

2025 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 5

Series Overview and Guides

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

Objective

what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study

We find security in a healthy relationship with the righteous God.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"The one who made the Pleiades and Orion,
who turns darkness into dawn
and darkens day into night,
who summons the water of the sea
and pours it out over the surface of the
earth—the Lord is his name"

—Amos 5:8

Premise

why we are studying this

Idolatry is endemic to fallen humanity, a plague that knows no boundaries and shows no disposition to halt. The core reason behind our susceptibility to idolatry is insecurity, especially spiritual insecurity. In a dizzying cycle, we long for justice and righteousness, feeling insecure in their absence. We therefore turn to idols to mask fear and bolster confidence. Yet such idolatry only serves to deepen injustice and unrighteousness, initiating the cycle once again. The cycle can only be broken in a relationship with YHWH, who opens heaven's gate by grace through faith.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"Seek the Lord and live."

—Amos 5:6

When, in disgrace with Fortune and
men's eyes, I all alone bewep my outcast
state,
And trouble deaf heaven with my
bootless cries, And look upon myself and
curse my fate,
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,

Featured like him, like him with friends
possessed, Desiring this man's art, and
that man's scope,
With what I most enjoy contented least;
Yet in these thoughts myself almost
despising, Haply I think on thee, and then
my state,
Like to the lark at break of day arising
From sullen earth, sings hymns at
heaven's gate;

For thy sweet love remembered such
wealth brings

That then I scorn to change my state
with kings

—William Shakespeare
Sonnet 29

Theme

what the study is about

Amos asserts that Israel is rightly insecure in her relationships. The country is in danger both materially with other nations and intrinsically within. The cause of this danger is a misunderstanding of the righteousness of God and a subsequently improper response to Him. Both the nation and the individuals are called to repentance.

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"In much of church history...little attention has been paid to it [Amos]. Why? It is because the book speaks powerfully against social injustices and religious formalism, and many who would otherwise read the book have been implicated in such sins and are condemned by it."

—James Boice
The Minor Prophets

"I have attended evangelical churches and participated in many Bible conferences. Yet never have I heard a responsible treatment of Amos' strong words about the injustices done through the misuse of wealth...[Rarely] have I heard in a conservative evangelical church any really forthright preaching about these things, which are so important in God's sight. Prophecy, yes – but only in its predictive, eschatological aspect with little or nothing about the major witness of the prophets against the idolatry of things."

— Frank E. Gaebelien
Challenging Christians to the Simple Life



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a redeemed community

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Lord Roars.

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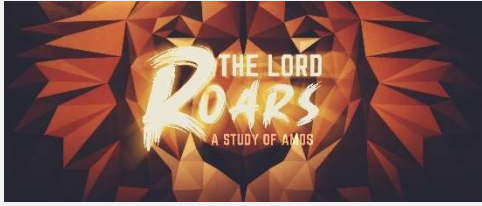
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SERIES 5 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 1:1-2

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Amos introduces us to himself. He is a fascinating man: from Judah but sent primarily to preach in Israel; seemingly well-off yet excoriating the wealthy who are unjust; not a professional prophet yet sets the tone for all prophets. The introduction also introduces YHWH, who reminds us that He is Creator, Covenant God, and Communicator.

OBJECTIVE

We listen to God's word.

ROARING LION

"Amos's message begins with a bang, startling the reader with its vividness and intensity. Roaring like a fierce lion, the Lord emerges from His earthly residence in Jerusalem to take vengeance upon the nations. In its ancient Near Eastern context, this word picture depicts the Lord as a mighty warrior-king who is capable of annihilating His enemies. Ancient rulers would often compare themselves to raging lions in order to emphasize their courage and prowess on the battlefield."

—Robert B. Chisholm, Jr.
Interpreting the Minor Prophets

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that our hearts and minds are attuned to God's word.

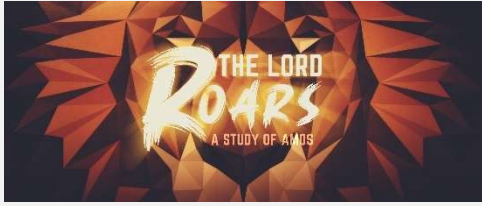
Session 1: The Lord Roars

1. Amos was described as a breeder of sheep and a shepherd, or herdsman. He also had the expertise to prepare sycamore fig trees for harvest, which required more advanced methods of horticulture.
 - Why do you think God chose to use this businessman to prophecy at this time?
2. At a time when Israel was prospering, Amos rebuked wealthy Jews who were mistreating their brethren.
 - Why do you think God called Amos to exhort this group of people to repent?
3. Read Genesis 49:9-10, Revelation 5:5, Amos 1:2, and Amos 3:4-8.
 - Compare the roar of the lion with God's message through this prophet.
 - What is God communicating in these passages?
4. Read Amos 1:2 again.
 - Discuss the imagery in this passage and how it sets up the rest of Amos' prophecy.



SERIES 5 | SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 1:3-2:5

KEY IDEAS

THEME

YHWH speaks against the nations for their crimes. All but the last two are judged according to the promise given Abraham: "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt." (Genesis 12:3)

- Syria crushed northern Israel.
- Philistia took territory from Judah and sent slaves to Edom.
- The major Phoenician city-state of Tyre practiced a similar evil, a sin made worse by treaty violations dating back to David.
- Edom violated not only the Genesis command but also ties of family.
- Ammon broke the Davidic treaty as well, pushing north into Gilead where they practiced ethnic cleansing.
- Moab appears to have also violated treaties.
- Judah is not prosecuted for human crimes. Rather, they have rejected God's word and followed lies.

OBJECTIVE

We keep God's word.

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we remain fully devoted to Him.

Session 2: The Lord Speaks

1. Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Amos 1:3-8.

- For what is YHWH promising to judge Damascus and Gaza?

2. Read Amos 1:9-12.

- Tyre and Edom committed genocide against entire populations and sold others into slavery; did they deserve God's judgment?

- Why was Edom's sin particularly offensive to the Lord?

3. The Gentile nations are accused of crimes against humanity, but Judah is charged with chasing after idols and being unfaithful to its covenant with YHWH.

- Discuss other passages in Scripture that highlight God's desire for His people to be wholly devoted to Him?

4. Believers today are not immune from idolatry.

- Why do we so often succumb to idolatry?
- How does turning to idols mask our fear and bolster our confidence?
- How does idolatry serve to deepen injustice and unrighteousness?
- How can we break this cycle of misplaced affections and be restored in fellowship with the One True God?

