

# AMOS

AN INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY



GRACE  
BIBLE CHURCH



# AMOS

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Created and edited by the pastors and staff of Grace Bible Church.  
Adapted from the original work of Tristie Fisher and Abby Perry.

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# WELCOME

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The seven lessons in this study are designed to walk us through this inspiring book of the Bible. In the Survey, we will look at the overall message of the book of Amos. The next lessons will focus on studying key passages in detail. Then, in the Synthesis we will summarize what we have learned for future reference.

In studying each passage in detail, we will be learning and using a number of basic Bible study methods. These methods fit under three fundamental skills that are meant to be practiced in order each week.



## OBSERVE

*What do I see?*



## INTERPRET

*What does it mean?*



## APPLY

*How does it work?*

These skills are summarized in the “Bible Study Tools Overview” that you can flip back through during your study. You can find it along with other advanced Bible study skills in the Appendix for those who want to go deeper in their study.

## STUDYING PROPHETIC LITERATURE

One of the most challenging genres in the Bible to study is prophetic literature. We often think of “prophecy” as a prediction of the future and while prophetic books do look ahead, the more striking feature of Old Testament prophecy is its tone of warning and impending judgment. Seventeen of the 39 books of the Old Testament are considered prophetic books. These are typically divided into two categories called “major” prophets (longer books that are broader in scope) and “minor” prophets (shorter books that are more narrow in scope).

**Major Prophets:** Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

**Minor Prophets:** Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

God raised up prophets in Israel to warn the nation of the dire consequences of continuing disobedience and to call the nation to repentance and a return to the Lord. Each prophet used Deuteronomy 28 (see the blessings for obedience in 28:1-14 and the disciplines for disobedience in 28:15-68) as the metric for analysis of the king and/or nation(s) being evaluated. Thus, the role of the prophet was to bring an evaluation directly from God and often proclaim the direct words of God: “thus saith the Lord.”

In reading and studying prophetic literature, it is critical to understand the historical and cultural background of the book. Some questions to ask of the text include:

- Whom is the prophet addressing?
- What is the main problem the prophet is addressing?
- What images does he use to describe it?
- What is the desired response of the people?
- What does the prophet's message tell you about God?

# PREFACE

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*This study is adapted from the original work of Tristie Fisher and Abby Perry. Tristie's words of encouragement appear below.*

There are certain Old Testament books that many believers have read and studied. Isaiah, the Psalms, Proverbs, Genesis, or maybe the tales of leaders in 1-2 Kings. But, have you ever studied (much less read?) the book of Amos? I hadn't either! The book of Amos is sandwiched into a section of Scripture called the "Minor Prophets". Maybe it's just me, but I think I avoided this book because it seemed so very "minor". Can there be anything new to learn here?

YES! The nine chapters of Amos portray a typical society in human history that had become consumed with its own importance and eventual abandonment of God's preeminence. Throughout this book, God used Amos to call our attention to the pride of Israel, the idolatry of Israel, the societal evils of Israel, and the impending judgment on Israel. Amos is sent from Judah to Israel to point out the people's sin and to point up to God's constant mercy. God shows Himself in this book in fascinating ways. He is a lion who roars in response to His people's disobedience. He is the divine judge who will call to account His people's idolatry and subsequent oppression of their fellow men. He is the creator who sits above the vaulted sky and orchestrates the symphony of time. Finally, He is who He always is--the patient spurned Father who asks His people to return to Him because He loves them completely!

This book is so very timely for us.

Whether Israel or Rome or America, the societal cycle of idolatry and oppression follows a typical pattern: a society blessed with physical prosperity is often then disregards God which in turn, leads to neglecting other people. We are forever ignoring what Jesus called the greatest commandments..."to love God and love one another." His judgment is consistently executed on disobedient civilizations. If we are to learn from the book of Amos, we must ask ourselves some questions: How much of the world's values do we weave into our Christian faith, not realizing we've compromised the exclusivity of God and become idolatrous? How much of our society's love of luxury has wounded fellow human beings made in His image? Finally, how do we get out of this cycle?

Seek the Lord. The most glorious and hopeful section of this book centers in Amos chapter 5 where three different times, God offers Israel a divine escape hatch and opportunity for cultural restoration. He offers full pardon, full healing, and full blessing if they will seek Him and Him only. He is the Ever Patient One.

The book of Amos will challenge, convict, and renew our hearts. He will enable us to see our culture more clearly and guide us to responding appropriately to His loving leadership. We will see age-old patterns of human (and God's) history dropped into these 9 chapters and boldly shared by the prophet Amos. Not bad for a "minor" prophet.

# SURVEY

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## P R A Y

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Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you know of, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to illuminate your study.

## S U R V E Y : W H A T ' S   T H E   B I G   I D E A ?

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Surveying a book like Amos allows you to grasp the big picture and the overall storyline of the book before getting caught up in the details. This survey provides a helpful road map to guide your study during the coming weeks. So begin this crucial first step by taking the next thirty minutes to read straight through Amos without stopping. Then, answer the questions below before moving on to the next page.

<b>AUTHOR</b>	
<b>AUDIENCE</b>	
<b>WRITTEN WHEN</b>	
<b>WRITTEN WHERE</b>	
<b>GENRE/STYLE</b>	

1. How would you describe Amos's relationship to his hearers?
2. What are the major themes or big ideas in this book? (Hint: Look for repeated words and ideas.)
3. Now that you have read through the entire book, what do you see to be Amos's purposes? Be as specific as you can.

# BACKGROUND

## GENRE

Amos is written in the covenant-lawsuit structure and style that was common in the Ancient Near East in his day. Thus, the book of Amos primarily contains indictments and charges that God brought against Israel, Judah and surrounding nations.

## HISTORY

The Book of Amos was likely written between 760-753 B.C. by the prophet Amos. The prophets Isaiah and Hosea are considered contemporaries of Amos. During Amos' time, the Kingdom of Israel was divided. Uzziah (792-740 B.C.) was King of Judah (southern kingdom) and Jereboam II (793-753 B.C.) was King of Israel (northern kingdom).

## ISRAEL AND JUDAH

At this phase of its history, Israel is prosperous, as Syria has been conquered by Assyria and the northern kingdom was (temporarily) free from foreign invaders. The people of Israel loved their newfound freedom but unfortunately, turned to self-centered interests rather than to God and His ways. They disobeyed the Mosaic Law (read Deuteronomy 28-30) and exchanged God's commands for a lust for luxury. Rather than viewing their status as God's chosen people as a call to great obedience and the blessing of others, the Israel saw its privileged status as the ultimate excuse for selfish behavior.

King Jereboam II had moved the center of worship from Jerusalem to Bethel and combined false worship with Judaic worship. The people of Israel are engaged in idolatry, immorality, human trafficking, theft from the poor, gluttony, and the promotion of corrupt leadership.

**Amos the Prophet:** Little is known about Amos. He has a rural background and comes from Tekoa (12 miles SE of Jerusalem) in Judah (southern kingdom). He was a shepherd and cultivator of sycamore fig trees. Although Amos is not a member of the "prophetic guild" that was centered in Jerusalem and was from Judah (southern kingdom), Amos is sent primarily to the northern kingdom (Israel) to deliver eight judgments, five oracles, 3 visions, and one final message of hope.

**Message of Amos:** The righteous and holy God will judge unrighteousness (3:1-2; 8:11-12).

\* Please refer to the article on Studying Prophecy in the Welcome on page 3.

# MAP



*Places mentioned in Amos*

## MY AMOS OUTLINE...

- I. God's judgments (indictments) of eight nations (1-2)
- II. Three sermons spoken by God to Israel ("Hear this word")
  - A. Oracle/Sermon #1: (3)
  - B. Oracle/Sermon #2 (4)
  - C. Oracle/Sermon #3 (5-6)
- III. Five visions of God's judgment against Israel
  - A. Vision #1: Locust swarm (7:1-3)
  - B. Vision #2: Fire (7:4-6)
  - C. Vision #3: Plumb line (7:7-17)
  - D. Vision #4: Fruit (8:1-14)
  - E. Vision #5: The Lord by the altar (9:1-6)
- IV. Concluding section of hope (9:7-15)

# LESSON 1

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AMOS 1 - 2

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## PRAY

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

## MEMORIZE

**Amos 1:2** -- Write it out to get your memorization started.

# What Do I See?

OBSERVE *Refer to Appendix*

## AMOS 1-2

Refer to *Amos Text* for passage. Available online [www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-studies-and-publications/](http://www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-studies-and-publications/)

### OBSERVATIONS

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*See Bible Study Tools Overview for instruction.*

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## OBSERVATION QUESTIONS:

1. What is the tone of the passage? See especially Amos 1:2.

2. Amos prophesies about 8 nations in verses 1:3-2:16. List their names, judgment, reason for judgment and relevant verses.

NAME OF NATION/PEOPLE	REASON FOR JUDGMENT	JUDGMENT	VERSES
Damascus	“Because” they have threshed Giliad	“So I will” • Send fire • Break the grave	1:3-5

4. What themes do you see in these verses?

# What Does it Mean?

## INTERPRET *Refer to Appendix*

1. Review the map on page 7. What is the significance of the order and geographical location of the eight nations discussed in chapters 1-2?
  2. How might one living in Israel (northern kingdom) have responded to these judgments?
  3. What does the repeated phrase “for three transgressions ... and for four” seem to mean?
  4. Why are the judgments against Judah and Israel so significant in light of their relationship with God?
  5. Create chapter titles or summary sentences for Amos 1 & 2.

Chapter 1:

Chapter 2

# How Does it Work?

## APPLY

## REFLECT ON YOUR LIFE:

- What characteristic(s) of God does this passage illuminate for you?
  - What patterns in your own life does the book of Amos bring to mind?
  - In Amos we clearly see mistreatment of the poor and the judgment for it. How could this principle impact your interactions with people in your life today?

# RELATIONAL APPLICATION

*Refer to Appendix*

Fill in the graph below by answering these questions:

- What is the most significant truth or principle you learned in this lesson?
- How does this truth impact the four relational spheres of your life?

- How can I engage the world around me?
- How does this truth affect my relationship with God?

SERVICE  
GOD

## MAIN TRUTH:

- How can I integrate this truth into my work environment?
- How does this truth challenge me regarding my family/friends?

WORK  
FAMILY/FRIENDS

# LESSON 2

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## AMOS 3

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### PRAY

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

### REFRESH YOUR MEMORY

*Refresh your memory on the events in Amos 1-2.*

What do you want to remember as you continue your study of the book of Amos?

### MEMORIZE

**Amos 3:2** -- Write it out to get your memorization started.

# What Do I See?

OBSERVE *Refer to Appendix*

## AMOS 3

Refer to *Amos Text* for passage. Available online [www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-studies-and-publications/](http://www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-studies-and-publications/)

### OBSERVATIONS

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*See Bible Study Tools Overview for instruction.*

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## OBSERVATION QUESTIONS:

1. Familiarize yourself with the locations mentioned in this chapter.

See <http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/> to see what else has happened in those places.

<b>ASHDOD</b>	
<b>EGYPT</b>	
<b>SAMARIA</b>	
<b>BETHEL</b>	

# What Does it Mean?

INTERPRET *Refer to Appendix*

1. How does Amos describe the audience for God's message in 3:1-2? Why does he use these specific words?

See also: Deuteronomy 7:6, Genesis 46:8-27, Exodus 20:2 (note the significant section of scripture that follows)

How does 3:1-2 support God's right to judge His people?

2. Review the seven rhetorical questions in 3:3-8. What purpose do they serve? (Hint: look for a cause/effect pattern)

How do the rhetorical questions validate Amos' call to prophesy (3:7-8)?

3. Why would God call the surrounding nations to witness Israel's impending judgment?
4. What does 3:10 tell us about what the Israelites love? How does this verse reinforce the principle of "just judgment?"
5. Why does God refer to the "house of Jacob" in 3:13 and 9:8? See Genesis 35:10-12, Exodus 19:1-8, Luke 1:33

What was the role of Israel intended to be?

6. What does the description of the judgments in 3:11-15 reveal about the nature of their sin?
7. Create a summary statement for Amos 3.

# How Does it Work?

## APPLY

- ❸ What characteristics of God did you see in Amos 3? Describe how you see and respond to those characteristics of God in your life.
  
- ❹ How has God intervened in your life to bring you back to Him? How have His tenderness and grace drawn you near, even in the midst of discipline or pain?

# RELATIONAL APPLICATION

*Refer to Appendix*

Fill in the graph below by answering these questions:

- What is the most significant truth or principle you learned in this lesson?
- How does this truth impact the four relational spheres of your life?

- How can I engage the world around me?
- How does this truth affect my relationship with God?

SERVICE  
GOD

## MAIN TRUTH:

- How can I integrate this truth into my work environment?
- How does this truth challenge me regarding my family/friends?

WORK  
FAMILY/FRIENDS



# LESSON 3

---

## AMOS 4

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### PRAY

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

### REFRESH YOUR MEMORY

*Refresh your memory on the events in Amos 1-3.*

What do you want to remember as you continue your study of the book of Amos?

### MEMORIZE

**Amos 4:12** -- Write it out to get your memorization started.

# What Do I See?

OBSERVE *Refer to Appendix*

## AMOS 4

Refer to *Amos Text* for passage. Available online [www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-studies-and-publications/](http://www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-studies-and-publications/)

### OBSERVATIONS

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*See Bible Study Tools Overview for instruction.*

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## OBSERVATION QUESTIONS:

1. List any repeated phrases you see in this chapter.
  2. Contrast the lifestyle of the “cows of Bashan” in 4:1-3 with their impending judgment.

CHOSEN LIFESTYLE	RESULTING JUDGMENT

3. Familiarize yourself with the locations mentioned in this chapter. Look them up in a Bible dictionary. See <http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/>

BASHAN	
SAMARIA	
HARMON	
BETHEL	
GILGAL	

# What Does it Mean?

INTERPRET *Refer to Appendix*

1. Why would Amos have used the phrase “cows of Bashan” in 4:1-3?

How is the lifestyle of the “cows of Bashan” and the subsequent judgment related? Why were these specific words used?

2. What about Israel’s worship was offensive to God in 4:4-5? Consider the significance of Bethel and Gilgal to the worship practices of Israel. See 1 Kings 12:26-33 and Hosea 4:15-19.

What does this say about God’s character and the Israelite’s relationship to Him?

3. Are the judgments in 4:6-11 past or future? What purpose were they meant to serve?

4. Describe the tone of the judgment in 4:12. Is it different from the prior judgments in 4:6-11? How so?

5. Create a summary statement for Amos 4.

# How Does it Work?

## APPLY

- » Consider the privileges that Israel possessed and how they used them. What privileges do you possess and how are you using them?
  
- » Think through the long-suffering patience of God described in the section (past judgments, desire for restoration, future punishment). How can this inform us as we approach injustice in our world?

# RELATIONAL APPLICATION

*Refer to Appendix*

Fill in the graph below by answering these questions:

- What is the most significant truth or principle you learned in this lesson?
- How does this truth impact the four relational spheres of your life?

- How can I engage the world around me?
- How does this truth affect my relationship with God?

SERVICE  
GOD

## MAIN TRUTH:

- How can I integrate this truth into my work environment?
- How does this truth challenge me regarding my family/friends?

WORK  
FAMILY/FRIENDS



# LESSON 4

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## AMOS 5 - 6

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### PRAY

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

### REFRESH YOUR MEMORY

*Refresh your memory on the events in Amos 1-4.*

What do you want to remember as you continue your study of the book of Amos?

### MEMORIZE

**Amos 5:24** -- Write it out to get your memorization started.

# What Do I See?

OBSERVE *Refer to Appendix*

## AMOS 5-6

Refer to *Amos Text* for passage. Available online [www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-studies-and-publications/](http://www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-studies-and-publications/)

### OBSERVATIONS

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*See Bible Study Tools Overview for instruction.*

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## OBSERVATION QUESTIONS:

1. List any repeated phrases or themes you see in these chapters.
  2. List Israel's sins identified in 5:10-6:7.

# What Does it Mean?

## INTERPRET *Refer to Appendix*

1. Why does Amos use the word dirge/lamentation in 5:1? See Jeremiah 7:29, 9:10, 17 and Ezekiel 19:1.

What reason is given for the dirge in 5:2-3?

2. Amos 5:6-15 interweaves reasons for the Israelites' judgment with the Lord's desires for them. Contrast the lifestyle the Lord wants for them with that which they have chosen.

ISRAELITE LIFESTYLE: MEANT TO BE	ISRAELITE LIFESTYLE: REALITY

3. What does the Lord say will be the result of Israel's sin in 5:16-17? What will the Israelite's response be to the Lord passing through their midst? What would have been their response if Israel were living as she was meant to live?

4. From Amos 5-6, what do the Israelites idolize? How does their idolatry lead to other sins?
  
  
  
  
  
5. Amos 5:18-20 refers to “the day of the Lord.” This phrase appears through the Bible. Look at the following to see its range of meaning and usage: Joel 2:1-4, Joel 2:28-32, Acts 2:14-21, 1 Thessalonians 5:2.

For a complete description of the fulfillment of the day of the Lord/the return of Christ read Matthew 24 and Revelation 19.

How are the Israelites misunderstanding the “day of the Lord?” See 5:21-27.

6. How does Amos 5-6 describe the extent of God’s judgment of Israel?

See also the repeated word “exile” (also translated captivity) in 5:5, 5:27 and 6:7, 7:11, 7:17.

7. Create a summary statement for Amos 5-6.

# How Does it Work?

## APPLY

⦿ Refer back to your list of Israel's sins in the Observation section. Choose one or two present in your life. What makes these sins enticing to you? How can you lament them and then fight them?

⦿ As members of the body of Christ and citizens of a local community, nation and world, sin is all around us. Which cultural sins especially grieve you? How can you lament them and then fight them?

# RELATIONAL APPLICATION

*Refer to Appendix*

Fill in the graph below by answering these questions:

- What is the most significant truth or principle you learned in this lesson?
- How does this truth impact the four relational spheres of your life?

- How can I engage the world around me?
- How does this truth affect my relationship with God?

SERVICE  
GOD

## MAIN TRUTH:

- How can I integrate this truth into my work environment?
- How does this truth challenge me regarding my family/friends?

WORK  
FAMILY/FRIENDS



# LESSON 5

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## AMOS 7

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### PRAY

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

### REFRESH YOUR MEMORY

*Refresh your memory on the events in Amos 1-6.*

What do you want to remember as you continue your study of the book of Amos?

### MEMORIZE

**Amos 7:14** -- Write it out to get your memorization started.

# What Do I See?

OBSERVE *Refer to Appendix*

## AMOS 7

Refer to *Amos Text* for passage. Available online [www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-studies-and-publications/](http://www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-studies-and-publications/)

### OBSERVATIONS

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*See Bible Study Tools Overview for instruction.*

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## OBSERVATION QUESTIONS:

As we start to study Amos 7, we need to reread 6:14. The word “thus” in 7:1 is crucial. Amos 7 introduces the 5 visions of the minor prophet, 3 of which are found in this chapter.

1. Amos prophesies about 3 visions in 7:1-9. List their themes or main points, relevant verses, your interpretation of their meaning, Amos' requests of God and God's responses.

THEME/MAIN POINT	VERSES	MEANING/ SYMBOLISM	AMOS'S REQUESTS	GOD'S RESPONSE

2. List all references to the Lord God in this chapter.

# What Does it Mean?

# INTERPRET *Refer to Appendix*

1. To whom is Amos referring as “Jacob” and “small” in verses 2 and 5? Why? See Genesis 35:9.
  2. The phrase “The LORD changed His mind about this” occurs in verses 3 and 6. Look up the following to determine its range of meaning: Exodus 32:1-14, 2 Samuel 24:15-17 and 1 Samuel 15:24-31.

Do you think God changes His mind? Why or why not? If so, how is this consistent with His omniscient character? If not, how do we explain what occurs in Amos 7?

3. How does the vision and judgment of the plumb line in verses 7-9 differ from the previous visions (locusts and fire)?
  4. Which three institutions are listed as specifically coming under judgment in 7:9? Why do you think these are specifically mentioned considering what you have learned about Bethel and Gilgal?

5. Compare/contrast Amos and Amaziah (consider how they are credentialed, what they communicate and elements of their character).

	<b>AMOS</b>	<b>AMAZIAH</b>
<b>CREDENTIALS</b>		
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
<b>CHARACTERISTICS</b>		

6. How many times does Amos refer to the Lord when speaking to Amaziah in 7:14-17? What does this repetition indicate about Amos' character?

7. Create a summary statement for Amos 7.

# How Does it Work?

## APPLY

- ⦿ The book of Amos describes a corrupt Israelite culture. Do you see any similar corruption in your own heart and in your current culture? How will you respond?
  
- ⦿ Amos is not only a prophet in this chapter but an intercessor as well. How can you be an intercessor for your family, friends, church, country and world?

# RELATIONAL APPLICATION

*Refer to Appendix*

Fill in the graph below by answering these questions:

- What is the most significant truth or principle you learned in this lesson?
- How does this truth impact the four relational spheres of your life?

- How can I engage the world around me?
- How does this truth affect my relationship with God?

SERVICE  
GOD

## MAIN TRUTH:

- How can I integrate this truth into my work environment?
- How does this truth challenge me regarding my family/friends?

WORK  
FAMILY/FRIENDS



# LESSON 6

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## AMOS 8

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### PRAY

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

### REFRESH YOUR MEMORY

*Refresh your memory on the events in Amos 1-7.*

What do you want to remember as you continue your study of the book of Amos?

### MEMORIZE

**Amos 8:11** -- Write it out to get your memorization started.

# What Do I See?

OBSERVE *Refer to Appendix*

## AMOS 8

Refer to *Amos Text* for passage. Available online [www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-studies-and-publications/](http://www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-studies-and-publications/)

### OBSERVATIONS

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*See Bible Study Tools Overview for instruction.*

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## OBSERVATION QUESTIONS:

List all the contrasts you see in this chapter.

2. Contrast the laws regarding the poor in Deuteronomy 15:7-11 and Leviticus 25:35-37 with the happenings in Amos 8:4-6.

ISRAELITE TREATMENT OF THE POOR: MEANT TO BE	ISRAELITE TREATMENT OF THE POOR: REALITY

# What Does it Mean?

## INTERPRET *Refer to Appendix*

1. In the fourth vision recorded in 8:1-3, Amos sees a basket of summer fruit. What is the meaning of this image?
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. To what is Amos referring as “that day” in verse 3? Also see, verses 9 and 13.
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In Amos 8:7, God swears “by the pride of Jacob.” To determine the meaning of the phrase in this context:
  1. Consider the other times God swears an oath in Amos (4:2 and 6:8).
  2. See where this phrase is used elsewhere in scripture: Hosea 5:5 and 7:10, Psalm 47:4.

What are the possible meanings? What does God mean by it here?

4. Amos 8:8 states that the land will tremble “because of this.” To what is “this” referring?

Why do these specific actions cause God to judge His people so severely? Also refer to the chart in Observation Question #2.

5. Consider the judgments in 8:8-14. Fill in the chart below.

JUDGMENT	MEANING/ SYMBOLISM	DETAILS
<b>EARTH TREMBLING</b>  V.8		
<b>DARKNESS</b>  VV. 9-10		
<b>FAMINE</b>  VV. 11-12		

Which of these judgments seem the most severe?

6. Create a summary statement for chapter 8.

# How Does it Work?

## APPLY

- ⦿ How has God's heart for the poor as seen in this chapter challenged your own attitude and actions?

# RELATIONAL APPLICATION

*Refer to Appendix*

Fill in the graph below by answering these questions:

- What is the most significant truth or principle you learned in this lesson?
- How does this truth impact the four relational spheres of your life?

- How can I engage the world around me?
- How does this truth affect my relationship with God?

SERVICE  
GOD

## MAIN TRUTH:

- How can I integrate this truth into my work environment?
- How does this truth challenge me regarding my family/friends?

WORK  
FAMILY/FRIENDS



# LESSON 7

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## AMOS 9

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### PRAY

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide your study.

### REFRESH YOUR MEMORY

*Refresh your memory on the events in Amos 1-8.*

What do you want to remember as you continue your study of the book of Amos?

### MEMORIZE

**Amos 9:8** -- Write it out to get your memorization started.

# What Do I See?

OBSERVE *Refer to Appendix*

## AMOS 9

Refer to *Amos Text* for passage. Available online [www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-studies-and-publications/](http://www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-studies-and-publications/)

### OBSERVATIONS

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*See Bible Study Tools Overview for instruction.*

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## OBSERVATION QUESTIONS:

Break out all of your observation skills and make a list of any or all of the following: verbs (noting the tenses), contrasts, adjectives, pivotal terms.

# What Does it Mean?

INTERPRET *Refer to Appendix*

1. What are the elements of the fifth and final vision in 9:1-6?

Where is the Lord positioned in this vision? In the context of Amos, what is significant of that place (see 2:8, 3:14)?

2. Compare 9:5-6 with 4:13 and 5:8. What exact phrases are repeated in these verses? What characteristic of God do the phrases describe? What is the significance of that characteristic in the context of judgment?

3. Describe the irony of Israel being compared with these other nations in 9:7-8b. What point is God making about how and whom He judges?

4. There seems to be a contradiction between the first and second halves of verse 8. What will be destroyed? What will be saved? Why?

How does the imagery of the sieve in verses 9-10 help explain God's relationship with His people?

5. In 9:11-15, God promises to restore a "remnant" of His people. Why does He include the specific details about the restoration to come?

For further study on the concept of "remnant" see: Amos 5:15, Jeremiah 30:2, 9, 18; 31:7, 15-17.

6. Create a summary statement for chapter 9.

# How Does it Work?

## APPLY

- ➲ Amos 9:10 highlights an attitude of “judgment will not affect me.” Why is this attitude so dangerous to our spiritual lives?
  
- ➲ The book of Amos concludes with a message of hope and restoration.

How has God taught you personally about repentance and restoration?

How can the assurance of God’s righteous judgment bring hope to the oppressed in this world? What part can the church and individual believers play?

# RELATIONAL APPLICATION

*Refer to Appendix*

Fill in the graph below by answering these questions:

- What is the most significant truth or principle you learned in this lesson?
- How does this truth impact the four relational spheres of your life?

- How can I engage the world around me?
- How does this truth affect my relationship with God?

SERVICE  
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## MAIN TRUTH:

- .....
- How can I integrate this truth into my work environment?
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# SYNTHESIS

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P U T   I T   B A C K   T O G E T H E R

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List Your Summary Sentences

Chapter 1:

Chapter 2:

Chapter 3:

Chapter 4:

Chapter 5:

Chapter 6:

Chapter 7:

Chapter 8:

Chapter 9:

As you conclude your study of the book of Amos, list three principles (timeless truths) you desire to remember. How will they affect your life, relationships with God and others, and your view of the world?

Principle 1:

Principle 2:

Principle 3:

For a summary and synthesis of Amos see: <https://bible.org/seriespage/2-amos>.

# APPENDIX

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## A. BIBLE STUDY TOOLS OVERVIEW

### OBSERVE:

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, “What do I see?” This is the crucial skill of observation, which lays the groundwork for the rest of our study. Here are four tasks involved in observation which should be performed in the order below:

#### **Observation Task 1: Mark up the passage by visually identifying the following specific elements:**

- **Underline** all verbs. A verb is a word or group of words used to indicate either that an action is taking place (“we will reign with Him”) or that a state or condition exists (“we are faithless”). Verbs are often the most significant indicators of the author’s flow of thought.
- Circle key words or phrases. These are words or short phrases that are important theologically or thematically (they set the theme or main idea for the passage).
- Highlight repeated words or phrases. Also, include words and phrases that are closely related even if not exact duplicates (such as “suffer hardship” and “endure suffering”). You’ll also want to highlight things that are repeated from previous passages.
- Box connecting words. These important words indicate the logical connection between words, phrases, and clauses. Here are eight types of common connecting words to look for:
  1. **Comparison** either points out similarities between two or more related ideas or simply joins like ideas. Comparison words include: and, like, as, just as, also, so also, even so.
  2. **Contrast** points out dissimilarities between ideas. Contrast words include: but, rather, yet, however.
  3. **Purpose** indicates the intended goal of an idea or action, whether or not it was realized. Purpose words include: that, so that, in order that.
  4. **Result** is similar to “purpose,” but indicates the actual consequence, whether or not it was intended. Result words include: that, so that, as a result, with the result that.
  5. **Cause** expresses the basis or cause of an action. Cause words include: because, since, and sometimes for.
  6. **Explanation** is what follows and further explains the previous idea, giving reasons why it is true, why it occurred, or simply adding additional information. Look for the key word “for.”
  7. **Inference** provides a logical consequence, conclusion, or summary to the previous discussion. Inference words include: therefore, for this reason.
  8. **Condition** presents a condition that must occur before a certain action or conclusion can take place. The statement may or may not reflect reality (i.e., it could be hypothetical). Key word is “if.”

## **Observation Task 2: List 2-3 primary themes you see in the passage each week**

A primary theme is the big idea, the central truth, or command that the passage focuses on. After reading the passage, write your themes as single words or short phrases. Identifying these themes at the beginning of your study will help you develop a good overall grasp of the passage.

## **Observation Task 3: Write two or more observations per verse**

Our observations might identify people, places, or events, point out repeated words or key terms, record important connections between words and sentences, or even point out something missing that we expected to see.

## **Observation Task 4: Record your own interpretive questions**

Here are a few examples:

WHO IS	WHAT IS THE	WHY DID THE AUTHOR	HOW
....being talked about? ....accomplishing the action? ....benefiting from the action?	....meaning of this word? ....significance of this phrase? ....implication of this statement? ....relationship between these phrases?	....choose this word? ....include this phrase, statement or command? ....not say _____?	....was this action accomplished? ....will this situation occur?

## **INTERPRET:**

Our observation of a passage should stir interesting yet challenging questions, leading us to the second stage of our Bible study: interpretation. Fortunately, we do not have to run to a commentary or study Bible for answers (though these are helpful tools to check our conclusions). Use the following six methods, as needed, to tackle a variety of questions.

### **Interpretation Method 1: Use the context.**

Look for important clues in the sentences and paragraphs that come before and after the verse in question. Try to follow the author's flow of thought through the whole chapter. This may take you to the previous lesson, so have it handy as a review. You may need to read ahead for clues.

### **Interpretation Method 2: Study cross-references.**

Cross references are simply other passages in any book of the Bible that are somehow related to the verses you are studying. They often prove incredibly helpful as you seek to understand your passage. A few such cross references can be found in the margins of most English Bibles, but more can be found by visiting the online reference [www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com). Simply type in the book and chapter in the box to the left of the "Search" button and then click "Search." All of the chapter will appear on the screen. Be sure that "New American Standard" is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then click the box next to "Cross References" so that numbers appear throughout the passage. Clicking any of these will move your screen to the bottom of the page where you will find a series of cross references for specific verses within the passage. This is a great tool for answering tough questions!

### **Interpretation Method 3: Look up key words.**

While looking up a key word in English is helpful, doing so in Greek is far better and is surprisingly easy, thanks to the internet. Simply log onto [www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com), and as an example, type in the book and chapter in the box to the left of the "Search" button and then click "Search." All of the chapter will appear on the screen. Be sure that "New American Standard" is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then click the box next to "Strong Numbers" so that most of the words will be highlighted in blue. Clicking on any of these will bring up a new screen that will tell you the Greek word used here, its possible definitions, and the total number of times it is used in each book of the New Testament (NT). Click on any of the other NT books (under the title "NAS Verse Count"), and get a list of every verse in that book that uses this Greek word. What used to take hours now takes seconds!

#### **Interpretation Method 4: Look up background information**

You can find helpful insights by looking up confusing names or words in a Bible dictionary or by looking up the particular verses you are studying in a background commentary. One of the best dictionaries is The New Bible Dictionary by Wood & Marshall. The IVP Bible Background Commentary by Craig Keener is another excellent example of a verse-by-verse background commentary.

#### **Interpretation Method 5: Tackle tough questions step-by-step**

When trying to answer the most challenging questions, follow this four-step process:

1. List all the options. Always start by brainstorming every possible answer to your question.
2. List pros and cons for each option. See all the evidence you can find that either argues for or against a particular option. This evidence comes from your study of key words, the grammar of the sentence, the context of surrounding verses and the book as a whole, cross references to other books, and comparison with your overall understanding of Christian theology.
3. Choose the most likely option. Look at your evidence for each option. Typically, evidence from the immediate context is most important, followed closely by evidence from the book as a whole. Evidence from other books of the Bible, or from Christian theology as a whole, does not carry quite as much weight unless the solution contradicts a clear passage elsewhere or a major tenant of Christian doctrine. In that case, since Scripture never lies and God cannot contradict Himself, you must eliminate that option.
4. Decide on your certainty level. Once you have chosen the best solution, step back for a second and humbly gauge how certain you are of its accuracy (90% = I am very sure this is correct ... 60% = This solution is just a bit more likely than the others!). Finally, talk with others and check commentaries or reference books to see what solutions they have chosen and why.

#### **Interpretation Method 6: Compare multiple translations**

This packet uses the New American Standard (NASB) translation. You can often find helpful interpretive clues by comparing this translation with other translations. The New King James Version (NKJV), like the NASB, is a fairly word-for-word translation of the Greek text. The New International Version (NIV) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) are excellent phrase-to-phrase translations of the Greek and thus often easier to read. Another excellent phrase-to-phrase Bible, which includes extensive translation notes, is the New English Translation (NET) available online for free at [net.bible.org](http://net.bible.org). You can find and compare numerous translations of any Bible passage at [www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com).

## APPLY:

Our Bible Study is not over until we practically apply what we have learned to our everyday lives. And, we know that because we are relational by nature, our learning and growth can and should impact other people in our lives.

The Relational Application section in this study provides an opportunity to **connect the personal application** of God's word **with the relational spheres** we live in.

### **Application Task 1:**

1. Prayerfully determine the **main biblical truth or principle** that God revealed to you during your study. A principle is a fact stated or implied in a passage that is relevant to our lives and not specific to a particular person or time. A few questions to ask are:

- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- Is there a truth for me to believe?
- Is there a command for me to obey?

### **Application Task 2:**

2. Determine how this truth impacts the **four main relational areas** in your life.

#### **God**

- How does this truth stretch me in my relationship with God?
- Is there something from which I need to confess and repent?
- Are there some characteristics of God of which I am reminded to praise or worship Him?

#### **Family/Friends**

- How does this truth impact my relationship with my family or friends?
- How could I share this truth with these loved ones?
- Is there something or someone specific I can pray for?

#### **Work**

- Is there an opportunity to integrate this truth in my work environment?
- Is there a next step of ministry I can take based on this truth?
- How does this truth impact my attitude, decision-making and conversations at work?

#### **Service**

- How does this truth change my view of the people in the world around me?
- Is there a way to care for, serve or reach out to the others based on this truth?
- Is there a next step of ministry I can take based on this truth?

*(Example on next page)*

Here is an example from Psalm 1:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pray that Bible translation ministries will make significant progress in unreached areas of the world.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Praise God each morning this week for the gift of His Word.</li><li>• Meditate on each lesson's memory verse during each week of this study.</li></ul> |
|--|--|

SERVICE  
GOD

### MAIN TRUTH: A healthy, righteous life is rooted in God's word

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Look for ways to winsomely speak truth into the conversations I have at work.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ask my spouse what God is showing him/her through the Word this week.</li></ul> |
|---|---|

WORK  
FAMILY/FRIENDS

## B. ADDITIONAL STUDY RESOURCES

### ONLINE RESOURCES

[biblestudytools.com](http://biblestudytools.com) - online word studies

[blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) - online word studies

[soniclight.com](http://soniclight.com) - online commentary

[bestcommentaries.com](http://bestcommentaries.com) - online commentary database

### DISCIPLESHIP/BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

***Living By the Book*** by Howard Hendricks and Charles Swindoll

A more in-depth book on how to study the Bible using the tools discussed in this packet.

***The Master Plan of Evangelism*** by Robert Coleman

A highly motivational analysis of Jesus' own principles of evangelism and discipleship.

***The Lost Art of Disciple Making*** by Leroy Eims

This practical resource will give you a detailed structure to follow and great content to cover as you begin to disciple a new believer.

***A Survey of Bible Doctrine*** by Charles Ryrie

An easy-to-read, relatively short systematic theology primer that you can walk a new believer through to ground them in the faith.

***Essentials of the Faith*** by Grace Bible Church, College Station, TX

This small group Bible study packet walks a new believer through the fundamental trusts and practices of the Christian faith in ten self-paced lessons.

\* Note: Grace Bible Church does not always agree with the views of these commentaries. These are good tools to help understand hard passages, but the particular theological views reflect the author, of the commentary and not those of Grace Bible Church.





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