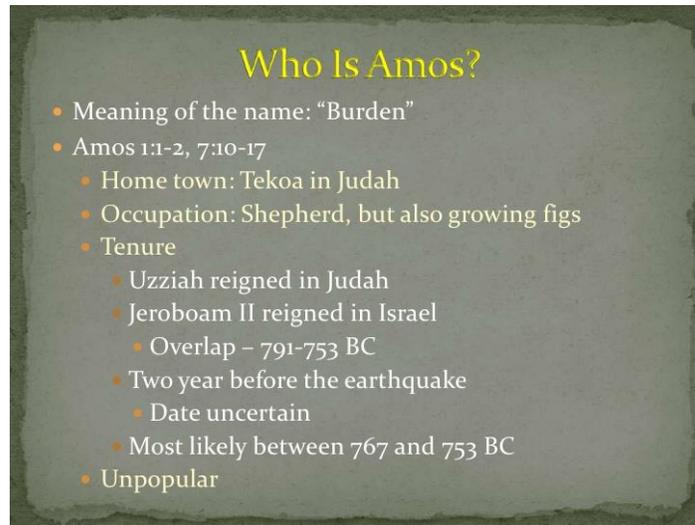


SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017
THEME – RESPONDING TO THE MASTER’S CALL AS A PROPHET
UNIT II – CALLING OF PROPHETS

“AMOS, CALLED TO BE A BURDEN BEARER”



Sunday School Lesson No. IX – July 30, 2017
Lesson Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III ~ Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Amos 7: 10-17

Required Reading: Amos 7

Motto Text: Amos 7:14-15 (NLT), *“But Amos replied, ‘I’m not a professional prophet, and I was never trained to be one. I’m just a shepherd, and I take care of sycamore-fig trees. But the LORD called me away from my flock and told me, ‘Go and prophesy to my people in Israel.’”*

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Logos Bible Software; Precepts for Living (UMI); Cruden’s Concordance; Life Application Bible Notes; Bible Exposition Commentary (OT); Bible Notes by H. L. Wilmington; Children’s Ministry Resource Bible; Visualized Bible by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

Introduction

Now we come towards the closing of Unit 2. It has been filled with the powerful presentations of some of God’s great and dedicated prophets. They all learned that *“it is better to trust in God than to put their confidence in men.”* Psalm 118:8. Many believe this is the middle verse in all the Bible!

Well, let us highlight the prophet that the late Dr. J. Vernon McGee called “The Country Preacher that came to Town.” In the highlighted notes of Dr. H. L. Willmington’s introduction to Amos, we discover, “The book of Amos was named after the ‘Billy Sunday’ of the O. T. The name Amos means ‘burden’... He was from the little town of Tekoa, some five miles from Bethlehem in Judea. Amos was a herdsman (Amos 7:14-15) and a gatherer of sycamore fruit (7:14)...He had not graduated from the school of the prophets, but was called by God to become a lay evangelist.

He was called to be a prophet to the whole house of Jacob (3:1, 13), but chiefly to the northern kingdom (7:14-15) at the main sanctuary of Bethel (7:10). He conducted his ‘Greater Samaritan Revival Campaign’ and thundered away on the subject of sin, separation, and sanctification...At the time of Amos’ ministry, Israel, under powerful King Jeroboam II, was at its zenith of success. (See II Kings 14:25.) But along with the nation’s prosperity had come religious perversion!”

Now let us turn our attention to this week’s lesson which we have entitled: **“Amos, Called to be a Burden Bearer.”**

Anticipated Power Points:

- **The Agony of Amaziah. Amos 7:10-13**
- **The Assignment of Amos. Amos 7:14-15**
- **The Announcement of the Almighty by Amos. Amos 7:16-17**

LESSON OUTLINE

“AMOS, CALLED TO BE A BURDEN BEARER”

I. The Agony of Amaziah. Amos 7:10-13

At the end of King Solomon's life, God divided the Kingdom of Israel. He gave Rehoboam, Solomon's son, Judah and Benjamin and the other ten tribes. God raised an adversary named Jeroboam I and he became their King. But King Jeroboam felt in order to keep his kingship, he needed to set up worship in the northern kingdom so that the people would not keep coming to Jerusalem and eventually reconcile and destroy him as king. (Read I Kings 12:1-33).

The split festered over the years from one king to another in the northern kingdom of Israel. Finally, in the days of Amos, God sent him to preach against the idolatrous ways of King Jeroboam II and his idolatrous religious system led by the false high priest, Amaziah!

In the early chapters of his book of prophecy, he uncovers Israel's damnable ways and warns the people that God would send the Assyrian armies to conquer and bring Israel under the awesome hand of Divine chastisement. (Read Amos 2-7).

Amaziah agonized because the message of Amos was running contrary to his message of prosperity and times of plenty. Amaziah conspired to tell the king that Amos was a spy and enemy who didn't preach the good time messages that the idolatrous people wanted to hear! Paul said this in his teachings centuries later, "*For the time will come when (they) will not endure sound doctrine; but (they) will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*" II Timothy 4:3-4). Beloved, truth is agonizing to any lying false prophet, preacher, teacher, etc.

Life Application Bible Notes says: "Don't let your desire for prestige, authority, or money keep you tied to a job or position you should leave. Don't let anything come between you and obeying God."

II. The Assignment of Amos. Amos 7:14-15

Amos was not bothered by the insinuations of the Chief Priest of Bethel. He remained steadfast and unmovable! Amos declared that he wasn't preaching for popularity or prosperity but under the authority and power of Jehovah! May that be all of our reasons for being obedient to the calling and mission of Jehovah. (Read II Timothy 4:1-5).

III. The Announcement of the Almighty by Amos. Amos 7:16-17

According to Amos, Amaziah, his wife, children, and the northern kingdom would experience the awesome hand of God's chastening judgment. As you read it, believe it and discern the righteousness of the true God against the wicked, idolatrous practices of ignoring God's loving warnings! **Amos was Called to be God's Burden Bearer of Truth.**

CLOSING

"Precepts for Living" shares this final note: "God called Amos to prophesy in a land that was not his own. He was called to do something that he was not trained to do. Many times, God calls us to situations we have not been in before where we are not properly trained. To get through the backlash and rejection that comes with that, you must be secure in your call. God's call is what qualifies you; not your training. Training is helpful, but the call keeps you going when everyone and everything is against you."

Remember the lives of Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and our final prophet, Amos. God calls, cleanses, clarifies and companions with all He assigns with His service!

Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans & Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite City, LA

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179

Phone: (504) 486-7876 Website: www.thestudyhour.com

TV Broadcast: WHNO TV-20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.



LOOKING AHEAD:

August 6, 2017

Acts 6:1-8

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.