

~AMOS 1 (134)

(A'mos) [Being a Load, Carrying a Load]

- **A prophet of Yehowah and writer of the book bearing his name, who lived in the Ninth Century B.C.E. He was not, however, born as the son of a prophet, nor was he one of the sons of the prophets.**
- **And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said to his friend by the word of Yehowah; Strike me, please. But the man refused to strike him. (1 Kings 20:35)**
- **Then the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him; Do you really know that today Yehowah is taking your master from headship over you? At this he said; I, too, well know it. Be silent. (2 Kings 2:3)**
- **Now there was a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets that cried out to Elisha, saying; Your servant, my husband, is dead, and you yourself well know that your own servant had continually feared Yehowah, and the creditor himself has come to take both my children for his slaves. (2 Kings 4:1)**
- **Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah; I was not a prophet, neither was I the son of a prophet, but I was a herdsman and a nipper of figs of sycamore trees. (Amos 7:14)**

See Also AMOS, BOOK OF

- **His home was the town of Tekoa, some 16 kilometers (10 miles) South of Jerusalem, at an elevation of about 820 meters (2,700 feet). To the East, and sloping toward the Dead Sea, which lay about 1,200 meters (4,000 feet) below, was the bleak wilderness of Judah, where, in his early life, the prophet found employment as a humble sheep raiser.**
- **The words of Amos, who happened to be among the sheep raisers from Tekoa, which he visioned concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah the king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, the king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. (Amos 1:1)**

- The **Hebrew** word *no-qedhim'* here translated **sheep raisers** occurs in only one other place in the Bible
- As regards Mesha the king of Moab, he became a sheep raiser, and he paid to the king of Israel a hundred thousand lambs and a hundred thousand unshorn male sheep. (**2 Kings 3:4**)
- And is related to *naqqad*, the **Arabic** word for a special breed of sheep, rather unattractive, but highly valued for its fleece. Out in that wild country **Amos** also engaged in menial seasonal work as a nipper of sycamore figs, a variety considered food only for the poor. The practice of pinching or puncturing the figs was to hasten the ripening and increase the size and sweetness of the fruit.
- Then **Amos** answered and said to Amaziah; I was not a prophet, neither was I the son of a prophet, but I was a herdsman and a nipper of figs of sycamore trees. (**Amos 7:14**)

See Also SYCAMORE

- Like the shepherd David, who was called to public service by God, so also Yehowah proceeded to take **Amos** from following the flock and made him a prophet.
- And Yehowah proceeded to take **me** from following the flock, and Yehowah went on to say to **me**; Go, prophesy to my people Israel. (**Amos 7:15**)
- From the solitude in the wilderness of the south, **Amos** was sent to the idolatrous ten-tribe kingdom in the north with its capital Samaria.
- **Amos** began his career as a prophet two years before the great earthquake that occurred during the reign of Uzziah, king of Judah. At the same time Jeroboam II, son of Joash, was king of Israel.
- The words of **Amos**, who happened to be among the sheep raisers from Tekoa, which he visioned concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah the king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, the king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. (**Amos 1:1**)
- **Amos** prophecy is, therefore, placed sometime within the 26-year period from **829 B.C.E.**, to about **804 B.C.E.**, when the reigns' of these

two kings of Judah and Israel overlapped. The great earthquake that occurred two years after **Amos** was commissioned to be a prophet was of such magnitude that nearly 300 years later Zechariah made particular mention of it.

- And you people will certainly flee to the valley of my mountains, because the valley of the mountains will reach all the way to Azel. And you will have to flee, just as you fled because of the earthquake in the days of Uzziah the king of Judah. And Yehowah my God will certainly come, all the holy one's being with him. (**Zechariah 14:5**)
- How long **Amos** served as a prophet in the northern kingdom is uncertain. Amaziah, the wicked calf-worshipping priest of the state religion centered at Bethel, attempted to have him thrown out of the country on the grounds he was a threat to the security of the state.
- And Amaziah the priest of Bethel proceeded to send to Jeroboam the king of Israel, saying; **Amos** has conspired against you right inside the house of Israel. The land is not able to put up with all his words. (**Amos 7:10**)
- For this is what **Amos** has said; By the sword Jeroboam will die, and as regards Israel, it will without fail go into exile from its own ground. (**Amos 7:11**)
- And Amaziah proceeded to say to **Amos**; O visionary, go, run your way off to the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and there you may prophesy. (**Amos 7:12**)
- But at Bethel you must no longer do any further prophesying, for it is the sanctuary of a king and it is the house of a kingdom. (**Amos 7:13**)
- Whether Amaziah succeeded is not disclosed. At any rate, when **Amos** prophetic mission to Israel was completed, he presumably returned to his native tribal territory of Judah.
- Jerome and Eusebius report that the prophets sepulcher was located at Tekoa in their day. It also seems that after returning to Judah, Amos wrote down the prophecy, which at first had been delivered orally. He is often called one of the 12 minor prophets, his book is cataloged 3rd among the 12, yet the message he delivered is by no means of minor significance.

