew?

Is Zion and Jerusalem actual or literary references? (1:2)

What is the scepter being referred to in verse 5? (1:5)

Why the usage of fishhooks? (4:2)

Why does “yet you did not return to me” repeat in these verses? (4:6-11)

What is the Pleiades and Orion? (5:8)

Why are lambs and calves involved here? (6:4)

What is the summer fruit? (8:1)

Literally sea to sea and north to east, or is this a literary description? (8:12)

What is the sword and serpent? (9:3-4)

What does it mean by evil and not for good? (9:4)

Why are mountains dripping with sweet wine and hills flowing from it? (9:13)

Is literal fire going to be used? (1:10)

Who are the fortresses of Keriath? (2:2)

Who is Moab? (2:2)

Is literal fire going to be used again? (2:5)

What is the law of the LORD and the false gods being referred to here? (2:4)

Is it literal wine being used here? (2:8)

Will God literally kill and crush the Israelites here? (2:13)

What does it mean to flee naked? (2:16)

Who are “his servants the prophets” being referred to here? (3:7)

Who is the lion here? (3:8)

Did God literally give no bread and empty stomachs? (4:6)

Did God literally withhold rain from the harvest? (4:7)

What is the day of the LORD? (5:18)

What is this basket of ripe fruit? (8:2)

What does this famine of hearing the words of the LORD look like? (8:11)

What does it mean to shake the people of Israel? (9:9)

Why can someone do anything but prophesy? (3:8)

Why go and do wrong? (4:4)

Culture: where are there references to cultural things that intrigue you? What do you wish you knew about the cultural background so you could understand the context better?

What is the new moon? (8:5)

Is the Nile referred to here the same Nile from Exodus' account? (8:8)

Where is Bethel? (3:14)

What is the winter and summer house? (3:15)

What is the cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria? (4:1)

What does the phrase "Bring us some drinks!" mean? (4:1)

What are the books and fishhooks? Are these the same items or different? (4:2)

What is Israelites' usage of the gardens, vineyards, fig trees, and olive trees? (4:9)

Why is Sodom and Gomorrah referred to here? (4:11)

What are the burnt and grain offerings? (5:22)

What are the choice fellowship offerings? (5:22)

What are the sacrifices and offerings? (5:25)

What are the beds adorned with ivory and couches? (6:4)

What is the conquest of Lo Debar? (6:13)

Where is Lebo Hamath and the valley of the Arabah? (6:14)

Which/what kind of altar is the Lord standing by? (9:1)

What is David's fallen shelter? (9:11)

What does grain shaken in a sieve look like? (9:9)

What is the fallen shelter of David? (9:11)

Theology: where is there conflict or tension between theological themes (ex. despair/hope, judgment/restoration)?

What is maiden exactly? (2:7) And how does that profane God's holy name?

Is God really going to meet Israel directly?! (4:12)

What does good and evil have to do with living? (5:14)

What does it look like when God passes through the midst of His people? (5:17)

What are the burnt and cereal offerings? (5:22)

What kind of justice and righteousness does God desire? (5:24)

Is forty years here referring to the account of Exodus? (5:25)

Who is Sakkuth and Kaiwan? (5:26)

Why is God repenting?!!!! (7:3)

Why are people mourning? (8:8)

What is the war cries and blast of the trumpets? (2:2)

Is the actual Exodus account being referred to here? (2:10)

What does it mean to fill their nostrils with the stench of your camps? (4:10)

Is the thousand and hundred strong a literal or symbolic reference? (5:3)

What is justice and righteousness being referred to here? (5:7)

Why is David referred to here? (6:5)

What is the plumb line being referred to here suddenly? (7:7)

What are the high places of Isaac and sanctuaries of Israel here? (7:9)

Structure/organization: how easily does the book “flow,” in your opinion? Where are there “seams” or “speed bumps” you “trip” over? Where are there indications of organization?

Is verse 2 already a chiastic structure?! (1:2)

Why does “three transgressions...and for four” keep repeating? (1:11)

Literal fire going to be used? (2:5)

Literally trampling, persecuting the poor? (2:7)

Why are there so many usages of questions consecutively and suddenly? (3:3-8)

Does the lamentation mark a new thought, beginning in the book of Amos? (5:1)

What does it mean to “Seek me and live”? (5:4)

Is the word and lament a structural pivot and transition here? (5:1)

When Amos is shown this, is this a transition marker? (7:1)

Why is “How can Jacob survive? He is so small!” repeated here? (7:2, 5)

Message: what are 3 different one-sentence titles for the book that capture what you think is the central message?