

Hello. /We will now begin the 14<sup>th</sup> lecture on the Minor Prophets. /Our message today is from Amos chapter 1. /Amos is the third of the twelve prophets of the Old Testament. /It was the time of King Uzziah of Judah and King Jeroboam II of Israel.

/It was a time of peace and prosperity that came close to that of David and Solomon's days. /However, it was a period of severe extravagance and self-indulgence, a time of sexual immorality. /There was economic wealth, but they were religiously corrupt.

/The people worshiped Baal and behaved immorally. /Their religious corruption infected society, where justice was gone and illegal activities were prevalent. /The rich exploited the poor.

/Furthermore, the people broke the law, they bought and sold the land, and the poor became slaves to the wealthy. /Judges received bribes, and they judged in favor of the rich while the poor were falsely charged.

/Amos cried out for the people to turn away from this societal environment and to act in honesty. /When we look at the situation, idol worship, hypocrisy, and corruption were common. /Politically speaking, there was division, shortcuts, and dishonesty. /Socially, extravagance, debauchery, sexual immorality, and greed dominated their greedy lives.

/In the moral sense, selfishness was severe. /At this time in Judah, the prophets Isaiah and Micah prophesied. /The prophets Hosea and Amos prophesied in Israel.

/The word "Amos" means "to carry a burden." /Amos was a shepherd living in the countryside about ten kilometers south of Jerusalem. /He was a person of South Judah, but he prophesied in Bethel in Israel.

/Amos prophesied about God's impending judgment of the sinful and corrupt Israel. /He openly rebuked their sin and admonished them to repent. /This does not mean he lacked God's love.

/Amos rebuked the Israelites because he loved them. /In the book of Amos, we can see four topics. /Chapters 1 and 2 are prophesies of God's judgment of the eight tribes.

/Chapters 3 to 6 declare five times the punishment that will be upon Israel. /It is a message scolding the Israelites to bring them to repentance. /Chapters 7 to chapter 9:10 reveal five visions. /Locusts, fire, a plumb line, a basket of summer fruit, and the Lord standing beside the altar are the five visions.

/Next, we have the word from chapter 9:11-15. /This is the conclusion, which declares Israel's future and restoration and the blessings on the Messiah's kingdom.

/There is a reason the text was recorded. /It was recorded to pronounce God's rebuke and judgment of the Israelites, who were plagued by debauchery, apostasy, change, and corruption. /The book of Amos was recorded to lead the people down a proper path.

/The book of Amos has four main subjects. /The first is love for those who remain. /The second is the idea of the covenant. /The third subject is on God's love and human love. /The fourth is the idea of the day of the LORD.

/We will take a look at these ideas in detail. /First, I will give the main points of Amos chapter 1. /The title of chapter 1 is "The Prediction of the Judgment of the Nations." /Verses 1-2 are the preface of the chapter. /Verses 3-5 prophesy about the judgment of Damascus. /Verses 6-8 are about the prophesy of the judgment of the Philistines. /Verses 9-10 are about the prophesy of the judgment of Tyre. /And verses 11-12 prophesy about the judgment of Edom. /Verses 13-15 predict the judgment that will come upon the Ammonites.

/Verse 1. Please read. /The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel 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.

/Amos was a farmer from a small village. /He was a prophet from South Judah, but he crossed the border to prophesy in North Israel. /A poor farmer was given the calling to prophesy of Israel's destruction during a time when Israel was powerful and abundant.

/The verse says, "Two years before the earthquake." /This means that two years after Amos made his prophecy, there was an earthquake. /Because the people did not listen to Amos, God sent an earthquake.

/The earthquake did not happen by chance. God sent it in order to bring the people to repentance. /Therefore, those who put their trust and hope in the world must know that the world will fail.

/Verse 2. /And he said: "The LORD roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers."

/Zion and Jerusalem are places where God dwells. /Amos is keenly and sternly rebuking Israel of its sins. /It says that God's voice of anger is like the roar of a lion.

/Like the roar of a lion, God's voice has authority, and it lets the people know that his judgment will be upon them. /Besides his anger and wrath, God promises to protect his believers as well as those who are righteous. /Starting from verse 3, the word predicts the sins of foreign nations and the punishment that will come upon them.

/Verse 3. /Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have threshed Gilead with threshing sledges of iron.

/Aram-Damascus is the capital of Syria. /It has a high elevation, and it is surrounded by mountains on all sides. /Therefore, there was little rainfall, and farming was dependent on irrigation. /Damascus severely oppressed Israel.

/Damascus threshed Gilead like they would thresh sledges of iron. /The Aramean king Hazael did many evils during the time of king Jehu of Israel. /Their sin was so great that God said he will not revoke the punishment.

/Damascus had a policy of moving southward. /They oppressed the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh that lived in Gilead.

/Verse 4. /So I will send a fire upon the house of Hazael, and it shall devour the strongholds of Ben-hadad.

/The verse says that a fire will come upon the house of Hazael and that it will devour the strongholds of Ben-hadad. /Ben-hadad and Hazael were the most cruel kings. /God says he will now send war and disaster upon them. /As this message says, it is said that the Assyrian army invaded the place and burned Hazael's house and Ben-hadad's strongholds.

/Verse 5. /I will break the gate-bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitants from the Valley of Aven, and him who holds the scepter from Beth-eden; and the people of Syria shall go into exile to Kir," says the LORD.

/When it says that the gate-bar of Damascus will break, it means that the city will fall. /In the worldly sense, Damascus may have been strong, but God's judgment breaks the gate-bar. /The verse says God will "Cut off the inhabitants from the Valley of Aven."

/The verse is saying that God will destroy the Aramean cities that had fallen into extreme idol worship. /They served idols to be blessed by them. /However, they perished because of those idols.

/Today, there are many people who follow things hoping to be blessed, but they actually walk down a destructive path. /I will tell you a few spiritual lessons. /God used Amos who was of a lowly status.

/God uses those who are lowly to do his great and noble works. /Therefore, in whatever circumstance we are in, there is no need for the believer to despair. /Second, God surely punishes the forces and nations that persecute God's people.

/Also, God does not only guarantee a future for Israel, but he also claims the future of foreign nations. /Additionally, when the individual or nation becomes proud, they are bound to perish. /Before God unleashes his judgment, he warns us first. /Now, we will look at verses 6-8.

/Verse 6. /Thus says the LORD: “For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they carried into exile a whole people to deliver them up to Edom.

/The Philistines are descendants of Casluhim, the grandson of Ham. /Their gods were Dagon, Ashtoreth, and Beel-zebub. /The Philistines shared a deep and bad relationship with the Israelites.

/In verse 6, the Philistines’ sin was taking into exile a whole people to Edom. /They took the prisoners of Israel to Edom, Israel’s enemy, where they would be mistreated. /So in verse 7, God says he will send a fire to the city.

/Verses 7-8. /So I will send a fire upon the wall of Gaza, and it shall devour her strongholds. I will cut off the inhabitants from Ashdod, and him who holds the scepter from Ashkelon; I will turn my hand against Ekron, and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish,” says the Lord GOD.

/God says he will send a fire of war to the capital city of Gaza. /He says that the strongholds will burn and the entire city will be devoured. /The important cities will perish along with the leaders of the Philistines.

/The Philistines enjoyed economic wealth and prosperity. /But they could not avoid God’s judgment. /Even with alliances and coalitions, they could not avoid judgment. /God claims the fate of unbelievers and unbelieving nations. /Verses 9-10 are about Tyre’s sins and punishment.

/Verse 9. /Thus says the LORD: “For three transgressions of Tyre, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they delivered up a whole people to Edom, and did not remember the covenant of brotherhood.

/Tyre is another name for Phoenicia. /Tyre was a strong city-state. /It was a state located 40 kilometers south of the port city Sidon of the Phoenician Coast. /Tyre’s sin was delivering the people to Edom and not remembering the covenant of brotherhood.

/The “covenant of brotherhood” was the alliance made by Tyre’s Hiram and Israel’s Solomon. /The details are recorded in 1 Kings 9:10-14. /Through the covenant of brotherhood, they agreed to not sell each other’s people as slaves.

/However, Tyre broke the terms of the covenant. /They sold Israel’s prisoners to Edom as slaves. /They had broken the trust with God’s people. /Although something may not be beneficial, we must keep our promises. /God hates betrayal or the breaking of promises.

/Verse 10. /So I will send a fire upon the wall of Tyre, and it shall devour her strongholds.”

/God says he will send a fire of war upon Tyre. /At around 332 B.C., Alexander the Great of Macedonia destroyed Tyre. /At the time, about thirty thousand people were sold as slaves, and many thousands of leaders were executed.

/Tyre perished because of Alexander the Great. /We need to make sure we keep our loyalty. /Although a promise may hurt us, we must do our best to keep it.

/We also need to understand one thing. /It is that a nation's destiny depends on the people's faith and morals. /Verses 11-12 predict the judgment that will come upon Edom.

/Verse 11. /Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because he pursued his brother with the sword and cast off all pity, and his anger tore perpetually, and he kept his wrath forever.

/Edom was the named given to the descendants of Esau. /Then, Edom became the name of the place they lived. /Edom's land is covered with boulders as it has a rugged mountainous terrain. /God told Israel not to hate Edom.

/This is because Edom was a brother nation. /Edom's sin was abusing its brother Jacob's people. /Whenever it had the chance, Edom tormented and mistreated Jacob's descendants. /During Israel's exodus from Egypt, Edom blocked their way.

/Also, when Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem, Edom acted as an agent to Babylon. /Edom preferred its personal profits over its relationship with a brother. /With the sword, Edom chased away its brother, and it did not show mercy. /Therefore, God's judgment was upon Edom.

/Verse 12. /So I will send a fire upon Teman, and it shall devour the strongholds of Bozrah."

/As a result of its sin of hating Israel, Edom perished. /Teman and Bozrah were Edom's major cities. /The verse predicts their downfall. /As this prophecy said, Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar and Judah's Maccabee destroyed Edom.

/Edom hated Israel. /It held a grudge against Israel and abhorred it. /Edom defeated its brother with the sword. /It threw mercy away. /For these reasons, God judged Edom. /Verses 13-15 are about the Ammonites' sins and impending judgment.

/Verse 13. /Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of the Ammonites, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead, that they might enlarge their border.

/The Ammonites are the descendants of Ben-Ammi, Ruth's grandchild. /They are related to Israel. /Therefore God commanded Israel to be friendly with the Ammonites. /The sin of the Ammonites was having an excessive greed for territorial expansion.

/In 1 Samuel 11, the Ammonites attack Israel. /Their king Nahash threatens to remove the eyes of every Israelite. /He also ripped open the stomachs of pregnant women in Gilead. /God remembers these atrocious acts of evil. /God says he will repay them for their sins against Israel.

/Verses 14-15. /So I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour her strongholds, with shouting on the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind; and their king shall go into exile, he and his princes together,” says the LORD.

/God says he will kindle a fire and devour the city. /He says that the king shall go into exile. /Instead of having their territory expand, Ammon will see complete destruction. /God repays evil for evil and makes them reap what they sow.

/We need to understand that God judges us for our human desires. /We need to abandon our greed and be content with what we have. /Also, God does not like it when we continuously make enemies in our lives.

/When we hate another person, it hurts us the most. /Whatever happens, we need to love others and live according to God’s word. /Also, we must not plant the seed of distrust. /To do this means to bring upon a curse on our children.

/Now, we will begin the lecture on Amos 2. /The title of chapter 2 is “Sin and Judgment.” /Verses 1-3: Moab’s sin and the prediction of its judgment. /Verses 4-5: Judah’s sin and the prediction of its judgment. /Verses 6-16: Israel’s sin and the prediction of its judgment.

/Moab was a tribe formed through the son of Ruth’s eldest daughter. /The Moabites lived East of the Dead Sea. /By the time of Israel’s exodus, Moab had become an organized nation. /They worshiped a god called Chemosh.

/The king of Moab tried to curse the people of Israel through the false prophet Balaam. /As this failed, the king bribed Balaam to bring the Israelites to worshipping idols and practicing sexual immorality. /God did not like this behavior, and he predicts his judgment on them.

/Verse 1. /Please read. /Thus says the LORD: “For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because he burned to lime the bones of the king of Edom.

/Moab’s sin was a cruel sin. /Through Balaam, Moab threw Israel into sin and tried to destroy Israel. /During the time of the Judges, the Moabites tormented Israel for 18 years. /The Moabites constantly harassed other nations.

/In 2 Kings chapter 3, we can see that the Moabites killed people and offered them as sacrifices. /God says he will judge the Moabites.

/Verse 2. /So I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the strongholds of Keriath, and Moab shall die amid uproar, amid shouting and the sound of the trumpet;

/The verse predicts Moab's fall. /It prophesies about the flames that will devour the strongholds. /To confirm the prophecy, the Babylonians invaded Moab and brought it to destruction. /Today, we can find the ruins of the Moabite strongholds in the place they used to stand.

/Verse 3. /I will cut off the ruler from its midst, and will kill all its princes with him," says the LORD.

/Verse 2 says that Moab will die amid shouting and the sound of the trumpet. /This means that the enemy forces will flow in like a flood and quickly destroy the nation. /It means there will be pain and torture as Moab falls.

/God says he will destroy Moab's rulers as well. /We need to learn from this message. /First, Israel has a set of laws, and they will be punished according to these laws.

/On the other hand, foreign nations without these laws are punished according to the inherent morals and conscience that God has given them. /Second, Moab committed evil acts in the past. /Therefore, according to God's justness, he destroys Moab.

/In this way, God makes retributions for human sins. /Third, a big reason God punished the Moabites is they oppressed God's people. /We must not disrupt God's work nor fight against it.

/We need to always stand on God's side and do things that bring him joy. /Then, instead of punishment, we will be able to enjoy the blessings that come from God.

/This ends the fourteenth lecture on the Minor Prophets. /Thank you.