

AMOS

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Minor				
750 BC	Amos 9 Chapters	Israel's judgment is coming	Israel awaits destruction unless she repents.	Relationship requires agreement	Jesus delivers justice to the oppressed

AMOS

Outline of Amos

Chapters 1 - 2: 3 - Judgment on surrounding nations

Chapters 2: 4 – 4: 23 - Judgment on Israel

Chapters 5 – 6 - The dirge against unrepentant Israel

Chapters 7 – 9: 10 - Amos' visions against Israel

Chapter 9: 11-15 - God's promise of restoration

AMOS

Amos (meaning "to burden") received his prophecy in the days of Uzziah, who reigned in Judah at the time that Jeroboam II reigned in Israel. He received his prophecy "two years before the earthquake," which evidently left a great impression.

Amos was a shepherd who lived in the region of Tekoa, not many miles from the city of Jerusalem. He made his living by raising sheep and taking care of sycamore trees.

The book is orderly, a deliberate condemnation of evil, especially in Israel, and contains the resulting measured judgments of God.

The evil is exposed in a calm, judicial way, rather than in burning anger; and the punishment from God is perfectly adjusted to the guilt.

AMOS

Amos can see that beneath Israel's external prosperity and power, internally the nation is corrupt to the core.

The sins for which Amos chastens the people are extensive: **neglect of God's Word, idolatry, pagan worship, greed, corrupted leadership, and oppression of the poor.**

God's word through Amos was directed against the privileged people of Israel, a people who had no love for their neighbor, who took advantage of others, and who only looked out for their own concerns.

Amos begins by pronouncing a judgment upon all the surrounding nations, the Syrians, Philistines, Tyre, Ammon, Moab, and Edom, then upon his own nation of Judah, and finally the harshest judgment is given to Israel.

AMOS

The book of Amos holds God's people accountable for their ill-treatment of others.

It repeatedly points out the failure of the people to fully embrace God's idea of justice.

They were selling off needy people for goods, taking advantage of the helpless, oppressing the poor, and the men were using women immorally (Amos 2:6–8; 3:10; 4:1; 5:11–12; 8:4–6).

Engrossed on their own economic success and intent on strengthening their financial position, the people had lost the concept of caring for one another.

Amos rebuked them because he saw in that lifestyle evidence that Israel had forgotten God.

AMOS

His visions from God reveal the same emphatic message: judgment is near.

The book ends with God's promise to Amos of future restoration of the remnant of Judah and Israel by the power and grace of God.

Amos 9: 8

8 “Behold, the eyes of the Lord God are on the sinful kingdom, And I will destroy it from the face of the earth; Nevertheless, I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob,” Declares the Lord.

AMOS

Rather than seeking out opportunities to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly, the political and religious leaders embraced their arrogance, idolatry, self-righteousness, and materialism. Amos communicated God's utter disdain for the hypocritical lives of His people.

Amos 5: 21-24

21 “I hate, I reject your festivals, Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies.

22 “Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept *them*; And I will not *even* look at the peace offerings of your fatlings.

23 “Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps.

24 “But let justice roll down like waters And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

AMOS

Amos emphasizes two aspects of God that are essential to the book.

1. God is the Creator

Amos 4: 13

13 For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind And declares to man what are His thoughts, He who makes dawn into darkness And treads on the high places of the earth, The Lord God of hosts is His name.

Amos 9: 5-6

5 The Lord God of hosts, The One who touches the land so that it melts, And all those who dwell in it mourn, And all of it rises up like the Nile And subsides like the Nile of Egypt;

6 The One who builds His upper chambers in the heavens And has founded His vaulted dome over the earth, He who calls for the waters of the sea And pours them out on the face of the earth, The Lord is His name.

AMOS

Amos emphasizes two aspects of God that are essential to the book.

2. God is the God of Covenant

Amos 3: 1-2

1 Hear this word which the Lord has spoken against you, sons of Israel, against the entire family which He brought up from the land of Egypt:

2 “You only have I chosen among all the families of the earth; Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”

AMOS

The prophecy of Amos should simplify the choices in our lives.

Instead of choosing between prayer and service, the book of Amos teaches us that both are essential.

God has called Christians not only to be in relationship with Him but also to be in relationships with others. For those Christians whose tendency has been to focus more on the invisible God than on His visible creation, Amos pulls us back toward the center, where both the physical and the spiritual needs of people matter in God's scheme of justice.

Injustice permeates our world. Christians often turn a blind eye to the suffering of others for "more important" work like praying, preaching, and teaching.

Amos reminds us that those works, while unquestionably central to a believer's life, ring hollow when we don't love and serve others in our own lives.

OBADIAH

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Minor Prophets				
850 - 840 BC	Obadiah 1 Chapter	Edom to be destroyed	The nation of Edom is to be destroyed since she rejoiced over Judah's destruction.	What you do to others will be returned to you. Jeremiah 50:29; Habakkuk 2:8; Matthew 26:52; Luke 6:38; James 2:13; Revelation 13:10.	Jesus judges those who do evil. (Jn. 5: 22; Acts 10: 42; 2Cor. 5: 10)

OBADIAH

OUTLINE OF OBADIAH

I. The Doom of Edom, 1-9

- A. The Certainty, 1-4
- B. The Completeness, 5-9

II. The Denunciation of Edom, 10-14

- A. For Mistreatment of Their Brother, vs. 10
- B. For Not Caring and Not Helping Their Brother, 11-12
- C. For Actions Against Their Brother, 13-14

III. The Destruction of Edom, 15-21

- A. The Time of the Destruction, vs. 15
- B. The Nature of the Destruction, 16-21

OBADIAH

Obadiah ("worshipper of Yahweh ") writes the shortest book of the Old Testament; and he prophesies entirely against Edom. This is the family of Esau, Jacob's brother.

His hatred and violence against Israel was a dreadful result of pride and self-righteousness. He could not bear that his brother received blessings from God.

God takes account not only of Edom's flagrant outward wickedness, but also of the secret motives of the heart: "How is Esau searched! his hidden things sought out!" (v. 6).

Their gloating over the suffering of Israel is sternly denounced, and their taking advantage of Israel's misfortunes to strengthen themselves. The fearful judgment of God is the result of all this.

OBADIAH

Edom's interest was for the flesh, and "They that are in the flesh cannot please God." The flesh may appear in various plausible forms, pleasing to the natural senses and appealing to the rationalizing minds of men.

In our day, the strong humanist movement is a marked example of this proud, empty, fleshly pretension that will fall under the awesome judgment of God, while the despised people of God will be delivered.

The book of Obadiah should lead us to a very serious self-judgment of our ways and of the secret thoughts and feelings of our hearts.

OBADIAH

The majority of the book pronounces judgment on the foreign nation of Edom, making Obadiah one of only three prophets who pronounced judgment primarily on other nations (Nahum and Habakkuk are the others).

While others of the prophetic books contain passages of judgment against Edom and other nations, Obadiah's singular focus points to a significant truth about humanity's relationship with God.

When people place themselves in opposition to God's people, they can expect judgment, rather than restoration, at the end of life.

OBADIAH

Obadiah 1

1 The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom—We have heard a report from the Lord, And an envoy has been sent among the nations *saying*, “Arise and let us go against her for battle”—

Obadiah 3

3 “The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down to earth?’”

Obadiah 10

10 “Because of violence to your brother Jacob, You will be covered *with* shame, And you will be cut off forever.

Obadiah 15

15 “For the day of the Lord draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head.

OBADIAH

Obadiah 21

21 The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion To judge the mountain of Esau, And the kingdom will be the Lord's.

Verse 21 of the Book of Obadiah contains a foreshadowing of Christ and His Church.

These “saviors” (also called “deliverers” in several versions) are the Apostles of Christ.

They are called "saviors," not because they obtain our salvation, but because they preach salvation through the Gospel of Christ and show us the way to obtain that salvation.

They, and the Word preached by them, are the means by which the good news of salvation is delivered to all men.

OBADIAH

Obadiah's prophecy focuses on the destructive power of pride.

It reminds us of the consequences of living in a self-serving manner, of following through on our own feelings and desires without considering their impact on those around us.

Pride has been part of the lives of fallen human beings since the tragedy of the fall in Eden.

Obadiah reminds us:

1. To place ourselves under God's authority
2. To be in subjection to God's will
3. To find our hope in being His people.

JONAH

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Minor Prophets				
775 BC	Jonah 4 Chapters	Gentiles to be included in salvation	The prophet of God attempts to be disobedient by running from God. God goes after him and the prophet eventually submits to God.	It is best to do God's will	Jesus is the greatest missionary.

JONAH

OUTLINE OF JONAH

I. Jonah Fleeing, 1:1-17

- A. The Reason for His Flight, 1:1-2
- B. The Route of His Flight, 1:3
- C. The Results of His Flight, 1:4-17
 - 1. To the sailors, 1:4-11
 - 2. To Jonah, 1:12-17

II. Jonah Praying, 2:1-10

- A. The Characteristics of His Prayer, 2:1-9
- B. The Answer to His Prayer, 2:10

III. Jonah Preaching, 3:1-10

- A. God's Command to Preach, 3:1-3
- B. The Content of Jonah's Preaching, 3:4
- C. The Consequences of Jonah's Preaching, 3:5-10

IV. Jonah Learning, 4:1-11

- A. Jonah's Complaint to God, 4:1-3
- B. God's Curriculum for Jonah, 4:4-11

JONAH

Chapter 1: God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach its coming judgment. Jonah didn't like the Ninevites and didn't want God to spare them from judgment, so he fled in the opposite direction by boarding a ship heading to Tarshish. A storm arose and Jonah slept. The sailors cast lots and determined Jonah was the cause of the storm. Jonah told them to throw him overboard and they did so. Then they called out to the LORD. God prepared a great fish and it swallowed Jonah. Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of the fish.

Jonah 1: 17

17 And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

JONAH

Chapter 2-3: God caused the fish to vomit up Jonah and three days later Jonah obeyed God and went to Nineveh. He preached its coming judgment and the whole city repented.

Jonah 2: 10

10 Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.

Jonah 3: 5

5 Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.

Chapter 4: God not only cared about saving Ninevah, but He also cared about changing Jonah's heart. So God taught Jonah about His love and compassion.

Jonah 4: 11

11 "Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know *the difference* between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"

JONAH

Jonah ("A dove") is more than anything a personal history of the prophet in connection with God's sending him to prophesy against Nineveh, the Assyrian capital city.

He shows us, not the secret workings of the heart of an unbeliever, but those of a chosen servant of God. No matter how humbling Jonah's exposure is, the prophet himself must faithfully write it all for our benefit.

The prophet Jonah lived in the Galilean city of Gath-hepher (about four miles north of Nazareth) during the reign of Jeroboam II (793-753 B.C.), king of Israel (cf. 2 Kgs. 14:25). Jeroboam II was northern Israel's most powerful king, and during his administration, the borders of the nation were expanded to their greatest extent since the time of David and Solomon.

JONAH

Ten miracles are recorded in the book:

1. Storm (Jonah 1:4)
2. Selection of Jonah as guilty by lot (Jonah 1:7)
3. Sudden subsiding of the storm. Storms don't just stop (Jonah 1:15)
4. Great fish: at the right time and place. (Jonah 1:17)
5. Preservation of Jonah (chapter 2)
6. Ejection Safe and Sound on dry land (Jonah 2:10)
7. The Gourd (Jonah 4:6)
8. The worm (Jonah 4:7)
9. East wind (Jonah 4:8)
10. Repentance of an entire city, Nineveh! (Jonah 4:11)

JONAH

We cannot hide from God. What He wishes to accomplish through us will come to pass despite all our objections and reluctance.

He has plans for us. How much easier it would be if we, unlike Jonah, would submit to Him without delay.

Eph. 2: 10

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

God's love manifests itself in His accessibility to all, regardless of our reputation, nationality or race. The free offer of the Gospel is for all people in all times.

Our task as Christians is to be the means by which God tells the world of the offer and to rejoice in the salvation of others.

JONAH

- 1. Jonah teaches us that God's mercy is wider and God's grace is greater than all of our sins.**
- 2. Jonah shows us that God's love is greater than our self-interest.**
- 3. Jonah teaches us that God uses all means to extend His grace to all kinds of people.**
- 4. Jonah shows us God's mercy is motivated by His love for His own creation.**

MICAH

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Minor Prophets				
735 - 710 BC	Micah 6 Chapters	Destruction of Israel and Judah predicted	Destruction is coming since Judah ignored God. Despite religious idolatry and hypocrisy, God will keep His promises.	Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God.	Jesus casts our sin into the sea of forgetfulness

MICAH

OUTLINE OF MICAH

I. The Superscription, 1:1

II. A Message of Destruction for Samaria and Judah, 1:2-2:13

A. The Revelation of the Coming Judgment, Micah 1:2-16

B. The Reasons for the Coming Judgment, 2:1-13

III. A Message of Doom and Deliverance, 3:1-5:15

A. Doom: The Coming Judgment, 3:1-12

1. Judgment on the leaders, 3:1-4

2. Judgment on the false prophets, 3:5-8

3. Judgment on Jerusalem, 3:9-12

B. Deliverance: The Coming Kingdom, 4:1-5:1

1. The glories of the kingdom, 4:1-8

2. The suffering that precedes the kingdom, 4:9-5:1

C. Deliverance: The Coming King, 5:2-15

1. His first coming, 5:2-3

2. His second coming, 5:4-15

IV. A Message of Denunciation, 6:1-7:10

A. God's First Indictment, 6:1-5

B. Israel's First Reply, 6:6-8

C. God's Second Indictment, 6:9-16

D. Israel's Second Reply, 7:1-10

V. Epilogue: Blessings for Israel, 7:11-20

MICAH

Micah ("Who is like God?") shows the Lord coming in judgment, not only of Israel, but of all the nations.

Micah prophesied concerning judgment on the kingdoms of Israel and Judah for their sins. He also prophesied about the kingdom of Jesus.

The condition of Judah and Israel is seen to be an indication of the condition of all the peoples, the earth, and all that is therein. So that, if in Amos, God must judge Israel when once He begins to judge the nations; in Micah, He must judge the nations if Israel must be judged.

Israel is but a sample of all mankind: now that she is proven guilty, this is proof of the guilt of all the world (Rom. 3: 19). God can therefore alone execute judgment, and He is infinitely capable of doing so.

MICAH

In the book of Micah, we see the prophet Micah prophesying judgment against Samaria and Jerusalem for their sins and declaring future promises, such as a time where the Lord himself will rule from Zion.

The prophet Micah identified himself by his hometown, called Moresheth Gath, which sat near the border of Philistia and Judah about twenty-five miles southwest of Jerusalem.

Micah stated in his introduction to the book that he prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah in Judah, Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah and Pekah in Israel.

The book of Micah provides one of the most significant prophecies of Jesus Christ's birth in all the Old Testament, pointing some seven hundred years before Christ's birth to His birthplace of Bethlehem and to His eternal nature.

Micah 5: 2

2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.*”

MICAH

There shall be a glorious church for God set up in the world in the days of the Messiah. Christ himself will build it upon a rock.

The people will cleave to the Lord with full purpose of heart, and delight in doing his will.

Micah 4: 3-4

3 And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they train for war.

4 Each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree, With no one to make *them* afraid, For the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

MICAH

Surrounding Micah's prophecy of Jesus's birth is one of the most lucid pictures of the world's future under the reign of the Prince of Peace - Jesus.

Micah 5: 5

5 This One will be *our* peace. When the Assyrian invades our land, When he tramples on our citadels, Then we will raise against him Seven shepherds and eight leaders of men.

MICAH

The prophet condemns the rulers, priests, and prophets of Israel who exploit and mislead the people. It is because of their deeds that Jerusalem will be destroyed.

The prophet Micah proclaims the deliverance of the people who will go from Jerusalem to Babylon and concludes with an exhortation for Jerusalem to destroy the nations who have gathered against her.

The ideal ruler would come from Bethlehem to defend the nation, and the prophet proclaims the triumph of the remnant of Jacob and foresees a day when Yahweh will purge the nation of idolatry and reliance on military might.

Micah 6: 8

8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

This scripture applies to Christians as it did to people during Micah's time.

MICAH

The message of the Book of Micah is a complex mixture of judgment and hope.

The prophecies announce judgment upon Israel for social evils, corrupt leadership and idolatry. This judgment was expected to culminate in the destruction of Samaria and Jerusalem.

Micah proclaims not merely the restoration of the nation, but the transformation and exaltation of Israel and Jerusalem.

The messages of hope and doom are not necessarily contradictory, however, since restoration and transformation take place only after judgment.

MICAH

1. Rebellion will be punished

God does not look the other way when people are living in sin. He will hold them accountable, often using destruction and disaster in the process (Micah 1:1-7).

2. The Regathering of Israel

A day is coming when Israel will be gathered together with God as their King and Leader (Micah 2: 12-13) and it will be a time of peace and prosperity and rule by the Lord (Micah 4:1-5).

MICAH

3. Leaders are accountable

Micah is careful to call out the leaders for their sin of leading people astray. He accuses them of hating what is good and loving evil and taking advantage of the people (Micah 3: 1-2). These false prophets will be judged (Micah 3: 5-7).

4. The Role of the Word of God

Micah was emotionally involved in his message, lamenting and wailing (Micah 1: 8). God's Word came to him (Micah 1: 1), he was filled with power by the Spirit of the Lord (Micah 3: 8) to bring this important message.

MICAH

God pardons iniquity because He delights in mercy.

He turns His people to Himself, and forgives all their sins when they repent.

The blessing of Israel will mean great blessing also for the nations, who will find delight in the mountain of Jehovah at Jerusalem.

Micah shows that God is the eternal Rock.