

**ABATT**  
**Amos**  
 Christian Life Assembly  
 Jim Hoffman

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The Minor Prophets

**Men's Breakfast**  
**Thursday @ 9:00**  
**Denny's on the Pike**

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The Minor Prophets

Prophet	Date of Writing	Prophesied to:
Obadiah	845-750	Israel/Edom
Joel	835-796	Judah
Jonah	793-753	Niniveh
Hosea	753-715	Israel
Amos	760-755	Israel/Judah
Micah	770-710	Israel/Judah
Nahum	663-612	Niniveh
Zepheniah	635-625	Judah/Assyria/Nations
Habbakuk	610-605	Judah/Nations
Haggai	520	Judah
Zechariah	520-470	Judah
Malachi	460-410	Judah

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### The Minor Prophets

- The Book of Amos was likely written between 760 and 753 B.C. by Amos.
- Amos prophesied during the reign of Uzziah over Judah (792-740 BC) and Jeroboam II over Israel (793-753 BC).
- Amos wrote during a time of idolatry, extravagant indulgence in luxurious living, immorality, corruption of judicial procedures and oppression of the poor.

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### The Minor Prophets

- Theme - prepare to meet God! (Amos 4:12)
- Believers often speak of the day when we will be called home to see and be with our Savior, the Lord Jesus himself.
- The call to Israel is similar in that a meeting has been arranged, but instead of one going to God for eternal rest, he is coming to them in judgment.

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### The Minor Prophets

- Amos went to Bethel as God's spokesman, not because **he** wanted to, but because **God** wanted him to. (compare to Jonah?)
- Prophets did not need to be loved, but they did need to be heard and with a message of judgment, Amos will certainly not be loved.
- The role of God's prophets was to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.

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### The Minor Prophets

- Amos 1:1 The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. ESV
- A bit of a mystery here – earthquake? What earthquake?
- Josephus suggests the earthquake Amos references happened when Uzziah intruded into the priesthood.

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### The Minor Prophets

- Amos was a shepherd and a fruit picker when God called him to prophesy to the northern kingdom, Israel.
- You might say that Amos was a redneck – he came from a remote village near Bethlehem.
- A farmer from a little known village in the southern kingdom with almost no training, no experience, and no prophet’s pedigree, is called by God to warn the northern kingdom of coming judgment.

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### The Minor Prophets

God often uses the uneducated and unsophisticated which are credentials he seems to like.

He choose David over Saul, he plucked Moses from the back side of the desert, and he choose more fisherman than rabbis to found the New Testament church.

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### The Minor Prophets

- Notice this exchange between the “professional” priest, Amaziah, and the “called” prophet, Amos.
- Amos 7:12 And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, 13 but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.” 14 Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. 15 **But the Lord took me from following the flock**, and the Lord said to me, ‘**Go, prophesy to my people Israel.**’ 16 Now therefore hear the word of the Lord.” ESV 10

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### The Minor Prophets

- 1st Cor 1:26 For consider your calling, brothers: **not many of you were wise** according to worldly standards, **not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.** 27 But God **chose what is foolish** in the world to shame the wise; God **chose what is weak** in the world to shame the strong; 28 God **chose what is low and despised** in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” ESV 11

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### The Minor Prophets

God often operates so that when his work is done, no one, but he alone can receive the credit.

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### The Minor Prophets

- **Oracles, utterances (Chapters 1:3 – 2:16)**
- Poetic prophecies of impending judgments on the nations that surrounded Israel – they would not escape God’s judgment any more than Israel would.
- Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, Moab, and Judah - when seen on a map they all point to Israel right at the center of culpability for sin.

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### The Minor Prophets

- **The poems all begin with “For three transgressions of \_\_\_\_\_, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment.”**
- The name of the nation changes and the specific judgments change, but all have the following phrase as well –
- **“So I will send a fire upon the wall of \_\_\_\_\_, and it shall devour her strongholds.”**

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### The Minor Prophets

- The oracles to the surrounding nations announcing the judgements to come on them are followed up with a series of **sermons to Israel. (Chapters 3 – 6)**
- Amos 3:11 Therefore thus says the Lord God: “An adversary shall surround the land and bring down your defenses from you, and your strongholds shall be plundered.” ESV
- The major judgment will be the Assyrian plundering and imprisonment of the whole northern kingdom.

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### Amos 4

<p>6 "I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and lack of bread in all your places. yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.</p> <p>7 "I also withheld the rain from you when there were yet three months to the harvest; I would send rain on one city, and send no rain on another city; one field would have rain, and the field on which it did not rain would wither; so two or three cities would wander to another city to drink water, and would not be satisfied; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.</p> <p>8 "I struck you with blight and mildew; your fig trees and your olive trees the locust devoured; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.</p>	<p>10 "I sent among you a pestilence after the manner of Egypt; I killed your young men with the sword, and carried away your horses; and I made the stench of your camp go up into your nostrils; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.</p> <p>11 "I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were as a brand plucked out of the burning; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.</p> <p>12 "Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"</p> <p>13 For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth—the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!</p>
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### The Minor Prophets

- Amos 4:12 Prepare to meet your God, oh Israel.
- These words sound as though they are coming from one who is deeply disappointed and frustrated with a people he has been so patient with, and yet they seem to have no interest in doing the right things.
- One of the simplest yet clearest tests of saving faith is in the answer to this question – “do you have a desire to know and serve God?”.

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### The Minor Prophets

- Because Israel has not returned to God, God will now come to them in punishment.
- He has warned and warned and warned – he sent them one opportunity after another to repent, but they would not!
- Matt 23:37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!” ESV

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### The Minor Prophets

- Amos 5:21 “I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.” ESV
- God rejected their rituals – they were very religious, but God was unimpressed and rejected their offerings.
- Amos 5:23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. 24 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. ESV

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### The Minor Prophets

In a sense God was saying, “stop it with all the incidentals and start loving me and loving others or your worship is a farce”.

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### The Minor Prophets

- The sermons to Israel are followed up with a series of **prophetic visions God gave to Amos concerning Israel. (Chapters 7:1 – 9:10)**
- Dreams from God occur when one is sleeping and visions from God occur when one is awake. 😊
- In this section God is going to reveal to Amos a series of visions that will come to pass against his people, Israel.

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### Amos's Visions

Vision	Outcome
<b>Locusts</b> —God sends swarms of locusts that devastate Israel's crops	<b>Amos prays and God relents on sending judgment 7:1-3</b>
<b>Fire</b> —God sends fire that dries up the water and devours Israel's land	<b>Amos prays and God relents on sending judgment 7:4-6</b>
<b>Plumb line</b> —God compares Israel to a wall built true to plumb; God's people fail to meet his standards	<b>God destroys Israel's high places and sanctuaries 7:7-9</b>
<b>Basket of ripe fruit</b> —God declares that Israel is ripe for judgment	<b>God sends death, destruction and darkness to Israel; God refuses to answer his people 8:1-14</b>
<b>The Lord by the altar</b> —God tells Amos to strike the tops of the temple pillars	<b>God destroys the Israelites, who are crushed by the collapsing temple or killed by the sword 9:1-10</b>

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

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### The Minor Prophets

• Amos 8:11 “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord God, “when I will send a famine on the land— not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, **but of hearing the words of the Lord.** 12 They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it. ESV

• This is perhaps the saddest and most subtle of the judgments God brought upon his people – it is the one that would ultimately sting the most.

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### The Minor Prophets

The tragedy of the American church in our day is that our “Bible” famine is totally self-inflicted.

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### The Minor Prophets

• Amos was the country preacher from the Podunk town of Tekoa in the south.

• He was given a stern warning of doom for the northern kingdom of Israel.

• The northern kingdom has become what most become when affluency strikes – first apathetic, then indifferent, and finally hopelessly sinful. ☹️

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### The Minor Prophets

- Amos was prophesying to an affluent and backslidden Israel who had become intentionally dull of hearing.
- **“The long, dull, monotonous years of middle-aged prosperity are excellent campaigning weather for the devil.”** C. S. Lewis
- Those who are doing well in life are seldom in the mood for criticism and certainly not words that call for change.

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### The Minor Prophets

- The sermons to Israel are followed-up with a **message of hope for a repentant Israel. (Chapter 9:11-15)**
- Amos 9:8 “Behold, the eyes of the Lord God are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the surface of the ground, except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob,” declares the Lord. ESV
- When God brings his people to a place of repentance a remnant will be saved and eventually liberated.

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### The Minor Prophets

- Amos 9:13 “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills, 14 and I will bring my people Israel back from exile. “They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. 15 I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,” says the Lord your God.
- Wow, what a restoration Israel will experience - prosperity so great there will not be enough time to gather in all that God provides before it's time to plow again.

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### The Minor Prophets

- It is almost a spiritual law that when people bathe in prosperity, their spiritual temperature drops.
- It was true for Israel, and it is true for us – this applies both nationally, and personally.
- Today, we as a nation, are basking in the sunlight of wealth and prosperity while the moral climate of our country is in a freefall. (I do not believe those two issues are unrelated)

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### The Minor Prophets

- What we learn from Amos is Israel's sins are extensive: neglect of God's Word, idolatry, pagan worship, greed, corrupted leadership and oppression of the poor.
- Amos began his ministry pronouncing judgment on the nations that surrounded them – they had similar problems and were guilty along with Israel.
- His harshest pronouncements of judgment are reserved for Israel – they should have known better and in fact, did.

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### The Minor Prophets

- Israel's judgment is more severe than the surrounding nations because they had more light – they were the recipients of the Law of God and the prophets.
- Luke 12:48 But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required. NLT
- If more light does not translate to more accountability, then God is not just.

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**The Minor Prophets**

- Principals:
  - There is always a place for a faithful messenger.
  - If God calls you, he will qualify you.
  - Some of God’s best spokesmen came from obscurity – Spurgeon, Moody, and maybe you.

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**The Minor Prophets**

- Principals:
  - God always warns before he judges.
  - Sin always has consequences, no exceptions.
  - It is a great privilege to be fed the Word of God.

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Questions?

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### Miracles

• A miracle has occurred when something good happens that cannot be explained by natural means.

- Water to wine John 4
- Lazarus John 11
- Christ's ascension in Acts 1
- Dorcas in Acts 9
- Prison gates opened in Acts 5
- Healing via Paul's handkerchief Acts 19
- Paul saved from snake bite Acts 28

Semeion – sign  
Terata – wonder  
Dunamis - power

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