

# A Visitor's Guide to the Old Testament

## A Quick Discussion Guide on the Book of Amos

1. We learn much about a person's character by discovering what gets under his/her skin! It is the same with God. We can gain great insight into the character of our Lord by seeing what moves him to wrath.

Look up the following verses. What qualities of our God do they reveal?

- Amos 3:7
- Amos 4:2, 6-11, 13
- Amos 5:4, 6, 8, 21-22
- Amos 6:8
- Amos 7:2-3, 5
- Amos 9:2-4, 7

2. Since Amos prophesied during a time of economic boom in Israel, his message can serve as a mirror to our times and circumstance.

Do our lifestyles reflect the heart of God?

Or do we share the self-centered heart of the indifferent folk of Amos's day?

Give evidence for your answers!

3. Amos confronted the people of Northern Israel in relationship to oppression, injustice, and heartless ritual. Why do times of economic success appear to usher in periods of oppression, injustice, and heartless ritual?

What would your evaluation be of current society in terms of oppression, injustice, and heartless ritual?

What would your evaluation be of the visible Christian Church in terms of oppression, injustice, and heartless ritual?

When will the world be rid of these ills? What, alone, is the solution to these kinds of societal grievances?

4. Amos makes for some uncomfortable reading, especially with the weight given to the Law and precious little saved for Gospel (and... it comes waaaaay at the end!). Are there times when such an approach is good, even necessary?

Evaluate: The proper division between Law and Gospel in preaching is not related to the proportion each message receives.

5. Write your memory passage below: