

## March 5<sup>th</sup>: Book of Amos: Get Serious with God: 5:1-15

**While summarizing the books of** ...week by week...I have come across a problem

**Once** you start to look at the 12 minor.....beginning with Hosea

With the exception of Jonah.....they all deal with the same theme...Judgment

**So last week.....Joel.....**→Coming Judgment as illustrated by the plague

**This week.....Amos.....**And again the theme is:::::Coming of Judgment

The problem is.....have a tendency to feel that you are just repeating the same....

**However, the reality is:**→Each book has such a diff variation on the theme...

That every prophecy comes across with a fresh....vital...relevant message

### **This is particularly true of Amos**

He speaks to the Nation of Israel.....time of great material prosperity

So unlike the prophecy of Joel

**When Amos....It was about 755bc** and both Israel and Judah were booming

Both Nations had strong kings.....reigning for a long time

Israel.....Jeroboam 2.....Strong military might.....Good economic dev...wealth

*(rather like WA at present----Mining boom.....property ...employment...)*

**Such prosperity however**.....creates its own problems.....**and** these were rife in Israel

- Idolatry and a disregard for God
- Extravagant living.....
- Immorality.....
- Corruption of political and legal.....
- Oppression of the poor.....social inequality

Israel at this time was politically secure and spiritually smug

**Into such a situation** God sent Amos.....and his message was

**TAKE GOD SERIOUSLY OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES**

**turn to Amos.....notice something quite interesting**

He doesn't begin.....with a judgment on Israel::

**:Look at 1:3...6...9...11...13...2:1**

You can imagine...people of Israel saying→go for it God

**Even when Amos said in 2:4.....**

**But then in 2:6.....The Judgment on Israel begins**

Suddenly they are forced to see themselves.....as God sees them

Not a pretty sight

**Israel had been declining spiritually**.....eversince its formation as a sep nation 150

When it was part of one nation.....under King David.....Spiritually strong

Then came the split into the Kingdom of Israel under Jeroboam and...kingdom...

**Judah had Jerusalem** and the Temple.....so it remained reasonably close to God

**Israel** very quickly substituted the worship God .... of idols.....had no godly kings

**So it's strong tradition** of worship and allegiance to God.....leeches out of it

*(Rather like England.....Australia .....isn't it ???)*

**If you had asked an Israelite**....Do you believe in.....worship the LORD

**But they had lost the purity**.....the passion....the commitment in their worship

**And they had lost** the understanding of the holiness, might and majesty of GOD

**5:21—27.....**

**That's why the call of Amos is**.....Take God Seriously or else

You can't afford to go on treating God.....as a blind insipid old man in the sky....

**Consider Amos' strong words in 4:1—3.....**

**God had invested a lot of love in His people**

Look at 2:10—11.....3: 1—2.....Too much love to give them up completely  
**So.....He would bring punishment.....**That they might return to Him  
And be seriously committed in their love....worship.....

**UNFORTUNATELY** this is a message that all God's people occasionally need to hear  
**For there are times.....**Esp when we are prospering.....that we let our commitment...  
Begin to slip

**Times when we need to** Take the things of God seriously,,,,,as we did at first  
Give Him again...the love and commitment.....The place and position  
That He rightly deserves.

**The Nation of Israel didn't do that.....**30 years later...This strong and prosperous..  
Was destroyed.....people taken into exile.

**AND THE BOOK OF AMOS HAS STANDS AS A WARNING**

**Yet another vibrant message**...book of.....contains.....**Concerns Amos himself**  
There is an interesting narrative in 7:10-15.....

**Amos was not a professional prophet.....**farmer/shepherd  
He wasn't even from Israel

**But God** called him to do one job for Him in Israel.....and he said yes

**Never forget.....that when God sent His Son.....**He didn't make Him a religious proff  
But a carpenter

**Just because you are not a Pastor.....**It doesn't mean that God won't call you  
**Amos is an example.....**of God using a lay person in a mighty way

**The thing that stands out however**.....is how ready Amos was to be used  
He knew the Scriptures.....He quoted from the Law.....and He was close to God

**He was ready to serve....when God called**

And his down to earth approach.....*The language he uses*...Was just what God needed

**As a believer what are you doing.....to prepare yourself for ministry ??**

**When you read.....study.....listen**

Are you conscious of wanting to learn....not just for your own sake

But so that you will have something to share.....opportunity arises

Do you have a notebook.....jot down things in

**And when you pray.....**Do you ask God to give you opportunities to be His mouthpiece

And do you listen carefully...for His commissioning

**God needed an Amos for that mission.....**

And I believe He has missions in mind

For each of us...

**LET'S NOT MISS OUT ON THE JOY OF SUCH SERVICE**