

## BIBLE READING FOR 2023

**WEEK #46**

**AMOS, OBADIAH & JONAH**

**11-12-23**

Monday - Amos 1-3

Wednesday - Amos 6-8

Friday - Jonah 1-3

Tuesday - Amos 4-5

Thursday - Amos 9 - Obadiah

**Amos** is a book of prophecy that was primarily directed at the northern kingdom of Israel but was written by a man from the southern kingdom of Judah. The very first verse of the book identifies the author as Amos from the city of Tekoa. By taking note of the kings that he refers to being in power during his ministry, he probably wrote his book sometime toward the end of the period from about 760 to 750 B.C.. He is an excellent example of how God used various kinds of people to deliver his message. Amos tells us that he was a shepherd and a grower of sycamore trees, which produced a type of fig. He makes it clear that before the Lord chose to use him in this capacity he was not a prophet nor had his father been a prophet (Amos 7:14). However, since God was communicating through him it was absolutely necessary that Israel listen to his warnings and obey.

Amos was a righteous man that God used to preach boldly and powerfully to a group of people that were steeped in idolatry. Economically the nation was at its peak but those with wealth were unable to satisfy their desires for excess and were heartlessly abusing the poor in the pursuit of their own selfish goals. Amos is known for his stern rebukes and fiery responses to these social injustices and religious hypocrisy.

**An outline** for the book of Amos: 1.) Judgments against eight cities or nations 1-2  
2.) Three sermons to Israel 3-6  
3.) Five visions concerning Israel 7-9

**Obadiah** is the shortest book of the Old Testament. There are several individuals with this name in the Scriptures but nothing indicates they are the same Obadiah that authored this prophetic writing. This Obadiah appears to have been a prophet from Judah but we have no other specific information about him. His message though is very clearly a judgment against Edom for her lack of help to Judah. When she was under attack not only did Edom fail to defend her sister nation (Judah was the descendents of Jacob and Edom was the descendents of Jacob's twin brother Esau) but evidently joined in the looting of Jerusalem when she was conquered. Because of this God promised Edom would be destroyed. Although earlier dates are suggested the most prevalent thinking leans toward a time of authorship shortly after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 B.C..

An outline for Obadiah: 1.) Arrogant Edom to be humbled 1-9  
2.) Reasons for her destruction 10-14  
3.) The day of the Lord 15-21

**Jonah** is a book of prophecy written by a man of the same name, who was the son of Amittai (Jonah 1:1). Jonah is also referred to in 2 Kings 14:23-27 as a prophet from the town of Gath-hepher, which was about two miles north of Nazareth. He was a contemporary of Jeroboam the son of Joash, who was king of Israel from 793 to 753 B.C., and that gives us a general time frame for when Jonah might have authored his book. The purpose of the book is to record how God used Jonah to preach to Nineveh of Assyria, and how that Gentile city repented and was therefore spared punishment at that time. Jonah, an unwilling messenger, experienced a miracle that convinced him to carry out his mission. However, even when he did go to Nineveh, he did so with a wrong attitude and received further correction from the Lord.

An outline for Jonah: 1.) Jonah's flight 1  
2.) Jonah's prayer 2  
3.) Nineveh's repentance 3  
4.) Jonah's disappointment 4

**Questions** for Amos, Obadiah & Jonah:

- 1.) From Amos 1:1 we learn that Amos was from what city and was involved in what occupation?
- 2.) What did God say His people had turned justice and righteousness into in Amos 6:12?
- 3.) In Obadiah 1 & 6, what two names are used interchangeably?
- 4.) What city was Jonah told to go to and why in Jonah 1:1-2?
- 5.) Where was Jonah in Jonah 2:1 and what did he do there?

**Answers** to questions for Week #45 – Hosea & Joel:

- 1.) Idolatry described as harlotry.
- 2.) He bought his wife out of slavery for 15 shekels of silver and a homer and a half of barley.
- 3.) Some day in the future the sons of Israel would come back to God.
- 4.) A morning cloud and the dew which goes away early.
- 5.) He will pour out His Spirit upon all mankind.