

For Three points and for Four I will not revoke the message of this book.

### 1. Background

- a. Who: Amos was a shepherd 7:14 *“I was not prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs.”* A member of the tribe of Judah.
- b. When: 1:1 *“In the days of Uzziah King of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.”* 760-755 BC.
- c. Where: Amos’s prophetic ministry seems to concentrate around Bethel, the central place of worship for the northern Kingdom of Israel – established by King Jeroboam.

### 2. The message:

While Amos does prophesy against the nations, most of his message is calling out Israel for their lack of covenant faithfulness and warning them of impending exile. He focuses on their moral ruin and the mistaken idea that being God’s elect means nothing bad can happen to them. His message is a call to repentance with a warning that severe judgement and exile is coming. The book ends on a hopeful note but sets the timing of the hope into the future.

### 3. It’s not about you.

Amos was a prophet sent to a real group of people who lived at real-time in history. The specifics he offers are directed at them, not you, the modern-day reader almost 3,000 years later. Like many of the prophets, we must be careful not to make direct applications to our lives from their messages.

Ex. 5:21 God says *“I hate, I despise your feasts and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.”* We must not read this verse and cancel next year’s Thanksgiving plans and debate internally if we ought to skip church next week.

### 4. Okay fine, but ....what does this have to do with me?

We can and should make general applications from the prophet’s message to our own lives.

We should read the colorful descriptions of the LORD and be inspired to both Fear and Love him.

4:13 *“He who forms the mountains and creates the wind”*

5:8 *“He who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning”*

9:5 *“The Lord GOD of hosts, he who touches the earth and it melts.”*

We should see our own sinfulness in the sins of Israel. We are guilty of the same sins as the people of Israel just committed in a different fashion.

6:4–6 *“Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!”*

We should find hope in prophetic messages that point to the coming of Christ.

*Amos 9:11–12: “In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old, that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name,” declares the LORD who does this.*

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*Amos 4:6–13*

[6] *“I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities,  
and lack of bread in all your places,  
yet you did not return to me,” declares the LORD.*

[7] *“I also withheld the rain from you  
when there were yet three months to the harvest;  
I would send rain on one city,  
and send no rain on another city;  
one field would have rain,  
and the field on which it did not rain would wither;*

[8] *so two or three cities would wander to another city  
to drink water, and would not be satisfied;  
yet you did not return to me,” declares the LORD.*

[9] *“I struck you with blight and mildew;  
your many gardens and your vineyards,  
your fig trees and your olive trees the locust devoured;  
yet you did not return to me,” declares the LORD.*

[10] *“I sent among you a pestilence after the manner of Egypt;  
I killed your young men with the sword,  
and carried away your horses,  
and I made the stench of your camp go up into your nostrils;  
yet you did not return to me,” declares the LORD.*

[11] *“I overthrew some of you,  
as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah,  
and you were as a brand plucked out of the burning;  
yet you did not return to me,” declares the LORD.*

[12] *“Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel;  
because I will do this to you,  
prepare to meet your God, O Israel!”*

[13] *For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind,  
and declares to man what is his thought,  
who makes the morning darkness,  
and treads on the heights of the earth—  
the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!*

