

Meditation on Amos

By Matt Olson



Somewhere around 750 B.C. the prophet Amos appeared, preaching to the northern kingdom of Israel. At this point in Israel's history the nation was divided between the southern kingdom (the nation of Judah, which contained Jerusalem) and the

northern kingdom (the nation of Israel, which encompassed what later came to be called Samaria).

Amos preached to the nation of Israel while it was still a strong and prosperous nation. He reminded God's people that even though they worshiped the Lord on the outside, they were by no means fooling God, who knew their hearts. The people of Israel went through the motions of honoring God, but they were more devoted to their own pleasures than to pleasing God.

God's people were convinced that the Lord would never abandon them because they were descendants of Abraham. Amos was sent by God to set them straight. His message was one of judgment not only for Israel's enemies, but for both Israel and Judah as well. They had turned their backs on God, and there would be consequences.

Sin always has consequences, even for those who belong to God. When you and I sin, we are not necessarily shielded from the consequences of our decision. Now, we may be spared from eternal punishment through the blood of Jesus Christ, but that does not mean that we will escape the misery our sin causes while we are here on earth. Amos reminded God's people that no one escapes judgment. The only way to avoid all of the pain and suffering sin causes was and is to walk in obedience to the Lord. If those who belong to the Lord will seek Him with their whole heart, Amos teaches us, they will be restored and know the joy which comes from walking with God.

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