

# Amos



# The Prophet Amos

- ▶ Occupation: Layman
  - ▶ Not from the prophetic schools
  - ▶ A shepherd
  - ▶ A dresser of sycamore trees
- ▶ Background
  - ▶ Shepherd but perhaps also a breeder of herds
  - ▶ Educated
    - ▶ Demonstrates knowledge of international affairs
    - ▶ Demonstrates knowledge of life in the city
    - ▶ Demonstrates literary skill

**How will anyone listen to him?**

# Historical Situation

## 760-755BC

- ▶ Political stability
- ▶ Economic growth and exuberant luxury
- ▶ Hypocrisy and oppression

How did they get this way?

But wait, there's more!

# Religious Activity

Read Amos 4:4-5

- ▶ Money Coffers were overflowing
- ▶ Religious activity was well-attended

How does God respond to this externals-only worship?

Read Amos 5:21-27

# The message of Amos

- ▶ Problem: how to get a hearing
  - ▶ Solution: Start by pointing out errors in others and move geographically closer until it hits home
- ▶ Prophecy against the nations
  - ▶ Judgment is due because of war atrocities and treaty violations
  - ▶ Judged on the basis of the amount of light they have

# Judgment against Judah & Israel

- ▶ Judgment against Judah
  - ▶ They despised the law of God
  - ▶ Judged based on the amount of light they have
- ▶ Judgment against Israel
  - ▶ Social injustice and wickedness
  - ▶ Syncretism

# YHWH's Covenant lawsuit

1. The LORD summons his people to listen
2. The LORD reads the charges against his people
3. The LORD pronounces judgment on the wickedness of his people

# Five visions of judgment

Visions show that judgment is coming and that it will be

**TOTAL**

- ▶ Visions 1-2 (Locusts and Fire)
- ▶ Vision 3 (Plumbline)
  - ▶ The King's accusation against Amos (7:10-17)
- ▶ Vision 4 (Summer Fruit)
  - ▶ A final warning of judgment (8:4-14)
- ▶ Vision 5 (Adonai)



# The hope of restoration

- ▶ A promise to rebuild his people
- ▶ A promise of abundance
- ▶ A promise of security
  
- ▶ God will pour out judgment on unrighteousness, even among his own people. But God will never leave the righteous without hope.