

RUSSELL SANDERS
THE MINOR PROPHETS
BOOK 4 – AMOS

Most of Israel's prophets came from a background of prophets in their family or of schools of prophets. Amos had no such background. He was a herdsman who took care of flocks of animals. However, it was God who called him to prophesy to both the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Samaria (Israel).

Amos 1:3-2:16 gives God's indictment against Israel's neighbors for their transgressions, then against Judah and Israel.

In chapters 3-5 each chapter gives a sermon against Israel for their depravity. He speaks against Bethel and Gilgal for their religious role in sin and idolatry. In chapter 5:5 Amos predicts that they (all Israel) will go into captivity. Amos 9:8 says they will be destroyed from off the face of the earth, but that the house of Jacob (Judah) will ultimately survive. This seemed like a highly unlikely case when Amos prophesied it about 787 B.C., but 65 years later it happened in 722 B.C., when Assyria destroyed the northern kingdom and dispersed them into other nations. They filled Samaria with captive pagans from other nations. The northern kingdom of Israel (Samaria) never again existed to this day. However, the house of Jacob (Judea) was taken captive in 605 B.C. but was restored in 536 B.C. It still exists today as the independent nation of Israel (in Judea) established in 1948.

The re-establishment of Israel was prophesied by Amos in Amos 9:11-15. Verse 15 even says, ***"...they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them..., saith the LORD."*** This means the nation re-established in 1948 will never again fail to exist. It will endure throughout the end of time. Prosperity is promised in fruitfulness, and we see that in Israel today.