

Introduction to the Bible: Session III The book of Amos

Introductory words about biblical prophecy: its uniqueness in the Ancient Near East

Various types of prophets in Israel: ecstasies, seers, court prophet, true prophet

Historical background for Amos (cf. **7:10-17**) and his society

Structure of the Book of Amos

- I. Introduction: the prophet and his mission (1:1-2) **1:1-2**
- II. Oracles against the Nations (1:3—2:16)
 - A. Seven against the gentile neighbors (1:3—2:3) **1:3-5**
 - B. One against the southern kingdom, Judah (2:4-5)
 - C. One against the northern kingdom, Israel (2:6-16) **2:6-16**
- III. Two collections: 3 words and 3 woes for Israel (3:1—6:14)
 - A. First word (3:1-15): the prophetic call and its message **3:1-8, 12**
 - B. Second word (4:1-13): critique of wives, a taunt, neglect of God **4:1-13**
 - C. Third word (5:1-17): fate of people, nature of God, **5:8-9**
 - D. First woe (5:18-27): reasons for woes, critique of worship **5:21-24**
 - E. Second woe (6:1-3): false confidence **6:1-3**
 - F. Third woe (6:4-14): further judgment **6:4-8**
- IV. Five symbolic visions (7:1—9:10)
 - A. Locusts (7:1-3) **7:1-3**
 - B. Fire (7:4-6)
 - C. A plumb line (7:7-9)
[Insert: biographical note 7:10-17]
 - D. A fruit basket (8:1-3)
[Insert: critique of hypocrisy 8:4-14] **8:4-14**
 - E. Altar (9:1-6)
- V. Oracle of hope (9:11-15) **9:11-15**

Final Thoughts

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Read the gospel of John.