

MASTER THE CONTENT OF SCRIPTURE



The Book of Amos

(Observe, Interpret, Apply & Go)

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THE BOOK OF AMOS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

In our studies of the Bible, we will be using an inductive approach. This approach is a fun and exciting way to study the Bible! It's like being a detective. Instead of starting with a conclusion, you look at the details and clues in the text to discover the meaning for yourself.

Here's how you can do it:

1. **Observation:** First, you look closely at the Bible passage. You pay attention to:

- a. Who is in the story
- b. What is happening
- c. Where it is taking place
- d. When it is happening
- e. Why things are happening
- f. How they are happening.

You write down or make a mental note of all the details you notice.

2. **Interpretation:** Next, you try to understand what those details mean.

- a. You think about why the characters did what they did
- b. You think about what the important words and phrases mean.
- c. You may need to look up some words or ask questions to understand better.

3. **Application:** Finally, you think about how the story applies to our lives. What truth does it communicate?

- a. **What does it teach us about God?**
- b. What does it teach us about ourselves?
- c. What action (s) does it call us to take?

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CHAPTER 1

Summary of Chapter

Amos 1 begins with a prophecy of judgment delivered by Amos, a shepherd from Tekoa. The chapter sets the stage for God's judgment against the nations surrounding Israel, including Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, and Moab. Each nation is condemned for specific transgressions, and God declares that their punishment is inevitable. The prophecy emphasizes God's righteousness and the consequences of injustice, cruelty, and betrayal among the nations. Amos 1 introduces the theme of divine justice, showing that God's judgment extends beyond Israel to all nations, holding them accountable for their actions.

Opening Question

1. Why do you think God addresses the sins of the surrounding nations before focusing on Israel and Judah?
 2. What can we learn about God's character from His judgment against these nations?
-

Outline

1. **Introduction of Amos and the Prophecy (Amos 1:1-2)**
 - Amos is introduced as a shepherd from Tekoa who receives visions from God.
 - The prophecy begins with the Lord roaring from Zion, indicating His powerful presence.

Application Questions:

- How does Amos's background as a shepherd influence his perspective on the prophecies he delivers?

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- What does the image of God "roaring from Zion" suggest about His message and its urgency?

2. Judgment Against Damascus (Amos 1:3-5)

- Damascus is condemned for its cruelty against Gilead, symbolized by the threshing of Gilead with iron sledges.
- God announces the destruction of the palaces and fortresses of Damascus.

Application Questions:

- What lessons can we learn about the consequences of cruelty and violence from God's judgment on Damascus?
- How should we respond when we witness acts of injustice today?

3. Judgment Against Gaza and Philistine Cities (Amos 1:6-8)

- Gaza is judged for capturing whole communities and selling them into slavery.
- God promises to destroy Gaza and other Philistine cities for their sins.

Application Questions:

- What does this passage teach us about the sin of human trafficking?
- How can we work towards justice and righteousness in our communities?

4. Judgment Against Tyre (Amos 1:9-10)

- Tyre is condemned for breaking a covenant of brotherhood and delivering entire communities to Edom.
- God declares that Tyre will be destroyed by fire.

Application Questions:

- Why is breaking a covenant seen as a serious offense by God?
- In what ways can we ensure we are keeping our commitments to others?

5. Judgment Against Edom (Amos 1:11-12)

- Edom is judged for pursuing his brother with a sword and stifling his compassion.

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- God announces the punishment of Edom's strongholds by fire.

Application Questions:

- How does harboring anger and bitterness affect our relationships with others?
- What steps can we take to cultivate compassion and forgiveness?

6. Judgment Against Ammon (Amos 1:13-15)

- Ammon is condemned for its brutal aggression against Gilead, particularly targeting pregnant women.
- God proclaims that Ammon's king and princes will go into exile, and their cities will be destroyed.

Application Questions:

- What does this passage reveal about God's view on the sanctity of life?
- How can we advocate for the protection of vulnerable groups in our society?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Amos 1:2, "The Lord roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds dry up, and the top of Carmel withers." Students can be challenged to recite the verse in pairs or groups.
 2. **Role Playing Activity:** Students can reenact the scenes of Amos delivering God's message to the different nations. Each group can present the reactions and consequences faced by each nation.
 3. **Discussion Activity:** Divide students into small groups to discuss the relevance of divine judgment today. Each group can present one way they believe this chapter's themes apply to contemporary societal issues.
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Quiz

1. Who is the author of the book of Amos?
 - A. Isaiah
 - B. Jeremiah
 - C. Amos
 - D. Hosea
2. Where is Amos from?
 - A. Bethel
 - B. Tekoa
 - C. Jerusalem
 - D. Samaria
3. What is the main theme introduced in Amos 1?
 - A. Love and forgiveness
 - B. Divine judgment against the nations
 - C. Worship and sacrifice
 - D. Covenant promises
4. What nation is first mentioned for judgment in Amos 1?
 - A. Gaza
 - B. Tyre
 - C. Damascus
 - D. Edom
5. Why is Damascus judged by God?
 - A. Idolatry
 - B. Betrayal of Israel
 - C. Threshing Gilead with iron sledges
 - D. Breaking a covenant
6. What is the punishment for Gaza according to Amos 1?
 - A. Famine

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- B. Fire and destruction
 - C. Exile
 - D. Flood
7. Which nation is condemned for breaking a covenant of brotherhood?
- A. Tyre
 - B. Edom
 - C. Ammon
 - D. Gaza
8. What sin is Edom judged for in Amos 1?
- A. Human trafficking
 - B. Idolatry
 - C. Pursuing his brother with a sword
 - D. Worshipping false gods
9. What is the consequence for Ammon's actions against Gilead?
- A. Prosperity
 - B. Destruction by fire
 - C. Exile of its king and princes
 - D. Divine blessing
10. What does Amos 1 emphasize about God's character?
- A. His kindness
 - B. His impartial justice
 - C. His mercy
 - D. His patience

Answers: C, B, B, C, C, B, A, C, C, B

Fill in the Blank

1. Amos was a _____ from Tekoa.
2. God roars from _____ and thunders from Jerusalem.

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3. The nation of _____ is judged for threshing Gilead with iron sledges.
4. Tyre is condemned for breaking a covenant of _____.
5. The _____ of Damascus will be destroyed.
6. God judges the nations surrounding _____.
7. Ammon is judged for ripping open the _____ women of Gilead.
8. The theme of Amos 1 is God's _____ against the nations.
9. _____ pursued his brother with a sword.
10. The Lord will send fire upon the walls of _____.

Answers: shepherd, Zion, Damascus, brotherhood, palaces, Israel, pregnant, judgment, Edom, Gaza

Vocabulary Words

1. **Shepherd (רֹעֶה - Roeh):** A person who tends and rears sheep, symbolizing Amos's humble background and his role as a messenger of God.
2. **Judgment (מִשְׁפָּט - Mishpat):** The act of deciding a case or the divine decision-making process, often leading to punishment or vindication.
3. **Transgression (פְּשָׁע - Peshah):** An act that goes against a law, rule, or code; an offense. Used frequently in Amos to describe the sins of the nations.
4. **Threshing (דָּשׁ - Dash):** The process of separating grain from the chaff, used metaphorically in Amos to describe the violence of Damascus.
5. **Brotherhood (אָחָוָה - Achavah):** A relationship between brothers, used in Amos to describe a violated covenant or agreement between nations.

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CHAPTER 2

Summary of Chapter

Amos 2 continues the prophecy of judgment, shifting focus to Moab, Judah, and Israel. Moab is condemned for desecrating the bones of Edom's king. Judah is judged for rejecting God's laws and worshipping false gods, while Israel is condemned for social injustices, including oppressing the poor and denying justice to the oppressed. The chapter highlights God's anger against Israel's mistreatment of the vulnerable and their corrupt religious practices. Amos emphasizes that both nations and individuals are accountable for their actions, underscoring God's desire for justice and righteousness among His people.

Opening Question

1. Why does God hold Judah and Israel, His chosen people, to a higher standard than the other nations?
 2. How do the actions condemned in Amos 2 reflect issues we see in the world today?
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Outline

1. Judgment Against Moab (Amos 2:1-3)

- Moab is condemned for burning the bones of Edom's king into lime.
- God declares He will send fire on Moab, destroy its strongholds, and cut off its rulers.

Application Questions:

- What does this judgment against Moab teach us about respecting the dead and honoring the dignity of all people?

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- How can we ensure we show respect to others in our daily lives, even those who have wronged us?

2. Judgment Against Judah (Amos 2:4-5)

- Judah is judged for rejecting God's laws and following false gods.
- God announces that He will send fire upon Judah and consume the fortresses of Jerusalem.

Application Questions:

- Why is it important to remain faithful to God's teachings in our lives?
- In what ways can we avoid the temptation to follow false ideologies or practices?

3. Judgment Against Israel (Amos 2:6-16)

- Israel is condemned for a range of social injustices, including selling the righteous for silver, oppressing the poor, and committing immoral acts.
- God recounts His past deliverance of Israel and laments their ingratitude and corruption.
- The chapter concludes with a prophecy of destruction and defeat for Israel due to their sins.

Application Questions:

- How does the treatment of the vulnerable in society reflect our values and beliefs?
- What actions can we take to promote justice and righteousness in our community today?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Amos 2:4, "This is what the Lord says: 'For three sins of Judah, even for four, I will not relent. Because they have rejected the law of the Lord and have not kept His decrees.'" Students can practice reciting the verse individually or in small groups.

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2. **Role Playing Activity:** Assign students to play the roles of Amos, a leader from Judah, and a leader from Israel. Have them act out a scene where Amos confronts the leaders with God's message, allowing them to express their reactions and defenses.
 3. **Discussion Activity:** Organize a discussion on the importance of social justice in today's world. Encourage students to connect the injustices mentioned in Amos 2 with modern-day issues and explore how they can contribute to positive change.
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Quiz

1. What nation is first mentioned for judgment in Amos 2?
 - A. Judah
 - B. Israel
 - C. Moab
 - D. Edom
2. Why is Moab judged by God?
 - A. Worshipping false gods
 - B. Burning the bones of Edom's king into lime
 - C. Oppressing the poor
 - D. Stealing from Israel
3. What is the consequence for Judah's sins in Amos 2?
 - A. Exile
 - B. Fire upon Judah and Jerusalem
 - C. Famine
 - D. Plagues
4. What specific sins is Israel condemned for in Amos 2?
 - A. Idolatry
 - B. Oppressing the poor and denying justice

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- C. Adultery
 - D. Breaking covenants
5. How does God express His disappointment with Israel in Amos 2?
- A. Through fire and brimstone
 - B. By recalling His past deliverance and Israel's ingratitude
 - C. By sending plagues
 - D. By blessing their enemies
6. What does God promise to do to Israel because of their sins?
- A. Destroy their temples
 - B. Send them into exile
 - C. Send fire upon their cities
 - D. Defeat them in battle
7. How does God describe the sins of Judah in Amos 2?
- A. Following false gods and rejecting His law
 - B. Stealing from other nations
 - C. Being unfaithful in worship
 - D. Engaging in violence
8. What imagery does Amos use to describe God's judgment on Moab?
- A. A roaring lion
 - B. A consuming fire
 - C. A flood
 - D. A plague
9. What historical events does God reference to remind Israel of His past help?
- A. The Exodus from Egypt
 - B. The defeat of the Philistines
 - C. The victories under King David
 - D. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
10. What is the main theme of Amos 2?
- A. God's mercy

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- B. God's love for Israel
- C. God's judgment against sin and injustice
- D. God's creation

Answers: C, B, B, B, B, D, A, B, A, C

Fill in the Blank

1. Moab is judged for burning the _____ of Edom's king into lime.
2. God promises to send _____ on Judah for rejecting His laws.
3. Israel is condemned for oppressing the _____ and denying justice.
4. The main theme of Amos 2 is God's _____ against sin and injustice.
5. Amos emphasizes the importance of following God's _____.
6. The _____ of Israel includes social injustices and idolatry.
7. Judah is condemned for worshipping _____ gods.
8. God recalls His deliverance of Israel from _____.
9. Amos speaks against both Moab and _____ in this chapter.
10. God's _____ is evident in His judgments throughout the chapter.

Answers: bones, fire, poor, judgment, laws, sins, false, Egypt, Israel, justice

Vocabulary Words

1. **Desecrate (חָלַל - Chalal):** To treat a sacred place or thing with violent disrespect. In Amos 2, Moab is condemned for desecrating the bones of Edom's king.
2. **Injustice (עוֹלָה - Avelah):** Unfair treatment or behavior, particularly toward the vulnerable. Israel is condemned for acts of injustice against the poor and oppressed.

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3. **Repentance (תשובה - Teshuvah):** The act of turning away from sin and returning to God. While not explicitly mentioned in Amos 2, repentance is an underlying theme as the nations are judged for their refusal to turn back to God.
4. **Judgment (משפט - Mishpat):** The divine decision-making process, often leading to punishment or vindication, central to the message of Amos.
5. **Idolatry (עבודה זרה - Avodah Zarah):** Worship of false gods or idols, condemned in Judah for turning away from God's laws and worshipping other deities.

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CHAPTER 3

Summary of Chapter

Amos 3 focuses on God's judgment against Israel, emphasizing that their unique relationship with Him brings greater responsibility. The chapter begins with a call to hear God's word and acknowledges that God reveals His plans to His prophets. Amos explains that because Israel has sinned, they will face divine judgment. He uses various metaphors, such as a lion's roar and a trap, to illustrate the certainty of this judgment. The chapter concludes with a prophecy of devastation in Israel, including the destruction of their sanctuaries and palaces, reflecting the seriousness of their disobedience.

Opening Question

1. How does the special relationship between God and Israel impact their accountability for sin?
 2. In what ways does God reveal His plans and warnings to His people today?
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Outline

1. Introduction to God's Judgment (Amos 3:1-2)

- God calls Israel to listen and reminds them of their unique relationship with Him.
- Israel's disobedience is significant because of this special covenant relationship.

Application Questions:

- How does understanding our relationship with God affect how we live our lives?
- What steps can we take to ensure we are fulfilling our responsibilities as followers of Christ?

2. Metaphors of Judgment (Amos 3:3-8)

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- Amos uses metaphors such as a lion's roar and a trap to describe the inevitability of God's judgment.
- The chapter emphasizes that God does nothing without revealing His plans to His prophets.

Application Questions:

- How do metaphors and symbols help us understand the seriousness of God's messages?
- What can we learn from God's method of communicating His intentions through prophets?

3. The Certainty of Destruction (Amos 3:9-15)

- Amos prophesies the destruction of Israel's sanctuaries and palaces as a result of their sins.
- The destruction will be comprehensive, affecting both the high places and the royal houses.

Application Questions:

- How can we avoid the pitfalls of disobedience that lead to judgment?
- In what ways can we support the building up of a righteous community that honors God?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Amos 3:8, "The lion has roared—who will not fear? The Sovereign Lord has spoken—who can but prophesy?" Have students recite the verse individually or in small groups, emphasizing the power and authority of God's word.
2. **Role Playing Activity:** Divide students into groups and assign each group a role: Amos, a leader from Israel, and a prophet from another nation. Have them act out a scenario where Amos

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confronts the leaders with God's message, while the leaders respond with their reactions and concerns.

3. **Discussion Activity:** Facilitate a discussion on the role of prophets in the Bible and their relevance today. Ask students to consider how modern-day leaders or influencers might convey important messages and how people respond to such warnings.
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Quiz

1. What does Amos 3 emphasize about Israel's relationship with God?
 - A. It makes them less accountable for their actions
 - B. It brings greater responsibility and accountability
 - C. It exempts them from judgment
 - D. It guarantees their prosperity
2. What metaphor does Amos use to describe the certainty of God's judgment?
 - A. A flood
 - B. A roaring lion
 - C. A storm
 - D. A fire
3. According to Amos 3, how does God communicate His plans?
 - A. Through dreams only
 - B. Through angels
 - C. Through prophets
 - D. Through signs in the sky
4. What will be destroyed as a result of Israel's sins, according to Amos 3?
 - A. Their farmland
 - B. Their sanctuaries and palaces
 - C. Their livestock
 - D. Their trade routes

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5. What does Amos say about God's actions in relation to His prophets?
 - A. God acts without warning
 - B. God reveals His plans to His prophets
 - C. God's actions are unpredictable
 - D. God keeps His plans secret
6. What does the metaphor of a trap represent in Amos 3?
 - A. A sign of prosperity
 - B. The certainty of judgment
 - C. An opportunity for escape
 - D. A reward for faithfulness
7. How does the chapter illustrate the role of prophets?
 - A. As messengers of comfort
 - B. As predictors of future events only
 - C. As revealers of God's plans and judgments
 - D. As leaders of political movements
8. What is the main consequence of Israel's disobedience in Amos 3?
 - A. Loss of territory
 - B. Destruction of their places of worship
 - C. Economic collapse
 - D. Loss of alliances
9. How does Amos describe the inevitability of judgment?
 - A. As uncertain and delayed
 - B. As inevitable and certain
 - C. As optional
 - D. As a distant possibility
10. What is the significance of Amos' message for Israel?
 - A. It offers an opportunity for prosperity
 - B. It warns of imminent and unavoidable destruction

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- C. It promises forgiveness without conditions
- D. It guarantees peace and safety

Answers: B, B, C, B, B, B, C, B, B, B

Fill in the Blank

1. Amos 3 emphasizes that Israel's unique relationship with God brings greater _____ and accountability.
2. The metaphor of the _____ is used to illustrate the certainty of God's judgment.
3. According to Amos 3, God reveals His plans to His _____.
4. The destruction prophesied in Amos 3 includes the _____ of Israel's sanctuaries and palaces.
5. The _____ of a trap in Amos 3 symbolizes the certainty of judgment.
6. Amos describes God's actions as being in accordance with His _____ revealed to prophets.
7. The chapter highlights that judgment is inevitable and _____ for Israel due to their sins.
8. The role of prophets is to convey God's _____ and warnings to His people.
9. The message of Amos 3 underscores the need for _____ and repentance.
10. The chapter concludes with a prophecy of the _____ of Israel's high places and royal houses.

Answers: responsibility, lion, prophets, destruction, imagery, plan, certainty, revelations, obedience, destruction

Vocabulary Words

1. **Covenant (בְּרִית - Berit):** A sacred agreement or contract between God and His people. In Amos 3, Israel's unique covenant with God brings greater responsibility.
2. **Metaphor (מִשְׁל - Mashal):** A figure of speech where a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable. Amos uses metaphors to convey God's message of judgment.
3. **Inevitability (אֵין מִנְעוּת - Ein Min'ut):** The quality of being certain to happen. The chapter illustrates the inevitability of God's judgment against Israel.

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4. **Sanctuary (מִקְדָּשׁ - Mikdash):** A sacred or holy place, especially a temple or church. In Amos 3, the destruction of sanctuaries symbolizes divine judgment.
5. **Prophecy (נְבוּאָה - Nebu'ah):** A message from God delivered through a prophet, often about future events. Amos 3 emphasizes the role of prophecy in revealing God's plans and judgments.

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CHAPTER 4

Summary of Chapter

Amos 4 highlights the ongoing rebellion of Israel against God, despite His repeated attempts to lead them to repentance. The chapter begins with a harsh critique of the women of Samaria, whom Amos calls "cows of Bashan," accusing them of oppression and luxury. God describes various calamities He has sent to Israel, such as famine and pestilence, yet they have not returned to Him. The chapter ends with a call to prepare to meet God, emphasizing His sovereignty and the certainty of His judgment. Israel's unrepentant state will lead to severe consequences.

Opening Question

1. How does the behavior of the women of Samaria reflect the broader issues in Israel's society?
 2. In what ways does God's response to Israel's unrepentance demonstrate His justice and sovereignty?
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Outline

1. Rebuke of the Women of Samaria (Amos 4:1-3)

- Amos criticizes the women of Samaria for their oppression and indulgence.
- They are portrayed as living in luxury while ignoring the plight of the poor.

Application Questions:

- How can we address issues of injustice and luxury in our own communities?
- What are some practical ways to ensure we are not complicit in systems of oppression?

2. God's Attempts to Lead Israel to Repentance (Amos 4:4-11)

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- God lists the various calamities He has sent to Israel, including famine, drought, and disease.
- Despite these warnings, Israel has not repented or turned back to God.

Application Questions:

- How do we recognize and respond to God's attempts to correct us in our own lives?
- What can we learn from Israel's failure to repent despite repeated warnings?

3. **The Call to Prepare to Meet God (Amos 4:12-13)**

- Amos concludes with a call to prepare to meet God, highlighting His power and judgment.
- The chapter emphasizes the certainty of God's judgment and the need for repentance.

Application Questions:

- How can we prepare ourselves spiritually to meet God?
- What does it mean for us today to understand and acknowledge God's sovereignty?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Amos 4:12, "Therefore this is what I will do to you, Israel, and because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel." Have students recite the verse and discuss its significance in understanding God's judgment.
2. **Role Playing Activity:** Divide students into groups and assign roles: Amos, a wealthy woman of Samaria, and an average Israelite. Have them act out a scenario where Amos delivers God's message to the woman and the Israelite, showcasing their reactions and responses.
3. **Discussion Activity:** Facilitate a discussion on how God's warnings and attempts to lead people to repentance are relevant in today's world. Encourage students to share personal experiences or observations related to divine guidance and correction.

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Quiz

1. Who does Amos specifically criticize in Amos 4?
 - A. The priests
 - B. The kings
 - C. The women of Samaria
 - D. The prophets
2. What is the main accusation against the women of Samaria?
 - A. Idolatry
 - B. Oppression and luxury
 - C. False prophecy
 - D. Ignoring the Sabbath
3. What types of calamities does God mention sending to Israel in Amos 4?
 - A. War and famine
 - B. Famine, drought, and disease
 - C. Earthquakes and invasions
 - D. Floods and fires
4. Despite the calamities, what was Israel's response?
 - A. They repented and sought God
 - B. They ignored the warnings
 - C. They fled to other nations
 - D. They strengthened their defenses
5. What does God call Israel to do at the end of Amos 4?
 - A. Seek peace with their enemies
 - B. Prepare to meet their God
 - C. Rebuild their temples
 - D. Make sacrifices

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6. What does Amos 4 highlight about God's attempts to correct Israel?
 - A. They were ineffective
 - B. They were met with repentance
 - C. They were ignored
 - D. They were understood but not accepted
7. How does God describe His own power in Amos 4?
 - A. As limited
 - B. As uncertain
 - C. As sovereign and mighty
 - D. As distant
8. What will happen to Israel as a result of their failure to repent?
 - A. They will be blessed
 - B. They will face severe judgment
 - C. They will be relocated
 - D. They will gain new allies
9. What is the key theme of Amos 4?
 - A. Prosperity
 - B. Divine judgment and repentance
 - C. Peace treaties
 - D. Ritual sacrifices
10. How does the chapter end?
 - A. With a promise of restoration
 - B. With a call to prepare to meet God
 - C. With a new covenant
 - D. With a vision of the future

Answers: C, B, B, B, B, C, C, B, B, B

Fill in the Blank

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1. Amos 4 criticizes the _____ of Samaria for their oppression and luxury.
2. Despite various _____ sent by God, Israel did not repent.
3. God calls Israel to _____ to meet Him, emphasizing His sovereignty.
4. The chapter highlights the _____ of God's judgment and the need for repentance.
5. The women of Samaria are described as living in _____ while ignoring the plight of the poor.
6. The calamities mentioned in Amos 4 include _____ and disease.
7. Israel's response to God's warnings was _____ and unrepentant.
8. The chapter concludes with a call to prepare for God's _____.
9. Amos 4 emphasizes the certainty of God's _____ against those who do not repent.
10. The call to prepare to meet God reflects His _____ and judgment.

Answers: women, calamities, prepare, severity, luxury, famine, ignoring, judgment, sovereignty, judgment

Vocabulary Words

1. **Oppression (עֲשָׂק - Ashak):** The unjust or cruel exercise of authority or power. In Amos 4, the women of Samaria are criticized for their oppression of the poor.
2. **Calamity (שְׁדֵרוֹן - Shadron):** A disaster or misfortune that causes great distress. Amos 4 mentions various calamities sent by God as warnings to Israel.
3. **Repentance (שׁוּבוֹת - Shuvut):** The action of feeling remorseful and changing one's behavior. Israel is called to repentance, but they fail to turn back to God.
4. **Sovereignty (מַלְכוּת - Malkhut):** Supreme power or authority. Amos 4 emphasizes God's sovereignty over all events and His ultimate control.
5. **Indulgence (הִנָּחוֹת - Hinachot):** Excessive gratification of one's desires. The women of Samaria are rebuked for their indulgence while neglecting the needy.

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CHAPTER 5

Summary of Chapter

Amos 5 opens with a lamentation over Israel's imminent downfall and an urgent call for repentance. God rejects their empty rituals and sacrifices, emphasizing that He desires justice and righteousness over mere religious ceremonies. The chapter critiques Israel's superficial worship and highlights their moral and social corruption. Amos warns of the coming disaster as a consequence of their failure to live righteously. The chapter concludes with a stern reminder that true worship involves ethical living and that God's judgment is inevitable for those who do not heed His call for justice.

Opening Question

1. What does Amos say about the effectiveness of Israel's religious practices in Amos 5?
 2. How can we apply the principles of justice and righteousness to our personal and community life?
-

Outline

1. Lamentation over Israel's Downfall (Amos 5:1-3)

- Amos laments the downfall of Israel and predicts its destruction.
- The call for mourning reflects the seriousness of Israel's situation.

Application Questions:

- In what ways can we identify and address spiritual decline in our own lives?
- How can we prevent a similar downfall in our communities?

2. Rejection of Rituals and Call for Justice (Amos 5:4-15)

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- God rejects Israel's superficial rituals and emphasizes the need for genuine justice and righteousness.
- The chapter critiques the emptiness of Israel's religious practices and calls for moral integrity.

Application Questions:

- How can we ensure that our worship and religious practices are sincere and aligned with God's desires?
- What steps can we take to live out justice and righteousness in our daily actions?

3. Prediction of Disaster and Judgment (Amos 5:16-27)

- Amos describes the impending disaster due to Israel's failure to live righteously.
- The chapter concludes with a warning of severe divine judgment.

Application Questions:

- How can we prepare ourselves spiritually to avoid the consequences of divine judgment?
- What lessons can we draw from Israel's impending disaster to apply in our own spiritual journey?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Amos 5:24, "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" Have students recite the verse and reflect on its meaning and application in their lives.
2. **Role Playing Activity:** Divide students into groups to role-play a scene where Amos delivers his message to different segments of society in Israel (e.g., a priest, a wealthy merchant, an ordinary citizen). Discuss their reactions and the relevance of Amos's message.

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3. **Discussion Activity:** Host a discussion on how the principles of justice and righteousness can be practically applied in everyday situations. Encourage students to share personal experiences and ideas for living out these values in their communities.
-

Quiz

1. What does Amos lament in Amos 5?
 - A. The loss of agricultural produce
 - B. The downfall of Israel
 - C. The destruction of the temple
 - D. The defeat in battle
2. What does God reject in Amos 5?
 - A. Idolatry
 - B. Empty rituals and sacrifices
 - C. Political alliances
 - D. Economic prosperity
3. What does God desire instead of empty rituals?
 - A. Prosperity
 - B. Justice and righteousness
 - C. More sacrifices
 - D. Political power
4. What is the main criticism against Israel's worship practices?
 - A. They are too extravagant
 - B. They are inconsistent
 - C. They are superficial and empty
 - D. They are not frequent enough
5. What does Amos predict for Israel due to their failure to repent?
 - A. A period of peace

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- B. Imminent disaster and destruction
 - C. A new alliance
 - D. Economic prosperity
6. How should justice and righteousness be characterized, according to Amos 5:24?
- A. Sporadic and occasional
 - B. Like a river and a never-failing stream
 - C. Rare and fleeting
 - D. Temporary and changing
7. How does Amos describe Israel's current state?
- A. Spiritually vibrant
 - B. Economically prosperous
 - C. Corrupt and unjust
 - D. Politically stable
8. What is the call to action for the people of Israel in Amos 5?
- A. To build new temples
 - B. To seek justice and righteousness
 - C. To increase their sacrifices
 - D. To form new political alliances
9. What is the consequence of failing to live righteously, according to Amos?
- A. Eternal salvation
 - B. Divine judgment
 - C. Political change
 - D. Increased wealth
10. How does Amos conclude his message in chapter 5?
- A. With a promise of restoration
 - B. With a warning about impending judgment
 - C. With an invitation to peace
 - D. With a call to build alliances

Answers: B, B, B, C, B, B, C, B, B, B

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Fill in the Blank

1. Amos 5 begins with a _____ over Israel's downfall and predicts their destruction.
2. God rejects Israel's _____ rituals and sacrifices in favor of justice and righteousness.
3. True worship, according to Amos, involves living out _____ and _____ in everyday life.
4. Amos warns of _____ and destruction due to Israel's failure to repent.
5. The chapter emphasizes that God desires justice to flow like a _____ and righteousness like a _____ stream.
6. The criticisms in Amos 5 highlight Israel's _____ and superficial worship practices.
7. The impending disaster is a result of Israel's _____ and corruption.
8. The call to prepare for God's judgment includes seeking _____ and _____.
9. Israel's unrepentance will lead to severe _____ from God.
10. Amos concludes with a stern _____ about the consequences of failing to live righteously.

Answers: lament, empty, justice, righteousness, disaster, river, never-failing, superficial, unrepentance, judgment, warning

Vocabulary Words

1. **Lament (אָבוי - Ebon):** An expression of sorrow or mourning. In Amos 5, Amos laments over Israel's downfall and impending destruction.
2. **Rituals (מִקְרָאִים - Mikra'im):** Ceremonial acts or practices. God rejects Israel's empty rituals in favor of genuine justice and righteousness.
3. **Righteousness (צֶדֶק - Tzedek):** The quality of being morally right or justifiable. God desires righteousness, not mere religious rituals.
4. **Corruption (שֹׁחַת - Shochet):** Dishonest or fraudulent conduct. Amos criticizes Israel for their corruption and unjust practices.
5. **Repentance (תְּשׁוּבָה - Teshuvah):** The act of feeling remorse for one's actions and changing one's behavior. Israel is called to repentance, but they fail to heed the call.

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CHAPTER 6

Summary of Chapter

Amos 6 focuses on the complacency and arrogance of the wealthy and powerful in Israel. The chapter condemns those who live in luxury while ignoring the suffering of the poor and the injustices around them. God declares that because of their arrogance and disregard for justice, they will face severe punishment and exile. Amos proclaims that despite their wealth and perceived security, their downfall is inevitable. The chapter emphasizes that true security and blessing come from living justly and being mindful of the needs of others.

Opening Question

1. How does Amos describe the lifestyle of the wealthy and powerful in Israel, and why is it problematic?
 2. What are some modern examples of complacency and injustice, and how can we address them in our own lives?
-

Outline

1. **Condemnation of Complacency (Amos 6:1-7)**
 - Amos rebukes the complacency of those living in luxury and comfort, ignoring the impending judgment.
 - The self-indulgence of the wealthy contrasts sharply with the coming disaster.

Application Questions:

- How can we recognize and address our own complacency or self-indulgence?

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- What steps can we take to ensure that we are not ignoring the needs of those around us?
- 2. **Denunciation of False Security (Amos 6:8-14)**
 - God denounces the false sense of security among the Israelites, emphasizing that their wealth and power will not save them from judgment.
 - Amos highlights the consequences of their arrogance and injustice.

Application Questions:

- How can we develop true security that is not based on material wealth or status?
 - In what ways can we address and challenge the injustices present in our society?
-

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Amos 6:8, "The Lord GOD has sworn by himself— declares the LORD, the God of hosts: 'I abhor the pride of Jacob and detest his fortresses; I will deliver up the city and everything in it.'" Have students recite the verse and discuss its significance in understanding God's view of pride and injustice.
 2. **Role Playing Activity:** Divide students into groups to role-play different scenarios where they must confront and address various forms of complacency and injustice (e.g., ignoring a friend's needs, participating in unethical practices). After each role-play, discuss how the characters' actions reflect the message of Amos 6.
 3. **Discussion Activity:** Facilitate a discussion on how we can actively work against injustice and complacency in our communities. Encourage students to brainstorm practical steps and share personal experiences related to addressing these issues.
-

Quiz

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1. What does Amos 6 condemn in the wealthy and powerful of Israel?
 - A. Their military strategies
 - B. Their wealth and luxury
 - C. Their religious practices
 - D. Their political alliances
2. According to Amos 6, what will happen to those who live in luxury and ignore justice?
 - A. They will experience continued prosperity
 - B. They will face severe punishment and exile
 - C. They will be given more power
 - D. They will be honored by God
3. What does Amos 6 say about the false sense of security among the Israelites?
 - A. It will protect them from all harm
 - B. It will lead to their downfall
 - C. It will be rewarded by God
 - D. It will be ignored by God
4. What is the primary reason for the condemnation of the wealthy in Amos 6?
 - A. Their lack of religious rituals
 - B. Their neglect of the poor and injustices
 - C. Their military conquests
 - D. Their economic strategies
5. What does God promise to do in response to the pride of Jacob in Amos 6:8?
 - A. Bless the city abundantly
 - B. Deliver up the city and everything in it
 - C. Protect the city from invaders
 - D. Increase the wealth of its inhabitants
6. How does Amos 6 describe the wealthy's reaction to impending judgment?
 - A. They are aware and repentant
 - B. They are indifferent and complacent

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- C. They are actively preparing for it
 - D. They are seeking forgiveness
7. What is the consequence of living in luxury while ignoring injustice, according to Amos 6?
- A. Financial success
 - B. Divine judgment and destruction
 - C. Social status
 - D. Continued comfort
8. How does Amos 6 reflect God's view on pride and self-indulgence?
- A. They are acceptable if balanced with charity
 - B. They are abhorred and lead to judgment
 - C. They are rewarded with more blessings
 - D. They are ignored by God
9. What is the contrast presented in Amos 6 between the lifestyle of the wealthy and the coming disaster?
- A. Wealth brings security, but disaster is inevitable
 - B. Wealth and comfort will protect against disaster
 - C. Disaster is unrelated to wealth and comfort
 - D. Wealth is a sign of divine favor
10. What does Amos 6 emphasize about the relationship between material wealth and divine favor?
- A. Material wealth guarantees divine favor
 - B. Divine favor is unrelated to material wealth
 - C. Material wealth is a sign of divine displeasure
 - D. Divine favor is earned through material success

Answers: B, B, B, B, B, B, B, B, B, B

Fill in the Blank

1. Amos 6 condemns the _____ and complacency of the wealthy in Israel.

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2. The chapter highlights that despite their _____ and luxury, the wealthy will face severe _____.
3. God's judgment is described as inevitable and is not _____ by material wealth or status.
4. The false sense of _____ among the Israelites is addressed, emphasizing that it will lead to their downfall.
5. Amos 6 emphasizes that true _____ and security come from living justly and being mindful of others.
6. The chapter critiques the _____ of ignoring injustice while living in comfort.
7. The promise of _____ and destruction is made in response to the pride of Jacob.
8. Amos 6 challenges the notion that material _____ guarantees divine favor.
9. The contrast presented is between the _____ lifestyle of the wealthy and the coming disaster.
10. The message of Amos 6 calls for a reflection on the _____ between wealth and true security.

Answers: complacency, wealth, judgment, protected, security, arrogance, punishment, favor, indulgent, relationship

Vocabulary Words

1. **Complacency (שִׁלּוּם - Shilum):** A self-satisfied state of being unaware of potential dangers or defects. In Amos 6, it refers to the false sense of security and comfort among the wealthy.
2. **Arrogance (גְּאוּת - Ge'ut):** The quality of being self-important or superior. Amos 6 condemns the arrogance of the wealthy who live in luxury while ignoring justice.
3. **Luxury (תַּעֲנוּגוֹת - Ta'anugot):** Great comfort or elegance, often involving great expense. The chapter criticizes the wealthy for their indulgent lifestyles.
4. **Indifference (שִׁכְחָה - Shikhecha):** Lack of concern or interest. Amos 6 addresses the indifference of the wealthy towards the suffering of others.
5. **Fortress (מִצְדָּה - Mivtzaar):** A fortified place or stronghold. In Amos 6:8, God declares that He will deliver up the city and its fortresses due to the pride and arrogance of its people.

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CHAPTER 7

Summary of Chapter

Amos 7 recounts a series of visions experienced by the prophet Amos, each representing impending judgment upon Israel. The chapter begins with a vision of locusts that God sends to devour the land, followed by a vision of fire threatening to consume everything. Amos intercedes for Israel, and God relents, but Amos then sees a vision of a plumb line, symbolizing God's measuring of Israel's righteousness and their inevitable downfall due to their unfaithfulness. The chapter concludes with the rejection of Amos by the priest Amaziah, who accuses him of conspiring against the king.

Opening Question

1. What do the visions in Amos 7 reveal about the state of Israel and God's judgment?
 2. How can Amos's role as an intercessor for Israel inform our understanding of advocacy and intervention in today's world?
-

Outline

1. Vision of Locusts (Amos 7:1-3)

- Amos describes a vision of locusts sent by God to devastate the land. Amos intercedes for Israel, and God relents from sending the locusts.
- Application Questions:
 - How can we intercede for others in our community who are facing challenges or difficulties?
 - What does this vision teach us about God's responsiveness to repentance and prayer?

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2. Vision of Fire (Amos 7:4-6)

- The second vision shows a fire consuming the land. Again, Amos intercedes, and God relents. This vision represents the potential destruction due to Israel's sin.
- Application Questions:
 - In what ways can we recognize and address the destructive consequences of our actions or behaviors?
 - How can we support and help prevent such consequences in our community?

3. Vision of the Plumb Line (Amos 7:7-9)

- Amos sees a plumb line, symbolizing God's measurement of Israel's righteousness. The vision signifies that Israel's moral and spiritual failings will lead to their downfall.
- Application Questions:
 - How can we use moral and spiritual principles to assess and improve our own lives?
 - What steps can we take to align our community with principles of justice and righteousness?

4. Rejection by Amaziah (Amos 7:10-17)

- The priest Amaziah accuses Amos of conspiracy and demands his departure from Bethel. Amos responds with a prophecy of judgment against Amaziah and the house of Jeroboam.
- Application Questions:
 - How can we respond to criticism or rejection when speaking out for justice or truth?
 - What can we learn from Amos's courage in the face of opposition?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Amos 7:8, "And the LORD said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb line.' Then the LORD said, 'Behold, I am setting a plumb line in

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the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them.” Discuss the significance of the plumb line in the context of God’s judgment.

2. **Role Playing Activity:** Have students role-play scenarios where they must advocate for someone facing injustice or challenge a situation where they are rejected for speaking the truth. Discuss how Amos’s intercession and rejection relate to their scenarios.
 3. **Discussion Activity:** Facilitate a discussion on the concept of God’s judgment and mercy as depicted in the visions of Amos 7. Explore how these concepts can be applied to personal and community actions.
-

Quiz

1. What is the first vision Amos experiences in Amos 7?
 - A. A vision of a plumb line
 - B. A vision of locusts
 - C. A vision of fire
 - D. A vision of an earthquake
2. What does Amos do in response to the vision of locusts?
 - A. He praises God
 - B. He intercedes for Israel
 - C. He ignores the vision
 - D. He reports it to the king
3. What does the vision of fire represent in Amos 7?
 - A. The coming of a new leader
 - B. Potential destruction due to sin
 - C. A time of peace
 - D. The prosperity of Israel
4. What is symbolized by the plumb line in Amos 7?
 - A. God’s measurement of righteousness

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- B. A new covenant with Israel
 - C. A promise of protection
 - D. A sign of blessing
5. How does God respond to Amos's intercession after the vision of fire?
- A. He sends more locusts
 - B. He relents from sending destruction
 - C. He destroys Israel immediately
 - D. He increases the fire
6. What is the reaction of Amaziah, the priest, to Amos's prophecy?
- A. He welcomes Amos
 - B. He accuses Amos of conspiring against the king
 - C. He supports Amos's message
 - D. He asks Amos to stay longer
7. What does Amos prophesy about Amaziah and the house of Jeroboam?
- A. They will be blessed
 - B. They will face judgment
 - C. They will become allies
 - D. They will be forgiven
8. How does Amos describe his vision of the plumb line?
- A. As a symbol of prosperity
 - B. As a sign of divine favor
 - C. As a measure of Israel's righteousness
 - D. As a warning of famine
9. What does Amos 7 say about God's judgment and mercy?
- A. God's judgment is inevitable and unchangeable
 - B. God's mercy will always prevent judgment
 - C. God's judgment can be relented through intercession
 - D. God's judgment is arbitrary

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10. What is the main theme of Amos 7?
- A. The blessings of Israel
 - B. The visions of judgment and the response to them
 - C. The prosperity of the wealthy
 - D. The peace treaties with neighboring nations

Answers: B, B, B, A, B, B, B, C, C, B

Fill in the Blank

- 1. In Amos 7, the first vision is of _____ sent by God to devour the land.
- 2. Amos intercedes for Israel, and God _____ from sending the locusts.
- 3. The vision of _____ represents the potential destruction due to Israel's sin.
- 4. The plumb line symbolizes God's _____ of Israel's righteousness.
- 5. The chapter concludes with the rejection of Amos by the _____ Amaziah.
- 6. Amos's intercession shows the possibility of _____ in the face of impending judgment.
- 7. The vision of the plumb line signifies the inevitable _____ due to Israel's unfaithfulness.
- 8. Amaziah accuses Amos of conspiring against the _____ Jeroboam.
- 9. The main message of Amos 7 emphasizes God's _____ and judgment.
- 10. The chapter highlights the response of the people to _____ and prophecy.

Answers: locusts, relents, fire, measurement, priest, mercy, downfall, king, judgment, truth

Vocabulary Words

- 1. **Locusts (אַרְבֵּה - Arbeh):** Insects known for their swarming behavior and destructive impact on crops. In Amos 7, they represent impending devastation.
- 2. **Plumb Line (קוֹלֵב - Qolev):** A tool used to measure vertical alignment, symbolizing God's standard of righteousness and justice.
- 3. **Intercede (פָּלַל - Palal):** To intervene on behalf of someone in prayer or advocacy. Amos intercedes for Israel to seek mercy from God.

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4. **Relent (נָחַם - Nacham):** To withdraw or change one's mind, especially regarding punishment or judgment. God relents from sending disaster after Amos's intercession.
5. **Amaziah (עֲמָצִיָּה - Amatsyah):** The priest who rejects Amos and accuses him of conspiracy. His actions reflect resistance to God's message.

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CHAPTER 8

Summary of Chapter

Amos 8 presents a vision of a basket of summer fruit, symbolizing the impending end of Israel's time of grace and the certainty of judgment. God announces that the end is near for Israel, highlighting the corruption and injustices within the nation. The chapter depicts a series of judgments against Israel's moral and social failings, including the exploitation of the poor and corrupt practices in commerce. It concludes with a prophecy of a famine not of bread or water, but of hearing the words of the Lord, emphasizing a spiritual desolation and loss of divine guidance.

Opening Question

1. What does the vision of the basket of summer fruit symbolize about the state of Israel in Amos 8?
 2. How does the idea of a famine for the words of the Lord relate to our understanding of spiritual hunger and guidance?
-

Outline

1. **Vision of the Basket of Summer Fruit (Amos 8:1-2)**
 - Amos sees a vision of a basket of summer fruit, symbolizing the imminent end of Israel's period of grace. God declares the end of the nation's prosperity and divine favor.
 - Application Questions:
 - How can we recognize signs of spiritual decline in our own lives or communities?
 - What steps can we take to ensure we remain in a state of spiritual readiness and alignment with God?

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2. Judgment Against Israel's Injustice (Amos 8:3-6)

- The chapter describes the consequences of Israel's exploitation of the poor and dishonest practices in commerce. The Lord declares that such injustices will lead to their downfall.
- Application Questions:
 - In what ways can we address and prevent injustice in our society?
 - How can we promote fairness and honesty in our personal and professional lives?

3. Prophecy of a Famine of Hearing the Words of the Lord (Amos 8:7-14)

- God prophesies a famine not of food but of hearing His words, indicating a spiritual desolation and the withdrawal of divine guidance. People will seek the Lord but will not find Him.
- Application Questions:
 - How can we cultivate a deeper relationship with God to avoid spiritual famine?
 - What role does the availability of spiritual teaching and guidance play in our faith journey?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Amos 8:11, "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord GOD, when I will send a famine on the land— not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD." Discuss the implications of this famine in the context of spiritual growth and dependency on God's word.
2. **Role Playing Activity:** Have students role-play scenarios where they encounter injustice or dishonesty in various situations, and discuss ways to respond according to biblical principles. Include discussions on how to advocate for fairness and integrity.
3. **Discussion Activity:** Facilitate a discussion on the concept of a spiritual famine as described in Amos 8. Explore how the absence of divine guidance can impact individuals and communities, and brainstorm ways to ensure a continuous connection with God.

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Quiz

1. What does the vision of the basket of summer fruit represent in Amos 8?
 - A. The end of Israel's period of grace
 - B. A time of great prosperity
 - C. An increase in divine favor
 - D. A season of harvest
2. What does the Lord say about the exploitation and dishonest practices in Israel?
 - A. They will lead to increased blessings
 - B. They will be overlooked
 - C. They will result in the nation's downfall
 - D. They will be rewarded
3. What type of famine does God prophesy in Amos 8?
 - A. A famine of food and water
 - B. A famine of spiritual guidance
 - C. A famine of wealth
 - D. A famine of peace
4. According to Amos 8, what will people seek but not find?
 - A. Prosperity
 - B. Food
 - C. The words of the Lord
 - D. Water
5. How does God describe the end of Israel's grace in Amos 8?
 - A. As a new beginning
 - B. As a time of renewal
 - C. As imminent
 - D. As distant

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6. What will be the result of the injustices described in Amos 8?
 - A. Divine intervention
 - B. Prosperity
 - C. Destruction and judgment
 - D. Peace
7. How does Amos 8 describe the social conditions of Israel?
 - A. Fair and just
 - B. Prosperous and fair
 - C. Corrupt and exploitative
 - D. Peaceful and righteous
8. What is the main theme of Amos 8?
 - A. Prosperity and blessing
 - B. Divine retribution and spiritual famine
 - C. Peace and harmony
 - D. Wealth and abundance
9. How does the concept of spiritual famine affect individuals according to Amos 8?
 - A. It brings material wealth
 - B. It results in greater understanding
 - C. It leads to a lack of divine guidance
 - D. It fosters community growth
10. What should believers do to avoid a spiritual famine?
 - A. Seek material wealth
 - B. Avoid divine teachings
 - C. Cultivate a strong relationship with God
 - D. Focus on social status

Answers: A, C, B, C, C, C, B, C, C

Fill in the Blank

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1. The vision of a _____ of summer fruit represents the end of Israel's time of grace in Amos 8.
2. The chapter describes Israel's _____ of the poor and dishonest practices in commerce.
3. The Lord prophesies a famine not of bread or water but of _____ the words of the Lord.
4. The famine will lead to a spiritual _____ and loss of divine guidance.
5. The people will seek the Lord but will not _____ Him.
6. Injustice and corruption will result in _____ and judgment for Israel.
7. The main message of Amos 8 emphasizes the need to avoid spiritual _____ and maintain a connection with God.
8. The vision of the summer fruit symbolizes the _____ end of Israel's grace.
9. The prophecy underscores the impact of _____ on both individuals and communities.
10. Believers should focus on cultivating a _____ relationship with God to avoid spiritual famine.

Answers: basket, exploitation, hearing, desolation, find, destruction, famine, imminent, famine, strong

Vocabulary Words

1. **Famine (רָעָב - Ra'av):** A severe shortage of food, but in Amos 8, it symbolizes a lack of spiritual guidance and divine revelation.
2. **Exploitation (מִשְׁחָת - Mishchat):** The act of taking unfair advantage of others, particularly in the context of economic injustice.
3. **Desolation (שְׁמָמָה - Shammah):** The state of being abandoned or uninhabited, used metaphorically in Amos 8 to describe spiritual emptiness.
4. **Grace (חֵן - Chen):** The unmerited favor of God, which Israel is said to be on the verge of losing according to Amos 8.
5. **Prophecy (נְבוּאָה - Nebu'ah):** A divinely inspired prediction or message, which in Amos 8 refers to the impending spiritual famine and judgment.

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CHAPTER 9

Summary of Chapter

Amos 9 describes the final vision of the prophet, which includes God's judgment on Israel and a promise of restoration. The chapter opens with a vision of the Lord standing by the altar, commanding the destruction of idol worship and the collapsing of the corrupt practices in Israel. Despite the impending destruction due to Israel's sins, God promises a future restoration and a remnant of His people will be saved. This chapter emphasizes both the severity of divine judgment and the hope of redemption and renewal for those who remain faithful.

Opening Question

1. What does the vision of the Lord standing by the altar reveal about the state of worship and justice in Israel?
 2. How does the promise of restoration in Amos 9 provide hope amidst the prophecy of judgment?
-

Outline

1. **Vision of Destruction (Amos 9:1-4)**
 - Amos sees the Lord standing by the altar, declaring the destruction of the altar and the judgment upon idol worship. The vision emphasizes the inevitability of divine judgment on Israel's sins.
 - Application Questions:
 - How can we identify and address areas of our lives that may be displeasing to God?

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- What role does repentance play in seeking God's forgiveness and avoiding judgment?

2. The Inescapability of God's Judgment (Amos 9:5-10)

- The Lord's power over creation is highlighted, indicating that no one can escape His judgment. Despite the people's efforts to hide from God's gaze, His judgment will reach them wherever they are.
- Application Questions:
 - In what ways can we better understand the omnipresence and omnipotence of God in our daily lives?
 - How can acknowledging God's all-encompassing presence affect our choices and behavior?

3. Promise of Restoration and Renewal (Amos 9:11-15)

- God promises to restore the fallen tent of David, bringing prosperity and security to Israel. This restoration will be marked by abundant blessings and the return of the people from exile.
- Application Questions:
 - How can we apply the concept of God's restoration to our personal and communal experiences?
 - What steps can we take to remain hopeful and faithful during challenging times?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Amos 9:14, "I will bring back the exiles of my people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit." Discuss the significance of this promise in the context of God's restoration.

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2. **Role Playing Activity:** Role-play a scenario where individuals are confronted with their actions and need to seek forgiveness and restoration. Discuss how repentance and change can lead to a renewed relationship with God.
 3. **Discussion Activity:** Facilitate a discussion on the themes of judgment and restoration in Amos 9. Explore how these themes reflect God's justice and mercy, and how they can inspire hope and transformation in our own lives.
-

Quiz

1. What does the vision of the Lord standing by the altar signify in Amos 9?
 - A. The end of divine judgment
 - B. The destruction of idol worship and corruption
 - C. The beginning of peace
 - D. The growth of prosperity
2. According to Amos 9, how is God's judgment described?
 - A. Avoidable
 - B. Limited to certain areas
 - C. Inescapable and all-encompassing
 - D. Temporary
3. What does the promise of restoration in Amos 9 include?
 - A. Immediate forgiveness
 - B. Rebuilding of cities and prosperity
 - C. Continued exile
 - D. Abandonment of Israel
4. How does God intend to restore Israel according to Amos 9?
 - A. By increasing their enemies
 - B. By bringing back exiles and rebuilding cities

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- C. By leaving them in their current state
 - D. By changing the laws
5. What is emphasized about God's power in Amos 9?
- A. It is limited by human actions
 - B. It is confined to certain regions
 - C. It is omnipresent and cannot be avoided
 - D. It is only active in peace times
6. What is the reaction of the people to the prophecy of destruction?
- A. They embrace it
 - B. They ignore it
 - C. They attempt to escape from it
 - D. They celebrate it
7. What is the main message of Amos 9 regarding judgment and restoration?
- A. Judgment is only a temporary phase
 - B. Restoration comes without judgment
 - C. Divine judgment is certain, but restoration follows
 - D. There will be no restoration
8. How are the people expected to respond to the promise of restoration?
- A. With indifference
 - B. With resistance
 - C. With hope and rebuilding
 - D. With continued disobedience
9. What does Amos 9:14 promise about the future of Israel?
- A. They will remain in ruin
 - B. They will rebuild and prosper
 - C. They will face greater destruction
 - D. They will be abandoned
10. What role does repentance play in the context of Amos 9?
- A. It is irrelevant

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- B. It is a prerequisite for restoration
- C. It delays judgment
- D. It leads to immediate prosperity

Answers: B, C, B, B, C, C, C, C, B, B

Fill in the Blank

1. The vision of the Lord standing by the _____ signifies the coming destruction of idol worship and corruption in Israel.
2. God's judgment is described as _____ and cannot be avoided by the people of Israel.
3. The promise of restoration includes _____ of cities and prosperity for Israel.
4. Despite the prophecy of destruction, God assures that He will _____ the exiles and bring them back to their land.
5. The people of Israel will rebuild _____ and enjoy the blessings of God's restoration.
6. God's power in Amos 9 is depicted as _____ and all-encompassing.
7. The chapter emphasizes both divine _____ and the hope of future renewal.
8. Amos 9 highlights the importance of _____ in maintaining a faithful relationship with God.
9. The promise of restoration is a response to Israel's _____ and future repentance.
10. Restoration in Amos 9 is marked by _____ and abundance following the judgment.

Answers: altar, inescapable, rebuilding, restore, cities, omnipresent, judgment, repentance, sin, rebuilding

Vocabulary Words

1. **Inescapable (נִמְצָא - Nimtsa):** Impossible to avoid or evade, describing the certainty of God's judgment in Amos 9.
2. **Restoration (שִׁקּוּם - Shikume):** The act of returning something to its former or better state, as God promises to restore Israel's cities and prosperity.

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3. **Exile (גלות - Galut):** The state of being removed from one's homeland, from which God promises to bring back His people.
4. **Corruption (תשחת - Shachat):** Moral decay or dishonest behavior that leads to divine judgment.
5. **Omnipresent (שם - Sham):** Present everywhere at the same time, highlighting God's all-encompassing power in administering judgment and restoration.