

Amos 2

Week of 22nd October 2023



Leader: Opening prayer

Read Amos 7 : 7 – 17

Ref V7 and V8

What is the relevance of the plumb line?

The image seem somewhat divisive; a contrast between 2 people? Places? Behaviours?

Are there any parallels between those times and today?

Ref V9

Why does the Lord display such distaste for the high places of Isaac, the sanctuaries of Israel and the house of Jeroboam?

Ref V10 to V13

On the one hand Amaziah appears to be making Jeroboam aware of the fact that Amos is prophesying against his regime., on the other, Amaziah seems to help Amos by offering him a chance to escape. Does Amos heed the warning? What is his motivation?

Ref V10 to V14 to V17

Amos' reply to Amaziah was clearly not what Amaziah expected, predicting a rather unfavourable ending for all his family. Given the theme running through the book of Amos so far, was the reply a punishment for attempting to dictate or would it have happened anyway?

We live in a country / world of disparity between rich and poor, sometimes created through enterprise, sometimes created by good fortune and sometimes created by corruption. We are generally blessed by living in very acceptable circumstances. How do we feel about that?

Leader: Closing Prayer

Background

Amos vigorously spoke messages resounding in the certainty of judgement. Amos began by pronouncing judgement on the nations that surrounded Israel geographically and then focused on Israel itself. The renewed prosperity of Israel based on the successes of Jeroboam II brought new wealth to the upper classes which they used to enlarge their landholdings and build great houses for themselves. The rich became richer and the poor became poorer. Many were sold into slavery and Israel's social structure became rather unstable.