June 28, 2026

Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
The New Testament tells us, In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and through the Scriptures and guidance of the Holy Spirit, God's truth still instructs us today.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK:
Father, I have big questions today, and I need Your Spirit to guide me into Your truth. Help me to trust You in the things I can't see.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
[1] God, who at various times and in various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, [2] has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;
(Hebrews 1:1-2 NKJV)

Summer Series: The Testimony of Faithful Witnesses

NEXT WEEK

UNIT 2: Faithful Witnesses Say "Yes" to Jesus

The Believing Centurion

Matthew 8:5-13

Amos, the Courageous Prophet
Amos 1:1; 2:11-12; 3:7-8; 7:10-15

Lesson Background and Introduction

The book of Amos is one of 12 entries in the section of the Bible known as the Minor Prophets. These books are not "minor" in message; they are "minor" only in length when compared with the "major" prophets of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

Amos preached in the northern kingdom of Israel in about 755 BC (see more on Amos 1:1). He ministered during a period of economic prosperity (3:15; 6:4-6). The national borders had been extended significantly through military campaigns (2 Kings 14:23-28). All this resulted in excessive pride and injustice among the people (Amos 6:8, 12-13).

Despite material wealth, the kingdom was in spiritual decline. The people practiced idolatrous worship at national shrines in the cities of Dan, Bethel, and Gilgal (Amos 4:4; 5:5, 26; 8:14; compare 1 Kings 12:28-30). The people silenced voices that challenged their practices (Amos 2:11). Again, the question is: Whose words will be heeded?

Key Verse: Amos 7:15

Then the Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.'

(*Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary*)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Amos Identified (Amos 1:1)

A shepherd (1)

A shepherd that acts as an example and as an overseer willingly (1 Peter 5:2-4)

A shepherd that feeds the flock out of love (John 21:15-17)

A shepherd that seeks and abides by God's counsel (Jer 23:22)

A shepherd that participates in the making disciples of others (Matt 28:19-20)

A shepherd that is a watchman and who is accountable for the flock (Ezek 33:7-9)

Current services (1)

Serving wholeheartedly (Eph 6:7)

Serving with gifts that God has given (1 Peter 4:10)

Serving as a servant (Mark 10:43)

Serving to please and build up others (Rom 15:2)

Serving prompted by love and faith (1 Thess 1:3)

Assignment of Prophets (Amos 2:11-12)

God raised up prophets (11)

Prophets that are anointed (1 Kings 19:16)

Prophets that inquire from God (1 Kings 22:8)

Prophets that delivers God's word to people (2 Kings 17:13)

Prophets that are recognized that they are from God (1 Sam 3:20)

God's assignment to prophesy (12)

Prophesy through being used by God (Hos 12:13)

Prophesy about the revelations of God (Amos 3:7)

Prophesy about God's promises (Acts 3:21-22)

Prophesy about all nations will come to God (Mic 4:2)

God Seeking Servants (Amos 3:7-8)

God's Divine plan (7)

God's plans will endure forever (Ps 33:11)

God's plans conform to His Will and must happen (Eph 1:11)

God's plans cannot be added to or taken from (Eccl 3:14)

God's plans for us to be made perfect (Heb 11:40)

God's empowerment (8)

Empowerment for unity (Rom 15:5)

Empowerment to witness (Acts 1:8)

Empowerment to stand firm (2 Cor 1:21-22)

Empowerment to endure (James 1:2-4)

Struggles of Amos (Amos 7:10-15)

Conspiracy (10-11)

Conspiracy can depend on persuasion of a crowd (Matt 27:20)

Conspiracy is strengthened when a few win others over to their ideas (Acts 14:19)

Conspiracy that approves and agrees with those who carry out the actions (Rom 1:32)

Conspiracy that has been prophesied (2 Tim 3:1-5)

Worldly advice (12-13)

Worldly advice from friends (1 King 12:8)

Worldly advice from those who gossip (Prov 20:19)

Worldly advice from those whose desire it is to cause division (Rom 16:17)

Worldly advice from those whose desire it is to deceive (Eph 5:6)

God's calling (14-15)

A calling because the Law required it (Num 18:5-7)

A calling that God provided to Jesus (John 8:54)

A calling to be like Melchizedek (Heb 7:14-16)

A calling that came from heaven (John 3:27)