

Insights From Amos

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Insights From Amos

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First Edition on 5/13/2024

Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
4/29/2024

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Amos

- Amos was a herdsman (a keeper of livestock) (Amos 1:1). This means God called a herdsman to be a prophet.
- This prophecy is about Israel (not Judah) (Amos 1:1).
- This prophecy was given two years before a significant earthquake (Amos 1:1).
- God was going to punish Damascus because of the terrible things they did to Gilead (Jewish territory east of the Jordan river) (Amos 1:3). This means there are times when God punishes nations because of what they do to the Jews.
- Because of what the Syrians did to the Jews, God was going to set the house of Hazael (king of Damascus) on fire, burn down the palaces of Benhadad (son of Hazael), and destroy Damascus (Amos 1:4-5). God was also going to kill everyone in the plain of Aven, kill all of the rulers from the house of Eden, and send the Syrians into captivity.
- God was going to punish the Philistines because they took Jews captive and delivered them to the Edomites (a nation that hated the Jews) (Amos 1:6).
- Because of what the Philistines did to the Jews, God was going to burn down the palaces of Gaza, kill the inhabitants of Ashdod, and kill the rulers of Ashkelon (Amos 1:7-8). In fact, God was going to utterly destroy the nation of the Philistines. Not even a remnant would be left.
- There are times when God destroys nations because of what they did to the Jews (Amos 1:8).

- God holds rulers accountable for how they treat the Jews (Amos 1:15).
- God was going to punish Moab because the king of Moab took the bones of the king of Edom and burned them (Amos 2:1). Even though God was angry with Edom and was going to punish them, God didn't approve of what the king of Moab did to the king of Edom. This means that just because God is angry with someone and is going to punish them, that doesn't give other people the right to take their own private vengeance.
- It's a terrible thing to burn someone's bones (Amos 2:1).
- God holds rulers accountable for how they treat the rulers of other nations (Amos 2:1).
- There are times when God punishes nations because of how they treated a dead body (Amos 2:1).
- Because the king of Moab burned the bones of the king of Edom, God was going to set the country of Moab on fire (Amos 2:2).
- Because Judah despised the Law of God, the Lord was going to set Judah on fire and burn down the palaces of Jerusalem (Amos 2:5).
- There are times when God destroys nations for despising His Law (Amos 2:4).
- God was going to punish Israel because they sold both the righteous and the poor into slavery (Amos 2:6).
- There are times when God punishes nations for their involvement in slavery (Amos 2:6).
- There are times when God punishes nations for

oppressing the poor and the meek (Amos 2:7).

- There are times when God punishes nations for sexual immorality (Amos 2:7).
- In ancient Israel, fathers and their sons were having sex with the same woman in pagan temples, as an act of worship to idols. God hated this and was angry about it because it profaned His holy name (Amos 2:8).
- The ancient Amorites were exceedingly tall and strong. They were giants (Amos 2:9).
- The Israelites despised the Nazarites. They tried to get the Nazarites to drink wine, even though the Law forbade them from drinking wine (Amos 2:12).
- The Israelites despised the prophets. They tried to get the prophets to stop prophesying, even though God commanded them to prophesy (Amos 2:12).
- It's possible for the sins of a nation to oppress God (Amos 2:13).
- There are times when God punishes a nation by destroying the effectiveness of their army (Amos 2:14).
- God is the one who decides who wins battles. If God is against a nation then they can't win (Amos 2:16).
- God said that Israel was the only family that He knew of all the nations in the world (Amos 3:2). The relationship that God had with Israel was unlike the relationship that He had with any other nation.
- There are times when the Lord brings evil against cities (Amos 3:6).
- Before God does something He first reveals it to the

prophets (Amos 3:7).

- God called the people in Samaria who were oppressing the poor "cows" (as an insult) (Amos 4:1). This means there are times when God insults people by comparing them to animals.
- The people of Samaria were living a comfortable life while oppressing the poor. God was angry about this (Amos 4:1). The Lord cares about the poor and needy, and He notices when they're oppressed.
- There are times when God punishes nations that oppress the poor and needy (Amos 4:2).
- The people who God mocked as being "cows" worshiped golden calves (Amos 4:4).
- God has control over a nation's food supply (Amos 4:6).
- The reason God sent a famine upon Israel was to turn them back to Him (Amos 4:6).
- God caused it to rain on one city in Israel but not on another (Amos 4:7). He has control over the rain, and controls which cities receive rain.
- There are times when God punishes a nation by withholding rain (Amos 4:7).
- There are times when God sends disease upon crops to punish that nation for its sins (Amos 4:9).
- There are times when God sends pests to eat crops in order to punish that nation for its sins (Amos 4:9).
- When God sent a famine upon Israel, they didn't repent. When God sent a drought upon Israel, they didn't repent. When God destroyed Israel's crops, they didn't repent.

When God killed Israelites with the sword, they didn't repent. The Israelites ignored all of God's judgments and continued to worship their golden calves anyway (Amos 4:10).

- There are times when God punishes a nation by making it stink (Amos 4:10).
- The purpose of all these judgments was to turn the Israelites back to Him. God wasn't trying to utterly destroy them (Amos 4:10-11). The only reason there were any survivors was because God saved them – yet the Israelites *still* refused to repent of their idolatry and turn back to Him.
- The verse that says "prepare to meet thy God" is given in the context of judgment. God was telling a wicked and idolatrous nation to prepare to meet Him, because they were about to die as punishment for their sins (Amos 4:12).
- God knows our thoughts (Amos 4:13).
- The God who was coming against Israel to kill them was the God who made the mountains and created the wind. The Israelites couldn't possibly defend themselves against such immense power, and yet they still didn't repent of their idolatry (Amos 4:13).
- Israel wouldn't recover from the coming judgment. Instead the people would be exiled from the land and wouldn't return (Amos 5:2).
- In the coming judgment, 90% of those who lived in the cities of Israel would be killed. Only a tenth would remain (Amos 5:3).
- If the Israelites had repented and sought the Lord, they

would have been saved (Amos 5:4).

- God is the one who decides the fate of nations (Amos 5:5).
- God doesn't ignore the sins of nations (Amos 5:7).
- The Bible refers to the constellation of Orion (Amos 5:8).
- God's power is infinite and mighty. Those who fight against Him are fools because they can't possibly win (Amos 5:8).
- God was going to punish the nation of Israel because the people hated those who rebuked sin (Amos 5:10).
- There are times when God punishes nations that love sin and hate the truth (Amos 5:10).
- One of the punishments that God put upon Israel was not allowing them to drink the wine from their vineyards. Not being able to drink wine was a punishment and a curse for sin (Amos 5:11).
- It's not always a good idea to speak up. There are times when the best course of action is to remain silent (Amos 5:13).
- God didn't destroy the nation of Israel without warning. He told them that judgment was coming and He also told them what they had to do to be saved (Amos 5:15).
- God wants us to hate evil (Amos 5:15).
- Those who desire the day of the Lord (the tribulation era) are very foolish, because it's a time of tremendous suffering and pain (Amos 5:18).
- God hated it when the wicked and idolatrous Israelites

gathered to worship Him. He despised their worship and wanted nothing to do with it (Amos 5:21). This is because God doesn't accept the worship of unrepentant idolaters. He hates the worship of the wicked and won't accept it.

- In order to worship God we must first repent and become right with Him. Our sins must be forgiven before He will accept our worship (Amos 5:21).
- God doesn't accept the offerings of the wicked. He won't accept gifts from those who haven't repented (Amos 5:22). If you want God to accept your gifts then you must first repent.
- The expensive gifts of the wicked don't impress God (Amos 5:22).
- God rejects the songs of the wicked. He won't listen to their praise (Amos 5:23). If you want God to listen to your songs and accept them then you must first repent.
- It's wrong for the church to encourage the wicked to give to the Lord because He hates their gifts (Amos 5:23).
- It's wrong for the church to encourage the wicked to sing to the Lord because He hates their songs (Amos 5:23).
- Even though the people of Zion were wicked, they were at ease. They led rich and prosperous lives (Amos 6:1). This means having a life of ease and comfort doesn't mean God is with you.
- There may be times when the enemies of God are well respected and have a good reputation (Amos 6:1).
- Just because a city is great doesn't mean it will endure forever. Many great cities have been destroyed (Amos 6:2). It's foolish to think that a city can never fall because

history tells us that many great cities have fallen in the past.

- Just because a person is wealthy and prosperous doesn't mean God approves of them (Amos 6:3).
- There are times when the wicked lead prosperous lives and have the best furniture and food (Amos 6:4).
- It's possible for a wicked nation to be prosperous and have the best of everything (Amos 6:6).
- Since the people of Zion didn't care about the affliction of others, God was going to send them into captivity (Amos 6:7).
- God wants us to care about the affliction of others (Amos 6:7).
- Because the people of Zion only cared about themselves, God was angry with them. He hated their wealth and He promised to send destruction upon them (Amos 6:8).
- The reason God was going to kill the inhabitants of Zion was because they only cared about themselves (Amos 6:9).
- There are times when God destroys nations for being unjust (Amos 6:12).
- Amos interceded on behalf of his nation even though they were wicked, violent, and completely unrepentant (Amos 7:2). He wanted God to forgive Israel even though the nation was idolatrous and had no intention of ever repenting. He didn't want God to send His judgment upon Israel.
- Sometimes God listens to the intercession of the

righteous and doesn't send certain judgments (Amos 7:3).

- It's not wrong to intercede on behalf of wicked nations and ask God not to send His judgment upon them (Amos 7:3).
- Although Amos was able to intercede and stop the judgments of grasshoppers and fire, he wasn't able to save Israel. The nation was still going to be judged because they wouldn't repent (Amos 7:8).
- Although God wasn't going to send grasshoppers or fire upon Israel, His judgment was still going to come. This is because Israel was wicked and God couldn't overlook their sin and allow their wickedness to continue (Amos 7:8).
- If a nation is wicked and won't repent, it's impossible to save them through intercession. God's judgment is still going to come because He can't ignore sin (Amos 7:8).
- God judges nations according to His standard (Amos 7:8).
- God held the leaders of Israel responsible for the nation (Amos 7:9).
- Amaziah (a pagan priest) tried to get Amos killed (Amos 7:10-12). He lied to the king and said that Amos had conspired against him, and he tried to drive Amos out of Israel.
- When Amaziah tried to silence Amos, he was actually trying to silence God (Amos 7:15).
- God was angry that Amaziah had tried to stop Amos from prophesying. Since Amaziah tried to silence God's message against Israel, the Lord said that He was going to kill his children and turn his wife into a prostitute.

Amaziah would then be taken captive and die in a foreign country (Amos 7:16-17).

- It's possible for land to be polluted in the sight of God (Amos 7:17).
- There are times when God doesn't immediately punish a nation for its sins, but allows it to continue for a while. However, that period of grace eventually comes to an end and then judgment comes (Amos 8:2).
- Even when the Israelites were wicked, God still considered them to be His people (Amos 8:2).
- In ancient times people sang in the temple that was in Jerusalem (Amos 8:3).
- God becomes angry with nations when they oppress the poor and needy (Amos 8:4).
- The Israelites wanted God's feasts to be over quickly so they could go back to stealing from people. Although they outwardly celebrated God's feasts, they were burning to get back to their fraud and wickedness (Amos 8:5).
- God hated the insincerity of the Israelites (Amos 8:5).
- God hated the rampant fraud that was going on in Israel (Amos 8:5).
- It's wrong to keep the Law while wishing you were doing something else (Amos 8:5).
- God swore an oath that He would never forget the wickedness of that generation of Israelites. He would never forget their wicked deeds (Amos 8:7). This means one of the ways God punishes evildoers is by refusing to forget their sins (Amos 8:7).

- God gave Israel a sign in the sky whose purpose was to warn them when their time of judgment had come. When the Israelites saw God darken the sun at noon, they would know that their judgment was at hand (Amos 8:9).
- God was going to punish Israel by taking His Word away from them (Amos 8:11-12). Even though the Israelites would travel great distances to find the word of God, the Lord was going to hide it from them so they wouldn't find it. This means there are times when God deliberately hides His Word from those who are looking for it.
- Nations need the word of God (Amos 8:11). God compared not having His Word to being in a famine.
- The false gods which the Israelites worshiped wouldn't save them in the coming judgment. Those who worshiped them would fall and never rise again (Amos 8:14).
- There are times when God destroys nations because of their sin (Amos 9:1).
- God was going to pursue the Israelites and punish them no matter where they went (Amos 9:2). There was no safe place for Israel to go to hide from God. No matter where they went, God would find them and punish them.
- It's impossible to escape from God or hide from Him (Amos 9:2).
- God spoke of a serpent that lived at the bottom of the sea (Amos 9:3).
- God was going to make sure that terrible things happened to the Israelites who went into captivity (Amos 9:4).
- God said that in the coming judgment He would touch

the land and make it melt (Amos 9:5).

- God is building dwelling places in Heaven (Amos 9:6).
- Israel wasn't the only nation that God rescued and brought into existence. There were others as well (Amos 9:7). The reason the Philistine and Syrian nations existed was because God rescued them and gave them territory.
- Although God was going to destroy the kingdom of Israel, He wasn't going to utterly destroy the Israelites. Their nation would be destroyed but a remnant of the people would be spared (Amos 9:8).
- God said that He was going to sift the Israelites through all nations. He was going to drive them out of Israel and scatter them through the nations of the world (Amos 9:9).
- Although God was going to scatter the people of Israel through the nations, He wasn't going to lose any of them (Amos 9:9). Even when the Israelites were scattered they would still remain a distinct people.
- All of the Israelites who boasted that God's judgment would never impact them would be killed by the sword (Amos 9:10).
- God called Israel the tabernacle of David (Amos 9:11).
- The day is coming when God will raise up the nation of Israel again (Amos 9:11).
- God has a glorious future planned for Israel. The reason it will come to pass is because He will bring it to pass (Amos 9:11). God's ultimate goal isn't to destroy the Israelites, but to save them.

- When God restores the nation of Israel, they will rule over all of the heathen (Amos 9:12). This is a reference to reigning over the Gentile nations during the millennium.
- In the millennium, crops will grow with tremendous speed (Amos 9:13).
- One of the blessings God will give to Israel during the millennium is wine. God considers wine to be a blessing (Amos 9:13).
- It's a great blessing to be able to enjoy the results of your labors – to enjoy the fruit of your vineyard and garden (Amos 9:14).
- God considers the promised land to belong to the Israelites. It's their land, even when they're exiled from it (Amos 9:15).
- After God gathers the Israelites back to the land of Israel in the millennium, the Israelites will never be removed from their land again. They will never again be turned over to their enemies and go into captivity (Amos 9:15).