

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Amos 7:10-17

Sunday, July 30, 2017

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Why did God send Amos, from the Kingdom of Judah, to preach in Bethel?

God sent Amos as a representative of the true God, the LORD, from the Southern Kingdom (Kingdom of Judah) to the Northern Kingdom (Kingdom of Israel) to Bethel,

which was formerly known as “the House of God,” where Jacob/Israel built an altar to God after God spoke to him the first time. Bethel was one of two places where Jeroboam I had erected golden calves or bulls that he said were the god that had led the Israelites out of Egypt. He blasphemed the LORD by calling these idols by His Name. The Israelites were also guilty of many injustices and oppression of the poor. Since they refused to listen to their own prophets, God sent Amos from the Southern Kingdom. They had many warnings from God, and they repeatedly refused to repent.

2. Why did Amaziah accuse Amos of preaching a conspiracy against Jeroboam II?

The temple where Amos preached was “the temple of the king,” and Amos was warning that Jeroboam II would die by the sword; therefore, since Jeroboam II was unable to protect his people and the people refused to repent and return to the LORD, God would punish Israel by sending the people into exile after Assyria conquered them. Amaziah accused Amos of spreading dissension and trying to overthrow the king.

3. Compared to other prophets, what kind of a prophet was Amos?

Amos was not a professional prophet. Amos was not a member of a group of prophets or the son of a prophet. He was not a hired prophet of a king to tell him what he

wanted to hear; nor did he “make his living” as a prophet. He was a shepherd and farmer that God called to be His prophet. He was a true prophet of God.

4. What did Amaziah tell Amos to do?

Amaziah told him to go back to Judah and preach there and make his living there. Amaziah told him not to prophecy against Israel and stop preaching against the descendants of Jacob/Israel.

5. What did Amos say would happen to Amaziah and his family?

His wife would become a prostitute, his children would die, his land would be divided and given to others, and he would go into exile.

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