

## **Key to AMOS**

### **1. STATISTICS:**

Writer, Amos, a herdsman-gardener of Tekoa (village south of Bethlehem, 1:1); date of writing 785-750 B.C.; ministered to Israel (Northern Kingdom); key thought, unrighteousness brings judgment; key word, captivity; key verse, 4:12; contemporary of Hosea. Prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam II (in Israel) while Uzziah (II Chronicles 26) was king in Judah.

### **2. THEME:**

This Judean was sent by GOD to warn Israel of impending judgment if the nation did not repent. During the long prosperity under Jeroboam II and consequent sin, corruption and idolatry, he prophesied judgment and closed his ministry by calling attention to the future restoration and glory of the nation Israel.

### **3. OUTLINE:**

There are three divisions: prophecies concerning other nations (1-2); concerning Israel (3:1-9:10); future blessing (9:11-15).

### **4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

The prophet's style of writing is simple and reflects his herdsman background. There is also clarity, directness and practical application. Amos has certain familiarity with the message of Deuteronomy (cf. 2:10 with Deuteronomy 29:5; 4:6-10 with Deuteronomy 28:22). Amos opens with a statement (1:2) and closes his prophecies with the same exhortation suggesting acquaintance with Joel.

### **5. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:**

Amos strongly suggests the inevitability of judgment for the sins of surrounding nations, but that the GOD who must punish sin there, must also punish sin in Israel. The logic is inescapable. The book follows the general prophetic pattern; with warnings of coming judgment, then with promises of eventual blessing.

### **6. INTERESTING FEATURES:**

Amos is quoted in the New Testament by Stephen in Acts 7:42, 43 and by James in Acts 15:15-17.

### **7. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:**

Though Israel was outstandingly wicked, GOD was gracious and patient. He is still the same today.

~ end of Amos ~

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