

Sermon Notes

Justice for the Nations
Amos 1-2; Romans 5:9

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May 6, 2018

Introduction/Divided Kingdom

930 B.C. Kingdom is split

Northern Tribes: Israel

Southern Tribes: Judah

Amos & Israel

- From Tekoa in Judah
- Manager of Shepherds
- Called by God to be a prophet to Israel
- 765-760 B.C.
- Jeroboam II is King of Israel
- Prosperous time in Israel

God is going to bring his wrath on the injustices of the world

God is angered when those He has revealed himself to reject and neglect Him.

God is angered when His people use their power to oppress.

FYI: This message is really an overview setting up the coming weeks. There will be more teaching on the right worship and justice for the poor. So the discussion questions deliberately focus on bigger picture things.

Questions for Reflection/Discussion:

As always feel free to tweak, skip, or add questions to focus on areas you think most relevant to your group.

1. What has been your experience Up North? Do you have a family cabin? What are the advantages/disadvantages compared to the metro?
2. How familiar are you with the Old Testament prophets? What role did the prophets play in Israel's history? If you are bold try and name them from memory as a group.
3. What do you find intriguing about studying the northern prophets for the summer? What makes you nervous about it?
4. What might Amos be thinking/feeling when he gets God's call to go and take a message of mostly judgement to his rival country in the North?
5. Go through and identify the injustices in the oracles against the nations? What does God's anger about these things say about his character?
6. When you read oracles of judgement like these are you more drawn to cheer God on or say woah God that seems harsh tone it down? Why?
7. God's frustration toward Judah is of a different type than the others, it involves worship. How does right worship become an issue of justice?
8. How does hearing how God thinks about these injustices change the way we think about those in our own lives?
9. Read Romans 5:6-9, how does the passage from Amos help you appreciate Jesus more?