

If Kerioth is the proper name of a city (2:2) it is probably the same one mentioned on the Moabite Stone..a Moabite city eight miles east of the Dead Sea.

Keys to understanding Amos start with the understanding that the theme is one of judgment relieved only occasionally by glimpses of hope. Amos 3:2 explains, in its cryptic manner, the basis for the Lord's judgment against Israel. Amos 7:1-15 outlines Amos's defense of his own call and ministry as a prophet. Amos 9:11-15 holds out the promise of restoration to Israel.

The study of Amos is helped by a few simple steps: Read the book at a single sitting. Then read 2 Kings 14:23-15:7 and 2 Chronicles 26 for some historical background. Because of the importance of Amos for understanding the social and historic conditions in Israel, read through it again, keeping an eye out for hings and clues to those conditions--what conclusions then can you draw about his times? How does Amos use the Pentateuch (1:11-; 2:9-10; 3:1, 13; 4:11; 5:6, 25; 7:16)? Which names of God does Amos use and how often? Use a concordance to examine other places where these names are used and then check a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia to see the significance of each.

From your study of the book, what sort of man was Amos? How does this picture of him fit with his message? Locate the nations condemned in chapters 1-2 on a mpa. How does Amos progress? What is the logic and force of his argument?

Among the classics, John Singer Sargetn (1856-1925), American portrait artist, included Amos in JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY, a series of murals in the Boston Public Library.

Further reading and study may include DAY OF THE LION (IVP) by J.A. Motyer in the series The Bible Speaks Today. AMOS: ISRAEL ON TRIAL (Shaw), by Whitney Kuniholm, is a group study guide which seeks to relate Amos to contemporary life.

b. A somewhat extended outline for our study purposes

- I. The judgments: 1:1-6:14
  - A. On the nations about Israel 1:2--2:3
  - B. Judah 2:4-5
  - C. Israel 2:6-6:14
    - 1. Historic setting 2:6-16
    - 2. The offenses, correctives and response 3:1-6:14
- II. The Vision 7-9
  - A. Five visions of judgment 7:1 -9:10
  - B. A vision of restoration 9:11-15

All of these points need filling in but it gives a general concept of the prophetic message

c. Among other things you will want to study more are:

- the numerical collocations (3 and 4)
- the "logic" of the prophet (and God!) (3:1-8)
- the invitations to repentance (5:14-15) etc.
- literary structure of the various chapters (5)