

# Overview of the Book of Amos

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BIG SANDY, Texas—From time to time, Bible students enjoy studying different books of the Bible. At this time, I want to begin a series of articles about the book of Amos.

This first article will be an overview about the book.

## **Who was Amos?**

Amos is often cited as a man who was a different prophet. Bible students like to contrast him to the other gentlemen who served as prophets in the Bible. Much of the contrast is noted in Amos 7:14.

*Amos 7:14*—“Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah: ‘I was no prophet, nor was I a son of a prophet, but I was a sheepbreeder and a tender of sycamore fruit.’ ”

## **When did Amos prophesy?**

According to Amos 1:1, the man Amos prophesied during the reigns of King Uzziah of Judah (often identified as reigning 767-739 B.C.) and King Jeroboam of Israel (often identified as 782-753 B.C.). This leaves a possible time frame of 767-753 B.C.

Since Amos 7:9-11 seems to indicate a time frame late in the reign of Jeroboam, some Bible students consider 760-753 B.C. as the probable date of writing.

## **Lived in southern kingdom**

According to Amos 1:1, the man Amos was among the sheepbreeders of Tekoa. Tekoa was approximately five miles south of Bethlehem. Hence, Amos lived in the southern kingdom of Judah.

## **Preached about northern kingdom**

However, Amos was called by God to go into the northern kingdom of Israel to be God’s spokesman.

*Isaiah 7:15*—“Butter and honey shall he eat, when he knoweth to refuse the evil, and choose the good.”

## **Organization of the book**

Bible students often identify the organization of the book of Amos as four sections.

- Eight prophecies of judgment
- Three sermons of judgment

- Five visions of judgment
- Five promises of judgment

### **Eight prophecies of judgment**

- Judgment on Damascus—Amos 1:3-5
- Judgment on Gaza—Amos 1:6-8
- Judgment on Tyre—Amos 1:9-10
- Judgment on Edom—Amos 1:11-12
- Judgment on Ammon—Amos 1:13-15
- Judgment on Moab—Amos 2:1-3
- Judgment on Judah—Amos 2:4-5
- Judgment on Israel—Amos 2:6-16

### **Three sermons of judgment**

- The first sermon: Israel's present—Amos 3:1-15
- The second sermon: Israel's past—Amos 4:1-13
- The third sermon: Israel's future—Amos 5:1–6:14

### **Five visions of judgment**

- Vision of locusts—Amos 7:1-3
- Vision of fire—Amos 7:4-6
- Vision of the plumb line—Amos 7:7-9
- Historical parenthesis (opposition of Amaziah)—Amos 7:10-17
- Vision of the summer fruit—Amos 8:1-14
- Vision of the stricken doorposts—Amos 9:1-10

### **Five promises of the Restoration of Israel**

The five promises about the restoration of Israel are found in Amos 9:11-15. In the coming weeks, we will be exploring various scriptures in the book of Amos. Next week, we will talk about Amos 3:3.

*Amos 3:3*—"Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"