



AMOS

THE LION ROARS

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THE WELL CHURCH, OK
FALL 2023

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our study of Amos! This guide is meant to facilitate your personal study of God's word as we dig into this prophetic book as a church family. Our hope is that you would depend on the Lord as you come to His word and be confident that He will help you study, understand, and apply it to your life.

Each week, you will find several suggested observation and interpretation tools to help you meditate on and understand the passage. You will also see open-ended application questions to prompt you to prayerfully reflect on what God is teaching you. The point is not for these tools to be binding, but helpful to you as you spend time in God's word. You can use as many or as few of the tools and questions that you would like. To give you complete flexibility, the weeks of this guide are not divided into days. You will notice natural breaks between assignments where you can pause and pick up the next day, but we want you to use the guide however is best for you and your season.

We look forward to how the Lord will meet us on the pages of His word, "piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). As we begin the piercing, convicting, and hope-filled book of Amos, we echo David's prayer in Psalm 139:23-24 --

Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting!

May the Lord accomplish this in us!

In Him,
Katherine Ann Rush

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Ann Rush". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail at the end.

Deacon of Resourcing

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WEEK 1

Amos 1:1-2:3 | Introduction & The Nations: The Lion Roars | AUGUST 7TH-13TH

OVERVIEW

Begin in prayer. Then, to get the context and flow of Amos, read through the entire book. You can also listen to the book through an Audio Bible or the ESV app throughout the week. Feel free to read or listen to all of Amos as many times as you can throughout the series. Once you've read or listened to the whole book, consider the following questions:

- What are your first impressions of this book? What stands out to you?
- What are some of the main subjects addressed in Amos' prophetic message?
- How does his message flow? In other words, at this point, do you notice anything about how the content is organized?
- What questions do you have just from your read-through?

OBSERVATION

Read **Amos 1:1-2**. If you want to observe the text more closely, mark references to the following key words. Key words are repeated words that are central to the message of a book. Annotating them with specific colors or symbols helps the reader slow down and notice repeated ideas in the text.

- The LORD (He/Him) with a triangle
- Amos with an underline
- References to time with a clock

After you have read and marked, answer the following questions about this introduction to Amos' message.

- What do you learn about Amos?
- Who were his words about?
- When did he prophesy?
- How does Amos begin his message in vs. 2? What metaphor does he use for the LORD? What does this figurative language communicate?
- How do the pastures and mountains respond to the LORD's roar? Compare with Psalm 65:12.

Now read Amos 1:3–2:3, the first section of Amos' prophecy. For further observation, mark references to the following key words.

- The LORD (He/Him) with a triangle
- Words, roars, voice, says with a double underline
- Each nation listed with a highlight (Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, etc.)
- References to profit, money, selling, luxury, houses, etc. with a \$
- References to the needy or afflicted with a heart
- References to sin and specific sins (e.g., iniquity, violence, etc.) with a cloud

Amos 1:1–2:3 uses a specific pattern of repetition to unfold God's judgments. If you want to annotate this pattern, highlight or underline the following phrases in distinctive colors:

- For three transgressions of (nation) and for four
- I will not revoke the punishment
- Because/So
- It shall devour her strongholds

After you have read and marked the passage, spend some time considering God's case against each nation. Use the following chart to detail the nations one at a time, noting their transgressions and God's pronounced judgment on each. Finally, think about the "sin behind the sin" for each nation and how we might see these sins in our world today.

Nation	Transgression (Because...)	Judgment (So...I will)	How might we see these sins today?
1:3 Damascus	Threshed Gilead with threshing sledges of iron	Send a fire upon house of Hazael that will devour strongholds of Ben-hadad, break the gate-bar of Damascus, cut off inhabitants... and him who holds the scepter, exile.	Barbarity, brutality, violence, using people for a profit, disregard for human dignity and worth, inhumane treatment of others.
1:6			
1:9			
1:11			
1:13			
2:1			

INTERPRETATION

Read Romans 1:18–32 and Romans 2:14–16. Both of these passages highlight the sin and judgment of the Gentile world, those who do not know God (the “nations” in the Old Testament). What do you learn from these passages about why all people are accountable for their sin?

Look up the original definition of the word *strongholds* (and any other words you want to look up) using an online word study tool such as Blue Letter Bible or Bible Hub (instructions are below). This word is first used in Amos 1:4. How does the definition add to your understanding of what these “strongholds” were, and the lifestyle of these nations?

Blue Letter Bible:

- Type the book/chapter/verse reference in the search bar at the top of the page.
- Click on the verse reference (e.g., “Ephesians 1:4”) on the left side of the page.
- Click on the number of the word.

BibleHub:

- Select the book/chapter/verse reference at the top of the page.
- Select “Interlinear” (INT).
- Click on the number above the word.

APPLICATION

Prayerfully reflect on what you've studied. God called Amos, an ordinary shepherd, to bring His word to others. In a different way, God also calls us to bring His word, the Scriptures, to others. In what ways do you feel too ordinary or unqualified for God to use you? How does His choice of Amos encourage you? What are you doing with God's word?

In the book of Amos, the LORD repeatedly roars against the sin of self-pleasing and selfishness at the expense of others. How do you see this sin throughout the nations of this section? Where do you see a pursuit of self-pleasing in our culture? In your own heart? Why is this sin such an offense to God?

Why are affluence, materialism, and luxury such tempting places of refuge? What worldly "castles" (strongholds) are you most prone to look to rather than the LORD? Close your time by prayerfully reading Psalm 62.

WEEK 1 SERMON NOTES

Amos 1:1-2:3 | Introduction & The Nations: The Lion Roars | August 13th

WEEK 2

Amos 2:4-16 | Judgment on God's People | AUGUST 14TH-20TH

OBSERVATION

Begin with prayer. Then read **Amos 2:4-16**. For further observation, mark the following words as you read.

- The LORD (He/Him) with a triangle
- Words, roars, voice, says with a double underline
- Judah and Israel with a highlight
- References to profit, money, selling, luxury, houses, etc. with a \$
- References to the needy or afflicted with a heart
- References to sin and specific sins (e.g., iniquity, violence, etc.) with a cloud

The same pattern of repetition to unfold God's judgments continues in Amos 2:4-7. If you want to annotate this pattern, highlight or underline the following phrases in distinctive colors:

- For three transgressions of (nation) and for four
- I will not revoke the punishment
- Because/So
- It shall devour her strongholds

Why do you think the same literary pattern is used to pronounce judgment against the nations and God's people? What do you think the original audience, the kingdom of Israel, would have been thinking as they heard the judgment for each nation? For Judah? How do you think they would have felt when they heard their own name called?

As you did last week, note the two kingdoms of God's people mentioned in this section on the following chart, as well as their transgressions and consequences. Think about the "sin behind the sin" for Judah and Israel and how we see these sins in our world today.

Kingdom	Transgression (Because...)	Judgment (So...I will)	How might we see these sins today?
2:4-5			
2:6-18			

What similarities and differences do you see between the sins of the nations and the sins of God's people?

Since the focus of Amos' prophecy is the northern kingdom of Israel, answer the following questions to meditate more on his message to them.

- What kinds of sins was Israel committing (vs. 6-8, 12)? In what ways might they have been tempted to excuse or dismiss these sins? (Note: Read Numbers 6 for more on the Nazarites.)
- What did the LORD remind His people of (vs. 9-11)? Why do you think He mentions these aspects of their history?
- What false sources of strength and confidence would the LORD overthrow in His judgment (vs. 13-16)?

IIINTERPRETATION

Last week, we compared Amos 1 to Romans 1, observing how both passages state judgment against the nations who do not know God. This week, compare Amos 2 to Romans 2:1-5 and 2:17-24. According to Romans 2, what were the Jews doing when they looked at the sinful nations around them? What does Paul say to them? How does Amos make a similar point?

Read 1 Peter 4:17-19. Can God's people use the privilege of being God's children as an excuse to dismiss sin? Rather than assuming divine favoritism, what attitudes and actions should our sonship in Christ promote in us?

Look up any words you want to using your word study tools (see Week 1).

APPLICATION

In what ways are you tempted to look around at everyone else's sin – in the world or the church at large – rather than looking inward at your own? Why is it so crucial that we continue to examine ourselves in light of God's word, rather than first pointing fingers?

How has the Lord convicted you in this week's passage? Are there any sins that Judah and Israel were walking in that you need to repent of (e.g., rejecting something in God's word, walking in lies, prioritizing profit over the needy, impurity and compromise, thoughtlessness toward others)?

The sin of self-pleasing had polluted even God's own people. How do you see this sin in both Judah and Israel? How do you see this pursuit of self-pleasing in the church? In your own heart? How can you turn from self and to Christ?

WEEK 2 SERMON NOTES

Amos 2:4-16 | Judgment on God's People | August 20th

WEEK 3

Amos 3:1-4:13 | A Lack of Repentance | AUGUST 21ST-27TH

OBSERVATION

Begin with prayer. Then read **Amos 3:1-4:13**. For further observation, mark references to the following key words.

- The LORD (He/Him) with a triangle
- Words, roars, voice, says, declares, proclaims with a double underline
- The phrase “yet you did not return to me” (Chapter 4)
- References to sin and specific sins (e.g., iniquity, violence, etc.) with a cloud
- References to profit, money, selling, luxury, houses, etc. with a \$
- References to the needy or afflicted with a heart

You might also want to mark references to these repeated words and ideas:

- Hear
- Strongholds

Skim through this section and note where you marked references to the LORD’s words (says, proclaims, declares, etc.). Write down what you learn. What is the LORD saying? How are His people called to respond?

Observe each section of these chapters by answering the following questions.

Amos 3:1-8

- Who is the LORD continuing to speak to (vs. 1-2)? What does He call them to do?
- Think about it - Because of their uniqueness in being chosen by God, what attitude might Israel be tempted to have about themselves? Their sin?
- Write down the rhetorical questions the LORD asks (vs. 3-6). What do all of these scenarios have in common?
- How does the LORD conclude these questions (vs. 7-8)? What is His point?

Amos 3:9-15

- In this next section, who does the LORD surprisingly address and assemble (vs. 9-10)? What does He want them to see? (Note: Samaria was the capital city of the 10 tribes of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.)

- What judgment is coming as a result of Israel's sin (vs. 11)?

- Amos 3:12 is difficult to interpret without context. Before trying to make sense of it, observe this verse carefully. What specific comparison does the LORD make (look for the words "as....so")?
 - The shepherd rescues what is "left over" of a sheep (or what parts of the sheep survived) from a lion's mouth. Trace this comparison to Israel - what does God say would be hypothetically "left over" in Israel if they were in a similar situation? In other words, what does the text say would be the only surviving evidence of their existence?

 - Now, think about it. When God sees what would "survive" of His people, He sees only parts of beds and couches - evidence of luxury. What is He saying about their spiritual state? What do you think should be the legacy of God's people instead?

- What judgment does God proclaim next (vs. 13-15)? Note where you marked references to houses. What does this section reveal about the lifestyle and luxury in Israel at this time?

- At this point, what sins has God called Israel to account for? List them below.

Amos 4:1-5

- Look carefully at Amos 4:1-3. What bold metaphor do you see, and who is God describing? What is God saying through this comparison?
- How do you think the original hearers would have responded to such a strong indictment?
- Where does God call His people to come (vs. 4-5)? What does He tell them to do there? Why is what He says ironic and surprising?
- To understand the significance of Bethel and Gilgal, we need context. Bethel and Gilgal were significant spiritual locations in the history of Israel (e.g., see Genesis 28:10-19; Joshua 4:19-24).
 - Read 1 Kings 13:26-33. What had the first king of the Northern kingdom done at Bethel? Why?
 - Based on this context, what do you think Israel would have expected God to say about these places and their religious activities? What does He say about them instead (vs. 4)?
 - How do you think Israel viewed their worship practices? Based on these verses, how did God view them?
- Now think carefully about how God describes Israel's worship in Amos 4:5.
- What were they giving as thank offerings? Compare with Leviticus 7:12. What was the issue?
- What were they doing with their freewill offerings? Compare with Matthew 6:1, where Jesus (much later) addresses the same issue in His hearers. What was the issue?
- What did Israel love? What does this tell you about their affections and delight? What was the issue?
- At this point, what other sins has God called Israel to account for? List them below.

Amos 4:6-13

- In the next section, Amos again uses repetition to make a point. Write down what God does to get Israel's attention in each of the following verses. Did Israel get the message?
 - Amos 4:6
 - Amos 4:7-8
 - Amos 4:9
 - Amos 4:10
 - Amos 4:11
- How does this section conclude (vs. 12-13)? What does God say to His people? What does He say about Himself?

INTERPRETATION

Read Psalm 51, John 4:23-24, and 2 Corinthians 7:9-11 and What do you learn about genuine repentance and genuine worship in these passages?

Using your word study tools (see Week 1), look up the word "return" (Amos 4:6) in Hebrew and "repentance" (2 Cor 7:10) in Greek. What do you learn?

APPLICATION

In Amos 3-4, the LORD calls His people to respond to the lion's roar – His very voice speaking against them. They enjoyed immense luxury and success, yet sin characterized their cities and they "did not know how to do right." Based on these chapters, is material prosperity a reliable indicator of God's approval? In what ways does our culture, and even the church, often promote this idea? How does the book of Amos show us that God sees not as man sees?

In what ways are we attempted to assume our religious activities are automatically acceptable to the LORD as long as we "check the box"? How do these chapters call us away from false religion and toward genuine worship?

The LORD was busy calling His people to repentance, but Israel was too busy being religious and pursuing luxury to notice. What distractions preoccupy you and dull your affection for the LORD? In what ways could He be trying to get your attention to meet Him and return to restored relationship with Him?

Which sins in Israel do you see in our world, the church, and your own life? Are there any ways you need to take sin more seriously- as seriously as God does? How did the LORD convict you through His words to Israel, and how do you need to repent?

What do you learn about God's character and covenant faithfulness in these chapters? How does He repeatedly call His people to reverent relationship with Him? What comfort can you draw from His dealings with His people?

WEEK 3 SERMON NOTES

Amos 3:1-4:13 | A Lack of Repentance | August 27th

WEEK 4

Amos 5:1-17 | Seek the LORD and Live | AUGUST 28TH - SEPTEMBER 3RD

OBSERVATION

Begin with prayer. Then read **Amos 5:1-17**. For further observation, mark references to the following key words.

- The LORD (He/Him) with a triangle
- Words, roars, voice, says, declares, proclaims with a double underline
- References to sin and specific sins (e.g., iniquity, violence, etc.) with a cloud
- References to profit, money, selling, luxury, houses, etc. with a \$
- References to the needy or afflicted with a heart
- Seek with an arrow
- Live with an L
- Righteousness with an R
- Justice with a J

Observe this section by answering the following questions.

- What kind of word is the LORD taking up (vs. 1)? What is the emotion and tone at the beginning of this chapter?

- What sorrowful message does the LORD declare (vs. 2)? Fill in the blanks of the specific lamentation:

_____ no more to _____ is the _____
Israel, _____ on her land, with _____.

- What is the point of these contrasts? How do they emphasize what should have been true about Israel, and is not?

- Fill in the blanks of the lamentation of Amos 5:3:

For thus says the LORD God: The city that went out _____ shall
have _____ left, and that which went out _____ shall
have _____ left to the house of Israel.

- What do these numbers show you?

- What does God call His people to do (vs. 4)? What will be the result?
- What does He tell them not to seek (vs. 5)? List the three locations He mentions below.
- We started to study these cities last week, but if you have some time, look up the following cross references and note what you learn about these locations.
 - Bethel – Genesis 28:16, 35:1-16
 - Beersheba – Genesis 26:23-24, 46:1-4
 - Gilgal – Joshua 4 and 5
- If Bethel, Beersheba, and Gilgal were supposed to be places of the LORD's presence, companionship, and inheritance, why would He tell them not to seek them? Think about what we know about these places from chapter 4 and what the LORD is calling them to seek instead. Who had they missed in all their religious activities?
- What call is repeated (vs. 6)?
- What metaphor do you notice next (vs. 7)? What is the LORD saying?
- What do you learn about the LORD (vs. 8-9)? Why do you think this section interrupts the flow of thought convicting Israel of their sin?
- What details do you learn about Israel's sin and lifestyle (vs. 11-13)? Write down the sinful attitudes and actions you see addressed.
- What does the LORD again call His people to (vs. 14-15)? For what purpose?
- What repetition do you notice in vs. 16-17?

INTERPRETATION

- Read the following cross references and note what you learn about seeking the LORD. What can we learn in our own pursuit of God?
 - 1 Chronicles 16:10-11
 - Psalm 34:10
 - Psalm 119:2
 - Hosea 10:12
 - Hebrews 11:6
- Look up any words you want to using your word study tools (see Week 1).

APPLICATION

Israel sought places that had been significant to their relationship with the LORD in the past, yet missed the LORD Himself. In what ways might you be tempted to associate yourself with religion but fail to seek the LORD?

Amos 5 paints a picture of Israel's funeral, where God's people are fallen and forsaken because they abandoned Him. This lamentation teaches us of the grievous error of turning from the LORD. What kinds of things does our culture tell us to grieve over? What kinds of things do you tend to be most grieved over? How can you lament over what the Lord does – sin and broken relationship with Him in your own life, the church, and the world?

How are you seeking the Lord in this season? How are you delighting in His presence, companionship, and inheritance for you? What does this look like practically?

How did the Lord convict you and call you to righteousness through this week's passage?

WEEK 4 SERMON NOTES

Amos 5:1-17 | Seek the LORD and Live | September 3rd

WEEK 5

Amos 5:18-27 | The Roots of Sin: Empty Religion | SEPTEMBER 4TH-10TH

OBSERVATION

Begin with prayer. Then read **Amos 5:18-27**. For further observation, mark references to the following key words.

- The LORD (He/Him) with a triangle
- Words, roars, voice, says, declares, proclaims with a double underline
- References to profit, money, selling, luxury, houses, etc. with a \$
- References to the needy or afflicted with a heart
- References to sin and specific sins (e.g., iniquity, violence, etc.) with a cloud
- Righteousness with an R
- Justice with a J

Observe this passage more deeply by answering the following questions.

- What do you learn about the day of the LORD (vs. 18-20)?
- What surprising message does the LORD deliver next (vs. 21)? How does He feel about their feasts and assemblies?
- What does the LORD say about the people's offerings (vs. 22)?
- What does He tell them to do with their songs (vs. 23)?
- Instead of empty feasts, offerings, and songs, what does God want (vs. 24)?
- What metaphor does He use? What is His point (vs. 24)?
- What sin does the LORD condemn at the conclusion of this chapter (vs. 25-27)? What judgment does He proclaim?

INTERPRETATION

- Read the following cross references and note what you learn about justice and righteousness. What do these passages show us about God's character and about the worship He desires?
 - Deuteronomy 32:4
 - Psalm 140:12
 - Proverbs 21:3
 - Isaiah 1:11-18
 - Micah 6:6-8
 - Luke 11:42
- Look up any words you want to using your word study tools (see Week 1).

APPLICATION

How do people engage in empty religion today? Think about what the motions of worship can look like in our world and culture, the global church, and your own life.

Are there any ways you are going through the motions of worship while neglecting the justice due to your neighbors? What barriers/challenges keep you from seeking justice in the world, our city, the church, and your own relationships? In what practical ways can you contribute to letting justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream?

What did you learn about God's heart and character this week? How did He convict and encourage you?

WEEK 5 SERMON NOTES

Amos 5:18-27 | Roots of Sin: Empty Religion | September 10th

WEEK 6

Amos 6:1-14 | The Roots of Sin: Pride and Affluence | SEPTEMBER 11TH-17TH

OBSERVATION

Begin with prayer. Then read **Amos 6:1-14**. For further observation, mark references to the following key words.

- The LORD (He/Him) with a triangle
- Words, roars, voice, says, declares, proclaims with a double underline
- References to profit, money, selling, luxury, houses, etc. with a \$
- References to sin and specific sins (e.g., iniquity, violence, etc.) with a cloud
- Righteousness with an R
- Justice with a J

Observe this chapter by answering the following questions.

- Who does the LORD declare “woe” to first (vs. 1)? How are these people described?
- What does the LORD tell them to do, and what does He ask (vs. 2)?
- What are these people doing (vs. 3)?
- Who does the LORD declare “woe” to next (vs. 4)? Write down how these people are described and the luxuries they enjoy (vs. 4-6). What are they doing with their time and resources? More importantly, what is the state of their hearts (vs. 6)?

- Was luxury in itself the problem? Based on the whole book of Amos, what did a preoccupation with affluence reveal about Israel's heart and spiritual state? Who were they most concerned about? What was the fruit (vs. 12)?

- What judgments does God promise (vs. 7-14)? Write down what He says will happen.

INTERPRETATION

- Read Matthew 23:25; 1 Timothy 6:6-12, 17-19; and Hebrews 13:5. What do you learn about greed and the love of money? How can believers guard their hearts from coveting and materialism?

- Read Matthew 13:32-37, Romans 13:11-14, and 1 Thessalonians 5:2-8. How are God's people to live, fighting spiritual sloth and complacency?

- Look up any words you want to using your word study tools (see Week 1).

APPLICATION

In what ways do people today put God's judgment "far away" and "bring near" their sin while living at ease with a false sense of security? How does this indictment speak into our culture? Our lives?

Are you ever less inclined to pursue Christ when things seem to be going relatively well in your life? Describe a time you felt apathetic toward the Lord, and how He brought you out of it. If you're currently in a season of apathy, spend some time praying and talking with your GC about it. How does Amos 6 call us out of apathy, pride, self-preoccupation, and spiritual slumber?

Close by praying that the Lord would help you stay awake, zealous, and fervent in love for Him, His people, and His kingdom. Ask Him where you have drifted into a love of self and ease, and pray that He would help you seek justice and righteousness.

WEEK 6 SERMON NOTES

Amos 6:1-14 | Roots of Sin: Pride and Affluence | September 17th

WEEK 7

Amos 7:1-8:14 | A Famine of the Word | SEPTEMBER 18TH-24TH

OBSERVATION

Begin in prayer. Then read **Amos 7:1-8:14**. For further observation, mark references to the following key words.

- The LORD (He/Him) with a triangle
- Words, roars, voice, says, declares, proclaims with a double underline
- References to profit, money, selling, luxury, houses, etc. with a \$
- References to the needy or afflicted with a heart
- References to sin and specific sins (e.g., iniquity, violence, etc.) with a cloud
- Prophet/prophesy with a P
- The phrase, "This is what the Lord GOD showed me"

You might also want to mark references to these people:

- Amos
- Amaziah

Observe these two chapters by answering the following questions.

Amos 7:1-9

- What does the LORD show Amos first (vs. 1-3)? What judgment is He describing? Describe the conversation between Amos and the LORD.

- What does the LORD show Amos next (vs. 4-6)? What judgment is He describing? Again, describe the conversation between Amos and the LORD.

- What does the LORD show Amos next (vs. 7-9)? What judgment is He describing? What is similar and different about this third exchange as compared to the first two?

Amos 7:10-17

- What person are we introduced to (vs. 10)? What is his role and where does he live?
- What does Amaziah do (vs. 10-11)?
- After sending to Jeroboam, Amaziah addresses Amos. What does he say (vs. 12-13)? Based on Amaziah's actions so far, are we to view him positively or negatively?
- How does Amos respond (vs. 14-15)? What does this show you about him?
- What difficult-to-hear word from the LORD does Amos deliver to Amaziah (vs. 16-17)?

Amos 8:1-14

- What final image does the LORD show Amos (vs. 1-3)? What judgment is he describing? (Note: the Hebrew words for summer fruit and end sound alike.)
- Who does the LORD address next (vs. 4-6)? Write down what they are doing, saying, feeling, and desiring. Take note of where you marked references to profit, luxury, etc. and to the needy.
- What judgments does the LORD promise (vs. 7-10)?
- What kind of famine does the LORD declare is coming (vs. 11)?
- What will be the effect of this famine (vs. 12-14)?
- In summary, what issues in Israel's relationship with God and others are addressed in Amos 7-8? How were they failing to love the LORD their God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love their neighbors as themselves?

INTERPRETATION

- Compare Amos' response to Amaziah in Amos 7:14-16 with the apostles' response to the religious leaders in Acts 4:13-20. What similarities do you notice? What can you learn from their examples?
- Read Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:35-40, Romans 13:8-10, Galatians 5:14, and 1 John 4:7-11. What relationship do you see between love of God and love of neighbor?
- Look up any words you want to using your word study tools (see Week 1).

APPLICATION

What can we learn from the contrasting characters of Amaziah and Amos?

Israel's failure to love God was evidencing itself not only in their worship, but in their failure to love their neighbors. How do you see this reality in your own life? What does poor love of your neighbors reveal about your love for God? How is the Lord calling you to repentance, both in your relationship with Him and your relationship with others?

Are there any ways you find worship and obedience to be a burden, and comfort/profit, even at the expense of others, to be a delight (Amos 8:5-6)? Read 1 John 5:3, and spend some time asking the Lord to help you delight in His commandments.

WEEK 7 SERMON NOTES

Amos 7:1-8:14 | A Famine of the Word | September 24th

WEEK 8

Amos 9:1-15 | Restoring the Ruins | SEPTEMBER 25TH - OCTOBER 1ST

OBSERVATION

Begin with prayer. Then read **Amos 9:1-15**. For further observation, mark references to the following key words.

- The LORD (He/Him) with a triangle
- Words, roars, voice, says, declares, proclaims with a double underline
- The repeated phrase "If...from there/there"
- Words of restoration (raise up, repair, rebuild, restore, plant, etc.) with an upwards arrow

Observe and interpret this final chapter by answering the following questions. Look up any words you want to using your word study tools (see Week 1).

- Who does Amos see standing beside the altar (vs. 1)?
- Read 1 Kings 12:32-33 (a portion of a passage you read earlier in our study). Who is repeatedly described as standing by the altar in these verses? What was he doing?
- In 1 Kings 12, Jeroboam stood beside the altar to establish a counterfeit feast on a counterfeit altar for a counterfeit monarchy. In Amos 9, the LORD is standing by the altar. What do you think Amos' point is?
- What does the LORD say (vs. 1-4)? Write out His "if...from there" statements. Then compare this passage with Psalm 139:7-12. What similarities and differences do you notice?

- What do you learn about the LORD in vs. 5-6? Why do you think these particular aspects of His character highlighted here?

- What does the LORD say next (vs. 7-10)? How are His words meant to humble Israel, yet also comfort them?

- What beautiful promises of restoration does the LORD declare at the end of this prophetic book (vs. 11-15). Write down everything the LORD says He will do, and the images of restoration He gives.

- Compare Amos 9:11-15 with Genesis 1-2 and Revelation 21-22. What similarities do you see?

APPLICATION

What did you learn about God's character and ways in Amos 9? How should you respond?

If you have trusted Christ for salvation, you are safe from the wrath of God. However, the book of Amos shows us that God's people must never take their uniqueness and salvation lightly, or use God's mercy as an excuse for sin. How do Amos 9:2-4 and Psalm 139:7-12 both comfort us and stir reverence in us?

In what specific ways do you long for Eden to be restored, and for the true King to abolish all counterfeits and establish the new heavens and new earth? How can you cling to this hope in your daily life?

WEEK 8 SERMON NOTES

Amos 9:1-15 | Restoring the Ruins | September October 1st