

The 12 Minor Prophets

“The Guilt of God’s People” - Amos 3-4
Sunday, November 4, 2012

INTRODUCTION

All Have Sinned (Chapters 1-2)

A. The Lord Roars (1:1-2)

B. The Nations are Judged (1:3-2:16)

1. Surrounding nations, then Judea, then Israel...
2. **Amos 9:11-12**
3. **Romans 3:1-26**

The Guilt of God’s People (Chapters 3-4)

A. The Lord’s Roar

1. Is not merely broad and loud
2. Is direct and with cause

B. Crime & Punishment

1. **Amos 3:1-11**
2. They are first guilty of abusing God’s mercies
 - a) Their election (“yada”) is a point of strong sovereign choice and intimacy -- election should never produce sin, licentiousness, or legalism (**v.2**)
 - b) They used their privilege for selfish gain instead of blessing others

3. As surely as there are “laws” pertaining to actions and reactions in nature, there is a certainty of judgment for guilty sinners
4. It’s not the adversarial strength that prevails, rather the hand of God over the unrighteousness of Israel
5. The guilt of Israel is representative of the guilt of all of God’s people

C. The guilty will be judged

1. **Amos 3:12-15**
2. Bethel was a border city between Israel & Judah (Jeroboam set one of his idols there)
3. The judgment of God will be public and humiliatingly at the hands of an enemy
4. In particular, God goes after the wealthy for the abuse of their wealth, leveraging the weak for their own corrupt gain
 - a) The charge is not against wealth itself
 - b) **Luke 16:13**
5. ARE YOU GUILTY?
 - a) In view of governing bodies and the role of the church?
 - b) In view of your worship (both what and how)?
 - c) In view of your wealth (ill-gotten gain / see blessings as for self or others)?
6. ARE YOU RELIEVED?
 - a) Judgment is real and it’s coming upon all flesh
 - b) Either Christ has taken your judgment and given you grace, or you are continuing to try and overcome your guilt with good works which will end in the judgment falling on your head.

D. The nature and work of God on display (The Lord roars again)

1. Amos 4:1-5

- a) The character of God is causal for judgment
- b) Abuse of prosperity (Bashan -- rich pasture land)
- c) Abuse of worship (Bethel -- pluralism / syncretism)

2. Amos 4:6-12

- a) The heart for judgment is the heart for restoration
- b) God was gracious to remove so many distractions , yet they continued rejection
- c) They wouldn't even learn from their history

3. Amos 4:13

4. IS GOD THE SAME?

5. DO WE HAVE HISTORY TO LEARN FROM?

6. WHAT MAKES US THINK THAT WE WILL BE SPARED THE SAME JUDGMENT?

a) **Romans 2:4-11**

b) **Revelation 19:15-16**

c) **Colossians 3:5-6**

d) **Galatians 3:13-14**

Applications & Implications

A. Has the Lord Ceased to be Holy?

B. Has the Lord Ceased to be Merciful?