

UNIVERSAL JUSTICE
(AMOS 1-2)
MARCH 1, 2026

Justice Rolls

Amos is a shepherd that is called to deliver a message from God to the northern kingdom in 760BC. Jeroboam II enjoyed much peace and prosperity, but the soul of the nation was corrupt.

1. God holds all nations accountable

- Each nation is called out for multiple transgressions
- God lists eight nations (including Israel) that have sinned against Him. Israel/Judah broke His covenant law, the other six for laws against His character. How you treat humanity reveals your view of God.
- Damascus (Syria), Gaza (Philistia), Tyre (Phoenicia), Edom, Ammon, Moab, Judah, and Israel are the nations of God's disdain.
- They were guilty of brutality, human trafficking, betrayal, hatred, atrocities, and desecration of the dead.

2. Privilege increases responsibility: To whom much is given, much is required

- Judah's judgement is based on their knowledge and covenant with the LORD
- God's challenge to His people in Deuteronomy 28 continues to hold true.
- This pattern would continue with Manasseh in II Kings 21:11-12
- You cannot use the name and blessings of God without living in His holiness

3. God's Justice Begins in His House with His People

- Israel receives the longest indictment of all the nations: Whom the LORD loves, He chastens!
- The people were guilty of economic exploitation, sexual immorality, religious hypocrisy, and silencing God's prophets.
- God reminds His people that their sins are not from ignorance, but ingratitude

Conclusion:

Within forty years, Israel would fall Assyria (722BC) and later the entire people (Judah included) would be in captivity (586BC). When we don't repent, God's justice rolls.

You will either be a defender of justice or an offender of justice! Be the example of God's justice!

1. Read Amos 1:1; 7:14-15; Acts 7:42.

Amos means to carry, burden, or shoulder a load. He is not known in any other book. He is a shepherd from Tekoa that God called to deliver His message, and a difficult one at that. Sometimes God chooses an unknown person so the focus is on the message, not the messenger. Explain the statement: God doesn't call the qualified, but qualifies the called. May all of us accept the calling to spread the Gospel to all the world (Matthew 28:19-20).

2. What does Amos teach about moral accountability outside of Israel? The nations outside of Judah and Israel did not have the Mosaic Law, yet God judged them. God's morality is seen in other nations, like the Code of Hammurabi (1754BC) of Babylonian origin. Read Genesis 18:25; Psalm 96:10; Romans 1:18-20; 2:14-15. How do these verses relate to humanity's moral responsibility to God?

3. Why does God judge Israel more harshly than other nations? Explain the statement: Israel sinned against grace, not ignorance. Judah would later experience the economic prosperity under Uzziah's reign before God allowed their captivity. Why does prosperity often lead to rebellion against God? Read Luke 12:48; Deuteronomy 4:5-8; Amos 3:2; I Peter 4:17; Proverbs 22:22-23; James 5:1-6.

4. Why does religious hypocrisy receive special condemnation? Notice how God rejects rituals separated from righteousness. Before the Protestant Reformation, indulgences at the Catholic church were being sold. Whenever God's people place a price tag on worship, then the god of the people has changed: Love of God to love of money. Read Amos 5:21-24; Isaiah 1:13-17; Matthew 23:23. How does hypocrisy relate to the heart? What leads God's people to hypocrisy?

5. How does Amos inform Christian social responsibility today? If Christians are to be faithful to God, we must show concern for justice, truth, and the vulnerable. A more recent example is the abolitionist movement where Christians demanded action against slavery. What are some areas today where the Church must lead the way in justice, or risk hypocrisy? Read Jeremiah 22:3; Micah 6:8; James 1:27.

6. How do justice and mercy meet in the Gospel? Biblical justice requires accountability and reconciliation. Explain the following statement: Justice and Mercy converge in Christ. Read Psalm 85:10; Isaiah 53:5-6; Romans 3:25-26.

7. What warning does Amos give modern nations and churches? Rome was officially completely conquered in 476AD, but its decline began much earlier due to moral erosion, economic inequality, and internal, political corruption. Read Proverbs 14:34; Hebrews 12:26-29; Revelation 2-3.

February: **Lamentations/Obadiah - Hope in Sorrow**

Memory Verse: Lamentations 3:22-23

Date	Sermon Text	1	2	3	4	5	6
Feb. 1	Lam. 1	Lam. 1:1-4	Lam. 1:5-8	Lam. 1:9-12	Lam. 1:13-16	Lam. 1:17-20	Lam. 1:21-22
Feb. 8	Lam. 2-3	Lam. 2:1-7	Lam. 2:8-15	Lam. 2:16-22	Lam. 3:1-22	Lam. 3:23-44	Lam. 3:45-66
Feb. 15	Lam. 4-5	Lam. 4:1-7	Lam. 4:8-15	Lam. 4:16-22	Lam. 5:1-7	Lam. 5:8-15	Lam. 5:16-22
Feb. 22	Obadiah	Ob. 1-4	Ob. 5-8	Ob. 9-12	Ob. 13-15	Ob. 16-18	Ob. 19-21