

**Amos - "Seek Me and Live"**

**Summary**

"Condemnation of rich for oppression of poor"

**Historical Context**

Time Frame

No. King Jeroboam II (793-53, esp. 767-53)

Conditions in Israel

Political Expansion

Economic Prosperity

Spiritual / Moral Failure

Places in Amos

Tekoa

Bethel

Dan

Beersheba

Gilgal

Lebo Hamath, Arabah

"I will stir up a nation" (6.14).

**Character of The Prophet**

Called By God

From Tekoa (SK) to Samaria/Bethel (NK), 7.15

Counselor in God's Court

Party to Divine Disclosures, 3.7

Challenging God to Compassion, 7.2, 5

Opposed by People

7.12, cf. 5.10

**Book Outline**

Critique of Northern Kingdom

Bribery in Courts

"You oppress the righteous and take bribes and you deprive the poor of justice in the courts," 5.12b ; 2.6

Dishonesty in Marketplace

"...skimping the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales," 8.5-6.

"They trample on the heads of the poor," 2.7a.

Hypocrisy in Church

"When will the New Moon be over?" 8.5.

"Father and son use the same girl," 2.7b-8.

Spiritual Oblivion

"Woe to you who are complacent in Zion [SK]," 6.1, 6-7.

**"The Day of the Lord"**

Old Understanding

Vindication for Israel

New Revelation

Terror for Israel, 5.18-20

## Character of God

Lion, 1.2  
Judge, 9.1-10  
Creator, 4.13, 5.8  
Restorer, 9.11-15  
Revealer of Plans 3.7;4.13

Irrepressible Message

"...The Sovereign Lord has spoken--who can but prophesy?" 3.8b.

## Application

### Ancient

#### **A Warning ---**

Persistent violation of God's standards will bring inescapable judgment, regardless of spiritual pedigree.

-VIOLATION-

"I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them...Away with the noise of your songs!...But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" 5.21-24.

#### **A Challenge ---**

"Seek the Lord and live; do not seek Bethel...," 4.4-5, 6.

-COMFORT-

There remains a hope of restoration (9.11-15).

### Modern

In the Courts

Do the poor receive justice?  
Do the infirm and elderly receive justice?  
Do the young and infirm receive justice?

In the Marketplace

Just wages?  
Just goods and services rendered?

In the Church

Letterism?  
Blind God?



## Hosea - "Israel, My Bride"

### Summary

God solemnly 'married' Israel, but she prostituted those vows.  
Now God will punish Israel, then offers to love her freely if she will return.

### Historical Context

- 752-24 BC, with No. King Jeroboam II (793-53) and So. Kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah.
- Economic Prosperity but Moral Failure, 4.14, 18  
Fertility Cult
- Foreign Alliances
  - Assyrian Alliance, 8.8-9, 12.1,  
2 Kings 15.19, tribute to TPIII
- Egyptian Alliance, 7.11, 12.1

### Specific Historical Reference

- Gibeah Atrocity (Judges 19ff) implied by Hos. 10.9
  - Recovery of Wayward Wife
  - Cautious avoidance of foreigners (Jebus) in favor of Bethlehem or Gibeah hospitality, but wretchedly disappointed
  - Civil War followed.

### Character of Prophet

- Call
  - Only "call" to marriage described.
- Relationship to Community (Family)
  - Deeply Disappointing Marriage
  - Living Example of Mercy

### Modes of Communication

- Naming Of Children, ch. 1
  - Jezreel: Judgment for Jehu's atrocities at Jezreel
  - Lo-Ruhamah: No Mercy
  - Lo-Ammi: Not My People (reversed 1.10-2.1, 2.23)
- Living Message of Restoring Gomer, ch. 3
- Preaching

### Theological Context

- God is a God of Relationship
  - Solemnized by Covenant
  - Epitomized by Marriage, as at Sinai
- God Is Deeply Hurt by Israel's Apostasy
  - Calf of Samaria (8.5-6) will become tribute for great king of Assyria (10.6)

### Theological Context

- God Is Graciously Willing to Love Israel Freely If She Will Repent
  - 6.1-3
  - 14.1-8
- God desires mercy, not sacr., 6.6

### Contribution to Biblical Theology

- God Desires Corporate Relational Intimacy.
- God Counters Spiritual Prostitution With Restoration Option.

## Application

### First Audience

Invitation To Intimacy With God  
Impact Of Spiritual "Prostitution"  
Possibility Of Repentance  
Application

### Modern Audience

Do I realize how deeply God would engage me?  
Do I detect how deeply God is hurt by my 'flirting' with other  
'gods' ?  
Do I believe his offer to restore and to accept repentance?

## ***Isaiah***

1. What sort of Southern Israeli kings did Isaiah serve (briefly evaluate them).
2. What significant event took place in Northern Israel during Isaiah's service?
3. Why is Cyrus mentioned in Isaiah, according to the text?