

MINOR PROPHETS

Discussion Questions

Structure of Amos:

Intro (1:1-2)

God's judgement on 8 nations (1:3-2:16)

"This is what the LORD says: For three sins of..."

God's 3 messages to Israel (3:1-5:17)

"Hear this word..."

God's 2 warnings to Israel (5:18-6:14)

"Woe to you who..."

God's 5 visions to Amos (7-9)

"This is what the Sovereign LORD showed me..."

"This is what he showed me..."

"I saw the LORD..."

One of God's purposes in Amos's prophecies was to reveal Himself to the people of Israel who thought they knew Him, but really did not. Spend some time reading through the first six chapters of Amos section by section; as you read through the book of Amos, what attributes of God stand out to you? Are there any that surprise you or are hard to understand?

Amos 1-2

1. How does God relate to all the nations, according to Amos 1-2?
2. Is that the only way God relates to the nations? (Genesis 12:1-3)
3. How does God relate to His people? What is similar? What is different?
4. Genesis 12:1-3 is the beginning of the nation of Israel, God's people. How does God's promise to bless the nations through them relate to God's harsher judgement of them?
5. Why else does God judge His people more harshly? (Exodus 19:3-6, Leviticus 20:26)
6. What sins have Israel committed? (2:6-16) What does God's anger about this say about Him?
7. How should we, as God's people, live in response to knowing these things about God?
8. What do you need to change? How can we help?

Amos 3-5:17

9. In 3:1-4:5, what attribute of God is on display?
10. What about in 4:6-11? What is the repeated phrase throughout these verses? What do they tell us about God?

11. In 4:12-5:17, God promises judgement for sin. In the midst of that, what other parts of God's attributes are on display? (4:12-13, 5:8)
12. What does God do in 5:6-7, 14-15? How does this fit with His anger against their sin?
13. How should we, as God's people, live in response to knowing these things about God?
14. What do you need to change? How can we help?

Amos 5:18-6:13

15. Why does God announce that the day of the LORD will be a day of woe and destruction for Israel? What are they doing that God hates? Why does He hate it? What are they not doing?
16. What is God angry about in 6:1-6? Why is He angry about it? How does this relate back to the idols in 5:26?
17. Tim Keller, in his book, Counterfeit Gods, has said that "anything can be an idol, and everything has been an idol." What are some of the idols in your life that you need God's help smashing?
18. How should we, as God's people, live in response to knowing these things about God?
19. What do you need to change? How can we help?