

“Listen to God” - Amos 2:4-16

Ask - “Did you ever feel unqualified for a job or task that was given to you?”

Background - Amos was a shepherd and fruit picker from Tekoa, a village in Judea. Though he wasn't a priest and he lacked a religious education, God used Amos to prophecy in the years leading up to the fall of the Northern Kingdom. He spoke primarily against Israel, but also some against Judah and the surrounding nations.

“A Prophecy Against Judah” - Amos 2:4-5

(v4) What are the 3, make that 4, sins of Judah listed in this verse? Discuss similarities and differences between each of them.

(v5) For these sins, how does this verse describe God's irrevocable punishment? Which kingdom would be punished first - Judah or Israel?

THOUGH IT WAS STILL MORE THAN 150 YEARS AWAY, AMOS
PROPHESED OF GOD'S JUDGMENT UPON HIS HOMETOWN JUDAH.

“The Sins of Israel” - Amos 2:6-8

(v6-7a) What are the first 2 of the 3, make that 4, sins of Israel? Discuss both of them.

(v7b) What are the second 2 of the 3, make that 4, sins of Israel? Discuss both of them.

(v8) How does Israel flaunt its disdain for and mistreatment of the poor? Where do they practice this shameful behavior?

AMOS REBUKED ISRAEL FOR TREATING UPRIGHT PEOPLE AS
PROPERTY, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE POOR, DESPISING THE HUMBLE,
AND ENGAGING IN PROFANE SEXUAL MISCONDUCT.

“Punishment for Israel” - Amos 2:9-16

(v9-10) What examples are given in these verses to demonstrate the LORD's power and faithfulness to His people Israel?

(v11) Then what did God do? What is the difference between a prophet and a Nazirite (*research in advance*)?

(v12-13) How did Israel treat the prophets and Nazirites? How did Israel's behavior toward God's messengers affect His demeanor toward them?

(v14-16) When the day of Israel's judgment came, how would the people fare (the swift, the strong, the brave, etc)?

AMOS DECLARED THAT GOD HAD BEEN FAITHFUL TO ISRAEL, BUT SHE HAD REJECTED AND SILENCED HIS MESSENGERS. THUS, WHEN JUDGMENT CAME, NO ONE WOULD ESCAPE.

Application - Amos was an obscure man with no priestly background or training. He came from a small and insignificant village. His prophecy demonstrates that God can use anyone to deliver His message - "listen to God". You don't need to have a certain standing, education, or so forth to be used. These are just excuses. All God asks is that you be willing and obedient, as Amos was. Are you?