

Amos and Hosea work together to give us a picture of our God. In Amos we see God's Unwavering Holiness, while in Hosea we see God's Unrelenting Love.

Amos

Introduction:

Following Elijah and Jonah, Amos was the third prophet. The name Amos means burdened. He was known as the "farmer prophet". He was an ordinary layman; a working man. He was rejected at first because of his lowly background. Amos was a prophet to the Northern kingdom of Israel and his message was harsh – Judgment is at hand because of your actions against God. This was a time of peace and prosperity due to the military success of Jeroboam II. However, it was also a time of great idolatry in the form of calf worship. Amos was sent to Bethel, the seat of calf worship, to exhort the king and the people to repent or they would face captivity. His preaching brought such conviction that the king ordered him out of town. His preaching came about 30 years before the Northern Kingdom fell and was taken captive by the Assyrians.

Structure of the Book

- I. The Book of Words – Chapters 1-6** – These messages deal entirely with conditions in the Northern Kingdom of Israel
- II. The Book of Visions – Chapters 7-9** – Amos presents a series of 5 visions foretelling pestilence, earthquake, famine, and locusts. All present stern reminders to the people that they should return to God.

Key Phrase – "Prepare to meet your God" (4:12)

Key Passage – (7:7-9) - "Behold the Lord stood on a wall made with a plumb line in His hand"

In his third vision Amos sees a wall under construction. The Lord Himself is testing the wall with a plumb line. A plumb line is a simple but accurate tool used for determining whether or not something is perfectly upright/vertical. God shows Amos why Israel must be punished. God's people had not measured up to God's holy standard. Many of His people were crooked. Among those God found to be crooked were the women of Samaria (4:1-3), the idle rich (6:4-7), the judges (5:10-13), the merchants (8:4-7), and the priests (7:10-17). In his first 2 visions Amos had interceded for Israel, but there is no further intercession after this vision.

Application – In Amos we see the Unwavering Holiness of our God. God has a standard and if we fail to meet His standard we WILL have to pay the consequences. The Good News is that Jesus Christ came for this exact reason. Because we all fail to meet the standard of a Holy God, Christ offers us His righteousness and takes our sin in return. However, those who do not meet the standard of God through faith in Jesus Christ will have to pay the consequence. God will not lower His standard.



Hosea

Introduction:

Hosea was the fourth prophet, and his ministry was also to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Hosea preached at the same time as Amos. The name Hosea means salvation, and his message shows the faithfulness and love of our great God.

Structure of the Book

- I. Personal – Chapters 1-3** – The unfaithful wife and the faithful husband
- II. National - Chapters 4-14** – the unfaithful people and their Faithful God

Key Word – Return – found 15X

Practical Application:

God commands Hosea to, "Go take yourself a wife of harlotry" (1:2). In the second verse Hosea is given the same choice that God Himself had with us. Question – Would you have married your spouse if you knew they were going to be unfaithful to you? Our God did! That is the kind of God we serve. God knew that we were going to be unfaithful to Him and yet He chose to enter into a relationship with us anyway (Rom. 5:8)

God lets us in on how our unfaithfulness makes Him feel in verse 2b. His first description is of adultery – voluntarily violating the most intimate commitment. The feelings that go along with adultery are rejection, hurt, and anger. God feels this way when we are unfaithful to Him. The second word is departed. It is a picture of walking away, leaving, or quitting on the relationship. We need to see the seriousness of our sin. God's charge against his people is that they have broken His heart by voluntarily breaking their intimate vows and walking away, leaving, quitting on their partner

So Hosea takes Gomer to be his wife and they end up with 3 children. These children demonstrate the consequences of unfaithfulness. Their first son Jezreel (3) means "God will scatter" and points to the deportation to Assyria. The second child was a daughter named Lo-ruhamah (6) which means "no more mercy". Notice that in verse 6 the Bible says "bore a daughter" but NOT "bore him a daughter". These last 2 children were not Hosea's. This is further confirmed by the final son named Lo-ammi (9) which means "not my people". God changes his own name for the people: **I am not the God of all power and presence and resource for you. I am not your God at all!**

The story closes in Hosea chapter 3. This chapter has been called the most beautiful chapter in the entire Bible. Gomer has been unfaithful to Hosea. She has cheated on him with many men. Her life is in shambles, and here we find her on the auction block to be sold as a slave. And God sends her husband Hosea to buy her back. He pays the price for her freedom and is faithful to her even though she had been so unfaithful to him. **This is the Unrelenting love of our God!** Even though we have been unfaithful to God, He sent His only Son Jesus Christ to pay the price to free us from the slavery of our sin. And our God takes us back in as though we had never sinned!

I stand amazed in the presence Of Jesus the Nazarene. And wonder how He could love me, a sinner condemned unclean.