

The Minor Prophets “The Twelve”

Hosea	Nahum
Joel	Habakkuk
Amos	Zephaniah
Obadiah	Haggai
Jonah	Zechariah
Micah	Malachi

Prophetic Ministry: 850 – 430 B.C.

Amos

“Prepare to Meet Your God”

Message: Impending judgment of God upon Israel

Cause: Israel’s Sin

- Root: Forsaken the Lord (hard-hearted)
- Manifestations:
 - (1) Detestable Worship
 - (2) Social Injustice

Social Injustice

God’s Indictment

- Amos 2:6-7 – unjust practice of “debt-slavery”
- Amos 3:13-4:1 – oppress the poor while living in luxury
- Amos 5:10-12 – love dishonest gain and hate integrity
- Amos 6:1-6 – false security in their material wealth
- Amos 8:4-6 – all sins rolled into one

Social Injustice

God’s Desire

- Establish and practice social justice
 - Amos 5:14-15
 - Amos 5:23-24 (cf. Micah 6:6-8)

Why is this so essential?

1. Reflects the character of God
2. A barometer of one’s heart

James 1:27

“This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”

1 Samuel 15:22

“...has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, *to obey is better than sacrifice*, and to heed than the fat of rams.”

Principle:

The reality of our religion is seen in our love for and practice of justice

Application:

1. Personal Affairs
 - Doing what is right regardless of the benefit to us
 - Includes compassion to those in need
2. Social Affairs
 - We are responsible to establish social justice in our society—God is concerned with this!

How shall we “establish justice in the gate?”

1. Influence social policy

- In a fallen society, we need restrictive laws that will guard against injustice and oppression
- Includes protection of the poor and disadvantaged

2. Proclamation of the Gospel

- Injustice is a heart issue that can only be changed through conversion
- This is Ultimate!