

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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**Floral Heights
Church of Christ
1814 Buchanan
Wichita Falls, Texas
76309
(940) 322 - 1650**

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Our Elders:

**Mike Chancellor
(322 – 6374)**
**Tom Witherspoon
(766 – 5368)**

Our Deacons:

Joe Cronin
Jim Hall
David Witherspoon

Our Evangelist:

John C. Robertson

The Book of Amos

Date

The days of Amos were “*evil times*” (Amos 5:13). Uzziah was king of Judah, and Jeroboam II was king of Israel. Uzziah reigned 52 years (790 to 738 BC / II Chron. 26:3), whereas Jeroboam II reigned forty-one years in Israel (791 to 750 BC / cf. II Kg. 14:23). Amos’ prophecy had to fall some time between 791 and 750 BC (the time that encompasses both reigns of Uzziah and Jeroboam II). The only other indicator of time is that this prophecy falls two years before the “earthquake” (Amos 1:1; see also Zech 14:5). During these days the Assyrian Empire was on the verge of world dominance and would begin their westward trek of war and terror under Tiglath-Pileser, king of Assyria, who would arise to power in Assyria at approximately 745 BC i.e., 5 years after Amos’ prophecy. Amos came to pronounce a message of doom upon the people of the northern nation of Israel (Amos 1:1; 7:15).

God in Amos

Amos was careful to identify Jehovah as the “*God of hosts*” on eight occasions in his prophecy. Amos would leave no doubts within the mind of Israel as to their lawless state and just judgment that they faced. No sin committed by Israel had escaped the all-seeing and all-knowing God (Amos 4:13). Amos not only revealed the omniscience of God but also that He is omnipotent (Amos 4:13; 5:8-9). During these evil days the prophet proclaimed, “*prepare to meet thy God, O Israel*” (Amos 4:12).

Amos

The name “Amos” means “burden-bearer” (ISBE v. 1, pp. 114). Amos’ home town was Tekoa, which was located six miles south of Bethlehem. Tekoa was high in elevation and overlooked wilderness areas of Judah and Palestine. Amos lived here as a “*herdsman*” (Amos 1:1) and “*dresser of sycamore trees*” (cf. Amos 7:14). God called Amos to prophesy to Israel, and it seems that he did most of his work at Bethel (Amos 7:13). Amos was a man of prayer (cf. Amos 7:2, 5) and deep conviction (Amos 7:14ff). At one point, Amaziah the priest had commanded Amos to go south to speak his words of doom, yet the prophet answered by a “*thus saith Jehovah*” (Amos 7:15). Amos was a man that placed God’s commands before man’s (cf. Acts 5:29).

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors. We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please come back at your every opportunity.

Quincy Adams had a great report after his stay in the hospital this past week. He will not have to have any additional surgery and will be able to work with his current heart issues by medication.

The elders have asked the men to come back to the building today at 2:00 PM for an **annual business meeting**.

Tonight is our end of the month **Singing night**. If you have any song request be sure to get with one of the men. Brother Travis Pyle will be doing the preaching.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

Israel

Israel had become as the heathen to the Lord (Amos 9:7). God said of Israel, “*I know how manifold are your transgressions, and how mighty are your sins*” (Amos 5:12). Furthermore, the Lord proclaimed that Israel was “*the sinful kingdom*” (Amos 9:8). Israel had far removed itself from the plumb-line of truth and justice (Amos 7:7-8). Amos revealed Israel’s lack of regard for the poor (Amos 2:6-7; 4:1; 5:11-12; 8:4) and insatiable appetite for riches (Amos 3:12, 15; 5:11; 6:1-3). Israel was ungrateful (Amos 2:9) and disrespectful toward God (Amos 2:11-12). God had given her His divine revelation, yet she turned to her own ways (Amos 3:1-2, 10). The people were guilty of idolatry (Amos 3:14) and disingenuous worship (Amos 4:4-5; 5:21ff; 8:4-6). Israel was deluded in that she considered that God was with her while she conducted herself in unlawful ways (cf. Amos 5:14, 18 / “*as ye say*” compare to Jer. 2:35; 8:8; 13:22; 16:10). Israel was filled with pride (Amos 6:8), and the people were cheaters and swindlers (Amos 8:5-6) who were dependant upon their own strength (Amos 6:13). That which really identifies Israel’s character is her state of self imposed spiritual delusion. Israel not only thought that God was with her (cf. Amos 5:14), but looked forward to the day of God’s judgment (Amos 5:18) because she thought, “*The evil shall not overtake nor meet us*” (Amos 9:10).

The Day of Judgment for Israel

Due to Israel’s wickedness Amos proclaimed, “*prepare to meet thy God*” (Amos 4:12). The Lord proclaimed, “*The end is come upon my people Israel*” (Amos 8:2). God would send the Assyrian army to accomplish His judgment upon Israel (cf. Isa. 10:5; Hos. 11:5; Amos 3:11; 5:27). Israel had only captivity (Amos 6:7, 14; 7:9) and violent judgment (Amos 8:3; 9:1-2, 10) to look forward to. The foolishness of Israel was depicted in her actually longing for this day (cf. Amos 5:18). The days of judgment would be times of great sorrow and darkness for the wicked (Amos 5:16-20; 8:9-10). Not one single wicked man or woman would survive this day (Amos 9:1, 10).

Lessons learned from Amos

We, too, live in an “*evil time*” (Amos 5:13). A day of judgment is coming and shall fall upon the misguided masses that have put God out of their lives. Many today are religiously deluded. Religious people in our society long for the day when Christ shall come again, yet fail to realize that His coming will be a day of terror for all who did not subject themselves to His authority (Amos 5:18; Matt. 7:21-23). Denominational bodies are worshipping the Lord and doing many things in His name, yet for the workers of iniquity the Lord “*hates, despises, and takes no delight in your solemn assemblies*” (Amos 5:21). Amos helps us to understand that God has a standard, His law, by which man is measured (cf. Amos 7:7-8). If any man or woman does not meet that standard, then violent judgment awaits. God’s day of terror will not be a time that the wicked should look forward to. The wicked will not be able to hide on the mountain tops, clouds of the heavens, and depths of the earth or sea without being found (Amos 9:1-4). Now is the time to let God’s word fashion my life rather than man’s will (Amos 7:14ff).

John C. Robertson