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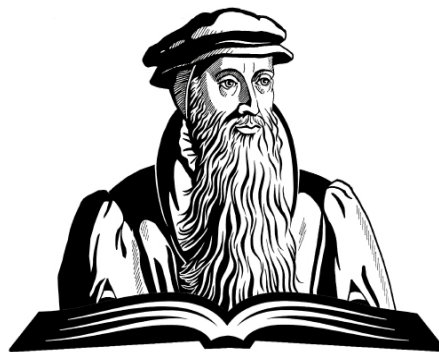
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 102

Amos the Fearless Herdsman

Lecture Presenter: Dr. Daniel Sweetman



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

113 LESSONS

77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman

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| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 30. Let My People God |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 31. Deliverance |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People |
| 10. Abram: Called by God | 35. A Priest for the People |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
| 12. Melchizadek | 37. Worshiping God Rightly |
| 13. Righteous by Faith | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 14. Two Sons | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah | 43. Cities of Refuge |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | 44. A New Generation |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver | 45. Moses' Last Days |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | 47. A Promise to Rahab |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | 48. The Rise of Judges |
| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah
78. Introduction to the Prophets
79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lions' Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
- 102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman**
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

Lesson 102

Amos the Fearless Herdsman

Amos, chapters 1 through 9

Memory Verse

*The lion hath roared, who will not fear?
The Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?*

—Joel 2:28

A Time of Prosperity

In Amos 1:1, we read that Amos prophesied during the long reign of King Jeroboam, the son of Joash. We know from the Book of Kings that this was a prosperous time for the people of Israel. They had been in much affliction, but God pitied his people, and, “He saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash” (2 Kings 14:27). In the book of Amos, we read what a prosperous time this was. Rich Israelites enjoyed life to the full. We read of summer houses and winter houses, houses of ivory and hewn stone. Rich Israelites laid on beds of ivory, ate the meat of lambs and calves, and drank wine in bowls. They chanted to the sound of viols, and anointed themselves with chief ointments (Amos 6:4–6).

The people did not forget religion either. Crowds of worshipers faithfully came to Bethel and Dan to worship God at the golden calves. They also offered burnt offerings and meat offerings at Gilgal and Beersheba. What a shock it must have been for the religious people of Israel going to worship at Bethel when they were confronted by a prophet of the Lord, who told them that God loathed their solemn assemblies, their offerings, and their religious songs. The prophet warned them that God’s judgments were about to fall on them!

The Message of Amos

Amos was a herdsman and a farmer from Tekoa, a small town south of Bethlehem, at the edge of the desert. He would seem to be an unlikely person to send to the land of Israel to warn them of God’s impending judgments. Yet he was the man God chose, and there is nothing ambiguous about his message. In no uncertain terms, Amos named the sins which the Israelites are guilty of. One of their greatest sins was the oppression of the poor. In chapters 2, 4, 5 and 8, we read how poor debtors were sold into bondage by their creditors. Judges took bribes to oppress the poor. We read of violence, robbery and fraud. The rich became richer and the poor became poorer. This was so contrary to the regulations God had given the Israelites at Mount Sinai (see Exodus, chapters 22 and 23; Leviticus, chapter 19; Deuteronomy, chapters 19 and 24).

The other great sin which the prophet Amos had to point out was the sin of formalism in worship. The people of Israel seemed to think that they could appease God with religious rituals and costly offerings. They even thought that keeping up these religious forms and traditions would let them get away with immorality, materialism, oppression, and idolatry!

In order to awaken the sleeping consciences of the people of Israel, the Lord had recently sent droughts, famine, insect pests, and sicknesses (Amos 4:6–11), but that was to no avail. Finally, he sent his servant Amos. Bluntly and passionately, using vivid imagery, Amos exposed the sins of the people of Israel, and warned them that God’s patience was coming to an end. “Behold, I am pressed under you as a cart is pressed, that is full of sheaves” (Amos 2:13). “Thus saith the LORD, as the shepherd taketh out of the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear, so shall the children of Israel be taken out, that dwell in Samaria” (Amos 3:12). It is tempting to quote much more. Be sure to read this short book yourself.

In Amos 7, we read that Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, unsuccessfully tried to remove Amos from the area, even reporting him to the king: “The land is not able to bear all his words!” Amos was not intimidated. He continued to warn of the dreadful judgments which, as we know, came upon them about thirty years later. Because they had been so greatly blessed as the people of God, their judgments would be so much the greater. Therefore God said to them: “Because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.” Before thirty years are over, we too may have had our meeting with God. Are you prepared? Are you preparing? “Seek the LORD, and ye shall live” (Amos 5:6).

Review Questions

1. In Amos 7:14, we learn that before God called him, Amos was not a _____, but a _____ and a _____.
2. In Amos 1:3 through 2:3, Amos first prophesies against _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____.
3. What unflattering name does Amos call the rich women who oppressed the poor? (Amos 4:1)
 - a) Harlots
 - b) Ravening wolves
 - c) Children of the Ethiopians
 - d) kine of Bashan
4. In Amos 4:6, what judgment had God sent in order to turn the people of Israel back to him?
 - a) Insect pests
 - b) Enemy invaders
 - c) Lack of food
 - d) Pestilence
5. Who would be the first ones to go into captivity? (Amos 6:7) _____

6. In Acts 15:16, the apostle James at the Synod in Jerusalem quotes from the book of Amos.

Where do we find these verses in Amos? _____

Fill in the blanks below from those two verses:

In that day will I _____ up the _____ of _____ that is _____, and close up the _____ thereof; and I will raise up his _____, and I will build it as in the days of old: That they may possess the _____ of _____, and of all the _____, which are called by my _____, saith the LORD that doeth this.

Discussion Questions

1. In Amos 7:1–6, how did Amos save the people of Israel twice? _____

–Who else in the Old Testament saved his people in that way? (Exodus 32:31, 32)

–In Romans 8:34, what does Paul say of Christ? _____

2. As all the prophets, the book of Amos ends with a message of hope. In Amos 9:11–15, what promises are given to Israel?

3. What promises are given to the heathen in Amos 9:12? (See Acts 15:17) _____

4. In Acts 15, James quotes Amos 9:12, in order to settle a controversy. What was the controversy about? (Acts 15:1)

What decision was made? (Acts 15:19) _____
