

Amos: Restoring the Kingdom
Sermon Outline and Discussion Questions

I. Impending Judgment

- A. Judgment is coming upon Israel's neighbors (1:3 – 2:5).
- B. Judgment is coming upon Israel as well (2:6 – 9:10).

No one will be able to escape the coming destruction. The swift will not be able to run away from it, and the strong and mighty warrior will not be able to stand before it. It will be unavoidable (2:13-16).

The wealthy and self-indulgent will be dragged out through the broken-down walls like a fisherman dragging a fish out of the water with fishhooks. The reference may be literal as well. Some Assyrian illustrations seem to show captives being taken away with ropes attached to rings in the captives' noses (4:1-3).

Instead of mourning and grieving over their sin and those around them, the Israelites were treating themselves to the very best the world had to offer. It was these people, the highest of society, whom the Assyrians would take into exile first (6:4-7).

II. Reason for Judgment

- A. Israel has trampled the head of the poor (2:7; 4:1)
- B. Israel has engaged in inauthentic worship (4:4-5; 5:21-23; 8:4-6)
- C. God knows Israel and they are his

This is one of the central themes of the whole book of Amos. Because of Israel's special status, God has an even greater reason for punishing them for their disloyalty and disobedience.

God has rescued them from slavery in Egypt. Special privilege brings special judgment!

III. Restoration and Hope

- A. Amos gives a marvelous message of restoration and hope. Restoration after exile will come, and it will come on the basis of God's covenant with his people.

Amos prophesied that God would restore Israel, which happened years later when the Jews were allowed to return and rebuild.

- B. Amos' prophecy looked forward to the New Earth (9:13).

This is a beautiful poetic image of a land like the Garden of Eden – with productivity that is free from the curse.

This is a picture of something with greater abundance than anything currently known.

- C. Amos' prophecy was fulfilled through the work of Jesus Christ (9:11-12).

James quotes Amos in Acts 15:12-17 as being fulfilled in his day through Jesus Christ.

The reason David's throne is restored and more majestic than ever before is because now for the first time all the nations are included in his great Kingdom!

The new day of the new people of God under the new covenant has come.

The kingdom is now bigger and broader and more majestic than before, because now Jesus has made room for all people, both Jews and Gentiles.

IV. Restoring the Kingdom

- A. Jesus knew that his Kingdom would come rule forever, but he also knew that he was ushering in that kingdom through his ministry, death, burial, resurrection and ascension.
- B. Jesus taught us to pray that the Father's Kingdom would come, and his will be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10).
- C. Jesus is king, and he reigns supreme today.

Discussion Questions

1. What aspects of the book of Amos intrigued you in your personal study?
2. Describe the relationship between special privilege and special judgment. Why did God punish Israel so severely?
3. According to James' interpretation of Amos 9:11-12 in Acts 15:12-17, in what ways has the Kingdom of Heaven already come? How has David's throne been rebuilt? Why is David's Kingdom now greater and more extensive than ever before?
4. Discuss some practical ways in which you can behave as a member of the Kingdom of Heaven that has come to earth through the work of Christ and the outpouring of His Spirit.
5. Describe ways in which the Kingdom of Heaven is upside-down and backwards compared to what we're used to in this world.