

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Amos

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1:1

Background: The Book of Amos contains the words of Amos, a shepherd of Tekoa. Amos began to prophesy about 760 BC. He spoke Yahweh's messages against God's people for behaving wickedly. He spoke messages to both the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Israel.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ These words were written by Amos, a shepherd from Tekoa. [1:1]
- ☐ Amos wrote about what he saw concerning Israel. [1:1]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who was Amos and where was he from? [1:1]
Amos was a shepherd from Tekoa.
2. What do you think it meant that Amos "saw" these things concerning Israel? [1:1]
It probably meant that Amos saw visions that God revealed to him about Israel.
3. What happened two years after Amos saw these things? [1:1]
There was an earthquake.

Comment Section:

2:6-8

Background: After Amos pronounced the Lord's judgment on six of Israel's neighboring nations, he spoke about God's judgment that would come upon Israel.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh said he would not stop his punishment of Israel. [2:6]
- ☐ Amos listed several ways that Israel had sinned against Yahweh, including harming innocent people, sexual immorality, and idolatry. [2:6-8]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What was the first reason given for why Yahweh was going to punish Israel? [2:6]
Israel was selling innocent people for money and needy people for sandals.
2. What do you think it meant that Israel was selling people? [2:6]
Some Israelites were selling other Israelites into slavery.
3. How did a man and his father disrespect the Lord's holy name? [2:7]
A man and his father had sex with the same girl.
4. What did Israelites do with the clothes they took as pledges? [2:8]
They laid down beside every altar on the clothes they took. To lie down beside every altar meant they were having feasts as part of their sacrifices to idols.
5. What did the Israelites drink in the house of their God? [2:8]
They drank wine that was taken from people who were fined.

Comment Section:

3:1-8

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Amos told the people of Israel about what Yahweh had spoken against them. [3:1]
- ☐ Yahweh said he would punish Israel for the evil things they have done. [3:2]
- ☐ Yahweh asked Israel several questions about things like how lions acted when they found prey, birds getting caught in traps, disasters overtaking cities, and prophets speaking Yahweh's words. [3:3-6, 8]
- ☐ Yahweh said he would not do these things without first revealing his plan to his prophets. [3:7]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who was the word of Yahweh spoken against? [3:1]
This word of Yahweh was against the people of Israel.
2. What did Yahweh say he had done for Israel? [3:2]
He had chosen only them from all the families of the earth.
3. What must two people do in order to walk together? [3:3]
Two people must make an appointment with one another in order to walk together.
4. When disaster came upon a city, who sent it? [3:6]
Yahweh sent it.
5. What does Yahweh do before he takes action? [3:7]
The Lord reveals his plans to his servants the prophets before he takes action.
6. Just like people feared when they heard a lion roar, what must happen when Yahweh had spoken. [3:8]?
The prophet must prophesy.
7. What do you think was the purpose or meaning of the questions asked in 3:4-6?
These are rhetorical questions. This means Yahweh was not asking these questions because he did not know the answer. These questions caused the listener to think deeply or realize something. Perhaps Yahweh wanted the listeners to realize that none of the things he asked about happened randomly or without purpose. So, when Yahweh speaks through his prophets there was a reason. Therefore, they should listen to the prophet because what Yahweh says will certainly happen.

Comment Section:

5:14-15

Background: Amos continued telling Yahweh's message to the people of Israel. In this passage they were also called "the remnant of Joseph."

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The people of Israel must do what was good so they may live and so Yahweh would be with them. [5:14]
- ☐ If they loved good and were just, Yahweh may be gracious to them. [5:15]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the people of Israel need to do if they wanted Yahweh to be with them? [5:14]
They needed to do what was good, and not evil.
2. What would happen if the people chose to love good, hate evil, and establish justice? [5:15]
Yahweh would be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Comment Section:

5:18-24

Background: The passage speaks about the day of Yahweh. This refers to a time when Yahweh would punish people for their sin.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh told the people of Israel they should not long for the day of Yahweh for it would be a day of darkness and gloom. [5:18-20]
- ☐ Yahweh rejected the people's religious festivals and sacrifices. [5:21-23]
- ☐ Yahweh wanted justice and righteousness to flow like waters that roll down from a stream. [5:24]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What were some of the people longing for? [5:18]
They were longing for the day of Yahweh.
2. Why do you think some of the people were longing for the day of Yahweh? [5:18]
They probably thought that since they were the people of God, he would not punish them. He would only punish other nations.
3. What did Amos say the day of Yahweh would be to them? [5:18, 20]
The day of Yahweh would be darkness and not light, gloom and not brightness.
4. On the day of Yahweh, what would happen to the man who fled from a lion? [5:19]
A bear would meet him.
5. On the day of Yahweh, what would happen to the man who went home and put his hand on the wall? [5:19]
A snake would bite him.
6. What do you think the two examples in 5:19 meant?
They probably were meant to show that there would be no escaping God's punishment on the day of Yahweh. No matter where they went or what they did, they would be in danger.
7. What did Yahweh think about the Israelites' solemn assemblies? [5:21]
Yahweh took no delight in their solemn assemblies.
8. What types of offerings would Yahweh no longer accept from the people? [5:22]
Yahweh would no longer accept their burnt offerings, grain offerings, and fellowship offerings.
9. What noise did Yahweh want the people to stop making? [5:23]
Yahweh no longer wanted them to make the noise of their songs and lutes. He would not listen to them.

Amos 5:18-24 continued

10. Yahweh wanted justice from the people. What did Yahweh want that justice and righteousness to be like? [5:24]
Yahweh wanted them to flow like water, like a constantly flowing stream.

11. What do you think Yahweh meant by this? [5:24]
He probably meant that we wanted all the people to constantly do what was just and right throughout Israel.

Comment Section:

7:10-17

Background: Amos had continued to speak Yahweh's words to the people of Israel. Amos said Yahweh would no longer spare them. He would destroy their places of worship and rise against king Jeroboam and his family.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ A priest named Amaziah told the king of Israel what Amos said, then he told Amos not to preach Yahweh's message in Bethel for it is where the king lived. [7:10-13,16]
- ☐ Amos said Yahweh called him from his job as a herdsman to prophesy to the people of Israel. [7:14]
- ☐ Amaziah and his family would be punished for rejecting Yahweh's message from Amos. [7:16-17]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Amaziah the priest accuse Amos of? [7:10]
Amaziah said that Amos was conspiring against Jeroboam, king of Israel.
2. What had Amos prophesied about Jeroboam? [7:11]
Amos had prophesied that Jeroboam would die by the sword.
3. Where did Amaziah tell Amos to return to and prophesy? [7:12]
Amos was told to return to the land of Judah and prophesy there.
4. Why did Amaziah say that Amos could not prophesy in Bethel anymore? [7:13]
Amaziah said this because it was the king's sanctuary and a royal house.
5. What was Amos' work before Yahweh took him to be his prophet? [7:14-15]
Amos was a herdsman and keeper of sycamore fig trees. Herdsman is another name for shepherd.
6. What did Yahweh declare against Amaziah, priest of Bethel? [7:17]
Yahweh declared that Amaziah's wife would be a prostitute, his sons and daughters would be killed, and his land would be divided up, and he would die in an unclean land.

Comment Section:

9:11-15

Background: In 9:1-10, Yahweh said he would certainly punish the people of Israel no matter where they went or what they did, but he would not completely destroy them.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ After Yahweh's punishments against Israel, a day would come when he would raise up and restore the tent of David. [9:11-12]
- ☐ In those days, Israel would prosper again, and her people would come back from lands where they were held captive. [9:13-15]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Amos say that Yahweh would rebuild "in that day"? [9:11]
On that day, Yahweh says that he would raise up the tent of David that had fallen.
2. What do you think it meant for Yahweh to raise up the tent of David? [9:11]
It probably meant he would restore David's family and cause one of his descendants to rule again.
3. With what does Yahweh say the mountains would drip and the hills would flow in the coming days? [9:13]
In the coming days, the mountains would drip, and the hills would flow with sweet wine.
4. What did Yahweh promise to do for his people Israel? [9:14]
Yahweh promised to bring Israel back from captivity.
5. What would the people do when they were brought back from captivity? [9:14]
They would rebuild their cities and live in them, plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit.
6. After Yahweh brings back Israel, how long will Israel remain in the land? [9:15]
Israel will remain in the land forever

Comment Section: