

Lesson #20 BP Notes by Dr. Frank, All

Book Overview

Amos

God calls a Judean shepherd named Amos to confront the wrong doing of the people of Israel, offering them one more chance before facing God's judgement.

Amos was a shepherd and fig tree farmer.

Lived on the border between Israel and Judah.

Israel seized independence 150 yrs previously.

Jeroboam II was a very bad king.

The allowed idol worship. This led to injustice and neglect of the poor.

Amos couldn't take it anymore, so he went north to Bethel. He started to preach there. Wrote a collection of sermons, poems and visions.

Book has clear Design: 1. Ch. 1-2 A message to the nations and Israel, 2. Ch. 3-6 A message to Israel and its leaders and, 3. Amos' visions of God's coming judgement.

1. Ch. 1-2 A Message to nations and Israel.
 - a. Accuse nations for all their injustice.
 - b. Then accuses Israel.
2. A Message to Israel and its leaders.
 - a. Alludes to Genesis 12. Abraham's family to be a blessing to all of the nations.
 - i. Great calling comes great responsibility so their sin has great responsibility.
 - b. Exposes leaders of religious hypocrisy.
 - i. Doing religious offering while at the same time ignoring the poor.
 - ii. God hates their religious because discounts how they treat people.
 - iii. Righteousness = right relationships i.e. equity despite social differences.
 - iv. Justice = concrete actions taken to correct injustice.
 - c. Accusations of Israel's idolatry.

- i. Worshipping foreign gods lead to more injustice because these gods don't require justice like God requires.
 - ii. Seeking God is synonymous with doing good.
- 3. Because the King rejected Amos and prophets then god will send the Day of the Lord.
 - a. This is God's justice upon Israel.
 - b. Assyrians will be God's hand of justice.
- 4. Amos' "Visions".
 - a. Symbolic depictions of the Day of the Lord.
 - i. Locust swarm.
 - ii. Scorching fire.
 - iii. Swallowed up like over ripe fruit.
 - b. Final vision is God striking main pillar of Idol Temple. Whole structure comes tumbling down.
 - c. Final paragraph (9:11-15) there is a glimmer of hope.
 - i. Out of ruins, He will restore the house of David.
 - 1. Messianic King of David's line will come.
 - ii. Will build NEW family of God BUT now will also include others from foreign nations.
 - d. Relationship with God's justice and His mercy.

Lesson #20

Book Overview

Joel

Describes the Day of the Lord through locust swarms, battles and powerful imagery so that readers can understand its magnitude.

A short collection of prophetic poems.

Joel is powerful and puzzling.

Joel unique among the prophets because: 1. Not sure when this book was written. Probably around Ezra/Nehemiah's time, post Exile, 2. Very familiar with the other prophetic books and, 3. Joel never accuses Israel of any specific sin. He assumes we've already read the other prophets.

1. Chapters 1-2a The Day of the Lord (Save Israel and confront evil)
 - a. Ch. 1 – Past Day of the Lord e.g. Egypt
 - i. No locust will come to Israel.
 - b. Future Day of the Lord
 - i. Locusts represent foreign armies.
 - c. Israel “repent”. Make authentic change.
 - i. God’s mercy greater than His judgement.
2. Ch. 2b – God’s response to their repentance.
 - a. Will turn judgement into salvation.
 - i. Will defeat “locusts”.
 - ii. Repair the land.
 - iii. Restore relationship with God.
3. Ch. 2c-3 – The FUTURE Day of the Lord.
 - a. God’s presence will fill not only the Temple but also all of God’s people.
 - i. Refers to Jeremiah 33:31, Ezekiel 36:27 and Isaiah.
 - b. God will confront evil of ALL nations.
 - c. Will restore entire world. NEW Eden.
 - d. Whole new creation.

Lesson #20
Book Overview
Jonah

Through satire and intricate storytelling, the book of Jonah invites readers to consider God’s comparison and mercy that extends to us and our enemies.

It’s a story about a rebellious prophet.

Doesn’t focus on WORDS of the prophet but it’s a story about a prophet. He was mean and nasty.

Jonah also in 2 Kings 14:23-25 where he prophesied in favor of Jeroboam II, a really bad king.

Amos also spoke to Jeroboam II and reversed Jonah’s prophecy.

The book has a beautiful literary design: 1. Chapters 1 and 3 Jonah's encounter with non-Israelites and, 2. Chapters 2 and 4 Prayers of Jonah.

Book has a unique narration style because characters do opposite what you expect them to do i.e. using Satire.

1. Chapter 1: Jonah and the sailors.
 - a. God commissions Jonah to go to Nineveh, the Capitol of Assyria.
 - i. He runs away to Tarshish because he hated the Assyrians.
 1. Storm erupts.
 2. Confession to sailors about the situation.
 3. Tossed overboard.
 4. Whale emits Jonah on shore towards Nineveh.
2. Chapter 3: God recommissions Jonah to preach in Nineveh. This time he obeys and does it.
 - a. He preached one day that judgement is coming.
 - i. The King and People repent!!!
 1. Transformed
3. Jonah gets angry with God.
 - a. Accuses God of being merciful!!
 - b. So angry that he asks that God KILL him!!
4. God's final words concludes the book.
 - a. PEOPLE ARE MORE VALUABLE THAN HIS "SHADE"!
 - i. God is messing with the READER.
 - ii. Challenges our world view.

Lesson #20

Book Overviews

Nahum

Nahum announces the destruction of Assyria and reveals that God will protect his faithful people and punish all arrogant, violent and evil nations.

Collection of poems announcing the downfall of Assyria/Nineveh (612BC) by Babylon.

Chapter 2: The fall of Nineveh.

Chapter 3: Fall of Assyria

1. Chapter 1 – Opens with Alphabet Poem describing God’s powerful appearance in His glory.
 - i. Similar to how Micah begins his book.
 - ii. Habakkuk concludes with God’s glory.
 - a. God confronts evil of the nations.
 - a. Exodus 34:6-7 God is slow to anger but He won’t let evil go unpunished.
 - b. When god brings down the nations He will provide refuge for those who humble themselves before Him.
 - b. Fall of Nineveh is used as an example of god’s judgement of ALL nations.
2. Chapter 2 – Fall of Nineveh
3. Chapter 3 – Results of Nineveh’s downfall.
 - a. God says that the injustice and violence of Assyria built their nation. But this violence sowed the seeds of their destruction.
 - b. Nations that suffered from Assyrian violence don’t rescue it but celebrate the fall of Assyria and their King.
 - c. God is grieved by the death of the innocent due to the violence of the powerful.
 - d. God invites reader to be patient and trust God that evil will be dealt with by God.

Lesson #20
Book Overview
Obadiah

He tells of God's harsh judgement against Edom and other ungodly nations. Sobering picture that is still relevant today.

Shortest book in the whole OT.

Poems of divine judgement against ancient Edom.

Shared ancestry with Israel.

Esau started Edom.

When Babylon plundered Jerusalem, Edom took advantage of the situation and plundered other Israelite cities. Captured and even killed Israelite refugees.

The book has two halves.

1. Verses 1-14 – Accusations against the leaders of Edom i.e. Day of the Lord for Edom.
 - a. Their pride and self-exultation.
 - b. As they've done to Israel so it will be done to them.
2. Verse 15 (Connector between halves). The Day of the Lord for ALL nations.
3. Verses 16-21 The Day of the Lord for ALL nations.
 - a. All nations that are prideful will face God's judgement like Edom.
4. God's judgement of Edom and ALL nations is an example/lesson to all nations at any time in history.
5. God's judgement is never His final word.
 - a. God will raise up a new nation, including other nations.

Lesson #20
Book Overview
Hosea

Northern Israel's continued rebellion threatens their covenant with God, but God sends Hosea to warn them of coming judgement and compels them to repent.

Hosea to warn them of coming judgment and compels them to repent.

Israel can also be called Ephraim or Jacob.

Events are 100 years after breaking off from Judah i.e. the Southern Kingdom.

Hosea has 3 main sections.

1. Chapters 1-3 Hosea's broken marriage to Gomer.
 - a. She commits adultery.
 - i. God tells Hosea to find and restore her and commit his life to her, like God is doing with Israel.
 - b. God will restore hope in Israel and send the Messianic King.
 - i. God's covenant love is more powerful than Israel's SIN!
2. Chapters 4-11 Accusations and warnings for Israel.
 - a. Israel lacks knowledge and understanding of God.
 - i. To "know" is personal and relational.
 - b. Hypocrisy of Israel's worship!
 - i. 10 commandments are being broken.
 - ii. Social injustice.
 - iii. Then they worship/sacrifice as if everything is fine when it's NOT!
 1. They also worship Baal on top of all these sins.
 - c. Trusting in alliances with Egypt and Assyria more than trusting God.
 - i. They want to become like those nations.
3. Chapters 12-14 More accusations and warnings from God. Hosea's history lesson.
 - a. Jacob's lying and treachery.
 - b. Israel's rebellion in the wilderness.
 - c. Appointed corrupt King Saul.
4. Chapter 11
5. Hope for the future!
 - a. God is loving Father.
 - b. But "son" rebels against that loving father.
 - c. God is emotionally torn apart.

- i. Angry and compassionate
- 6. Chapter 14 Hope for the future!
 - a. Repent but God knows their repentance won't last.
 - i. God will "heal" them! Genesis 12:2-3 i.e. they will be a blessing to the nations.