

Amos' Message For The Church Today

Amos, the meaning of this Hebrew word is “*a burden.*”

Amos was **not** the son of a priest, nor a son of a prophet, but a humble shepherd who could have stayed in Tekoa, doing his job, providing for his family and worshipping his God.

But the Creator God gave Amos a vision of the future, [Amos 1:2] and told him to take his message to Israel, the northern kingdom, [Amos 7:15].

Amos obeyed God so he proved that he was a man of God.

The message that the Creator God gave to Israel through Amos was an uncompromising warning of God's judgement unless they brought back justice to their society.

Nowadays we commonly think of a prophet as a person who predicts the future.

But this is not the way the great Old Testament prophets saw themselves.

The prophets were essentially God's messengers sent to remind the people of the Covenant God had made with them and how to apply it in the everyday life of their towns and villages. They were preachers of God's Word.

Amos delivered his message in one of the religious sanctuaries set up by the first king Jeroboam at Bethel [Amos 7:10-17] and possibly also in Samaria itself, [Amos 3:9 – Amos 4:13].

While Amos was in Bethel, Amaziah, the priest of the sanctuary, tried to send Amos back to Judah, telling him that his own people should pay for his services. Amaziah obviously thought Amos was some kind of professional prophet who was looking for a full-time job attached to a permanent place of worship.

We know that there were such full-time prophets in both Israel and Judah. Some of them seem to have an official position alongside the priests, [Jeremiah 35:4-5] while others were court officials who would say anything the king wanted to hear, [1 Kings 22:1-8].

Amos was not this kind of man. He had been a simple shepherd and he was not delivering his challenging messages to “*tickle the ears*” of his political masters.

God had shown Amos the rotten state of Israelite society, and he was impelled to do something about it, [Amos 7:10-17; Amos 3:3-8].

Amos saw a complete breakdown of morality and covenant faith, not only in Israel, but also in the nations with whom it was most closely associated, Syria, the Philistines, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, [Amos 1:3 – Amos 2:5].

Of course these associated nations had never been a part of the covenant faith, but Amos condemned them in God's name, for they had disregarded the elementary principles of human dignity, acting with great cruelty, taking whole communities into slavery, breaking treaties and exacting merciless revenge on neighbouring states.

Though Israel had ostensibly been founded on a conviction that all members of the community were of equal worth and value, this had never become a social reality.

Instead, some had become rich on the back of others, increasingly their wealth was increasing at the expense of others.

Some people were selling themselves into slavery because they could not repay trivial debts, [**Amos 2:6-8**].

The rich were feasting and playing in idle luxury, while others were homeless, [**Amos 3:9 – Amos 4:1; Amos 5:10-13**].

Paradoxically, in the middle of this there was great religious fervour. The shrines were full of worshippers, all carrying out their ritual observances with meticulous care.

They would make sure they did not violate the weekly day of rest, but as soon as it was over, they could hardly wait to get back to the legalised robbery that went on in every market place.

This false religious confidence incensed Amos more than anything else.

The rich believed that they were prospering because they were very religious.

If they only had eyes to see it, they would have realised they were wealthy because they had disregarded the basic requirements of the covenant faith, [**Exodus 20:15-17; Leviticus 19:15-18**].

So Amos declared God's total lack of interest in this kind of empty ritual, [**Amos 5:21-23**].

The covenant relationship with the Creator God forged at Sinai was **not** concerned with religious ritual, but with personal relationships between God and His people and one human to another.

Amos 5:24 [New King James] *“But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.”*

This is what Amos told the people that their Creator God was interested in.

Not that Amos expected to be heard. For the real trouble was that the worship at Bethel and Gilgal was not the worship of Israel's Covenant God at all, it was the worship of Canaanite gods and goddesses, with a rather different view of society.

Amos 2:7-8 [New King James] *“They pant after the dust of the earth which is on the head of the poor, and pervert the way of the humble. A man and his father go in to the same girl, to defile My holy name. They lie down by every altar on clothes taken in pledge, and drink the wine of the condemned in the house of their god.”*

Amos 5:26-27 [New King James] *“You also carried Sikkuth your king and Chiun, your idols, the star of your gods, which you made for yourselves. Therefore I will send you into captivity beyond Damascus,” says the LORD, whose name is the God of hosts.”*

Amos 8:14 [New King James] *“Those who swear by the sin of Samaria, who say, ‘As your god lives, O Dan!’ And, ‘As the way of Beersheba lives!’ they shall fall and never rise again.”*

Israel had gone too far away from the Covenant Creator God, that her leaders were unable to tell the difference between truth and lies, [prompted by Satan, John 8:44].

But all of this would soon come to an end. Just as the Creator God had intervened in Israel's history before, He would do so again, and Israel would be totally destroyed as a nation, her people taken into exile and her cities devastated, [**Amos 5:1 – Amos 9:10**].

The prosperity of the day of King Jeroboam the First, would indeed culminate in *“the Day of the Lord.”*

But instead of a day of great blessing, it would be a day of judgement and despair.

Amos 5:18-20 [New King James] *“Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him! Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?”*

This sounds very similar to what Jesus Christ told His disciples about the “day of the Lord” still future.

Matthew 24:3-14, 21-31 [New King James] *“Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’ And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, “I am the Christ,” and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.’” ... “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened. Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”*

This website is giving a similar warning to humanity as Amos did to Israel, because very similar circumstances prevail now with false ritualistic religion and ignorance of the One True Creator God and His Word the Christian Bible.

Amos 9:11-15 [New King James] *“‘On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; that they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,’ says the LORD who does this thing. ‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,’ says the LORD your God.”*

The last paragraphs of Amos gives a slight ray of hope.

On this website we also give to those who read and respond a great hope of a better world after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, this time as a world ruler.

Revelation 19:11-16 [New King James] *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one*

knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:”

All of humanity will see this Second Coming [on the “*day of the Lord*”] with all power and splendour.

Revelation 20:1-3 [New King James] *“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.”*

Satan who has deceived the whole of the world from the time of Adam and Eve through all generations, [**Revelation 12:9**] will be silenced.

Revelation 20:4-6 [New King James] *“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”*

All the true Christians down through the generations will rule under Jesus Christ all who remain alive after the tribulation.

Revelation 20:7-10 [New King James] *“Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”*

The final satanic rebellion will be crushed and he will be finally silenced and all those who supported his rule will be burnt up in the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-13 [New King James] *“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.”*

Finally then all who have never heard of Jesus Christ nor known Him as their Saviour will be brought back to physical human life, to be judged by what is recorded in the Christian Bible as to whether they will choose to obey the Creator God or not.

In this way every human being who has ever existed will have a chance to repent and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

2 Peter 3:9 [New King James] *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

This is the True Creator God who used Amos to warn his generation of Israel and also every generation since.

Amos' God is love itself, [**1 John 4:8, 16**].

The same Creator God whom Jesus Christ revealed to his disciples and through them to all humanity, [**John 14:8-11**].

Showed His love for all humanity, [**John 3:16-17**].

Galatians 6:7-8 [New King James] *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”*

The true God whom Amos worshipped is a just God who will **not** be deceived by any attempt to manipulate Him.

Nothing can be hid from the true God we are to worship, [**Psalms 139:7-12**].

A God who will not lie [**Titus 1:2**] so we can rely on all He promises in His Word, the Christian Bible.

Amos knew and worshipped this same One True God and we all are invited to follow his example.

As with everything in this life, the choice is ours to make.