

A TONGUE LIKE A WHIP, A HEART FULL OF LOVE
(AMOS)

I. BACKGROUND:

A. Historical and Political Conditions:

1. Assyria and Syria quieted down, Israel and Judah were able to gain strength
2. Much peace and tranquility prevailed.
3. Regained most territory lost in earlier wars
4. Judah was strong and victorious as Israel was.
5. Much wealth and freedom enjoyed by all
6. People began to be filled with pride.
7. Luxury and ease were undermining Israel.
8. Isaiah, Micah and Hosea were just young men.

B. Social Conditions:

1. Israel was prosperous.
2. People became self-indulgent
3. Business was very good
4. Rich took advantage of the poor
5. Everyone was dishonest.
6. It was a dark hour for Israel but they didn't know it.

C. RELIGIOUS CONDITIONS:

1. Israel appeared to be very religious.
2. Immorality and superstition were plentiful.
3. Rich religious leaders were indifferent to the poor.
4. Israel's leaders did not know God.
5. Drunkenness and laziness ruled the nation.

II. THE MAN OF GOD

A. His Home:

1. Tekoa was 12 miles south of Jerusalem.
2. A wild and desolate wilderness

B. His Equipment:

1. He knew the sins of Israel, as well as the history.
2. He knew the law and studied the stars.

C. His Training:

1. The wilderness enabled Amos to be able to spend a lot of time with God.
2. Spoke with travelers coming in and out of Jerusalem
3. He was concerned about Israel.

D. His Call:

1. Amos never went to special schools.
2. He felt God challenging him to go preach.

E. His Mission:

1. God sent him to Bethel, since it was the place of worship for Israel.
2. Israel felt they did not need to be preached at.
3. The people couldn't understand a message from God.

F. His Personal Life:

1. He tended sheep and trimmed sycamore trees for a living before his call.
2. He left his regular way of life to answer God's call.
3. Amos had a run-in with the Priest of Israel.

G. His Character:

1. Amos was - simple, humble, blunt, direct, courageous and dynamic.
2. He had a keen resentment against all Israel's wrongs.
3. He was very sensitive of the needs of the poor.
4. He knew God and was sure of his call.
5. Amos had little sympathy for the wealthy.

PRACTICAL LESSONS

1. God is displeased with hollow, insincere worship.
2. God is gracious and patient in warning us.
3. Social injustice is intolerable to God.
4. Ease, luxury, and idleness lead to open sin.
5. Possessing power over others creates grave dangers.
6. In any emergency, God can raise up an effective prophet to do His will.
7. God amply warns before He brings judgement, but He does not speak and warn endlessly.
8. Being alone with God is valuable.