

# (Through the Bible) Amos & Obadiah

by Zac Poonen

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*Amos, the first prophet to write down a prophetic message, preached to Israel about their treatment of other people and God's judgment on them.*

**Duration:** 51:34

**Scripture:** Amos 1:1, Amos 7:14

**Topics:** "Social Justice", "Spiritual Deception"

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## Description

This sermon delves into the book of Amos, highlighting the historical context of the prophet's message to Israel, the significance of Amos being the first to write down a prophetic message, the condemnation of the rich for their exploitation of the poor, the warning against pride and deception, and the call for restoration and deliverance. It emphasizes the importance of humility, caring for others, and being faithful in daily life to avoid spiritual deception.

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## Transcript

Let's turn now to the book of Amos, Amos chapter 1, verse 1. This message was given to Amos, a shepherd from the town of Tikoa in Judah. He received this message in visions two years before the earthquake when Uzziah was king of Judah. Jeroboam II, the son of Joash, was king of Israel.

Now most of these prophets, almost all of these prophetic books, we know exactly when they prophesied except Joel. See Joel, if you remember the first day when I gave you a list of the dates of all the prophets, if you were observant you probably discovered Joel was missing. Well, that's because we don't know from Joel's prophecy when he prophesied.

Some people say he could have been prophesying the same time as Elisha. I don't know. It's difficult to say.

We can't predict. But all these other people prophesied and they told us the time and Amos was the first of all these prophets who preached to Israel. There are 16 prophetic books starting from Isaiah going up to Malachi.

And one of those books, Jonah, he did not preach to Israel. He preached to Nineveh. And Jonah is not essentially a book of prophecy.

It's a book of history. And Jonah lived immediately after Elisha. But Amos was the first of all these other 15 books of prophecy.

And he preached to Israel, the northern kingdom. He was the first of the prophets. All the others came after him.

And he had these great examples like Elijah and Elisha before him. He never knew any of them personally. There was no written prophecy that Elijah and Elisha left behind.

So we can say that Amos was the first person to put down a written prophecy. And keep that in mind. And he was not a professional prophet.

He was a shepherd. Just like the first apostles were fishermen, tax collectors. Like Elijah was also a farmer.

Elisha rather. And Amos was a man who looked after cattle and sheep and grew figs. He, let me just show you a verse in chapter 7, verse 14 to 15.

He says, Amos 7, 14 and 15, he says, in reply to another priest, he says to a priest, he says, I'm not one of your professional prophets. I certainly never got any training to be a prophet. I'm just a shepherd and I take care of fig trees.

But the Lord called me away from my flock and told me, go and prophesy to my people in Israel. Why did God pick on Amos to be the first person to write down a prophetic message? He must have watched him like he watches all people. To see whether this man who's just an ordinary shepherd, he's not a scholar, he's not a priest, but he's very faithful in his task.

He's God-fearing. He goes to the temple. He seeks to fear God and is kind to the poor people and lives in a good way.

And God had his eye on him and encouraged him and spoke to his heart and one day picked him up and said, you're going to be my servant. You know that God watches you. We can get a lot of training and try to serve God like that, but this is different.

This is where we are faithful in our daily life, humbling ourselves before God, listening to him, studying the scriptures, waiting upon him and faithful, faithful for years. Perhaps Amos was faithful for 25 years. I don't know.

I know that Jesus was faithful for 30 years in Nazareth before he was called to preach. He was faithful, faithful Amos and you can be faithful, faithful, faithful, faithful. The little things, wondering if something's going to happen and one day God picks you up and says, okay, you're going to be my servant.

So God calls those who are faithful in their secular work. He did that before Christ came. Jesus himself called people who were faithful in their secular work to his service.

And one phrase that never occurs in the book of Amos is the phrase, the God of Israel. It's the Holy One of Israel. These type of phrases never occur in Amos because Amos was so large-hearted.

He saw God as the God of all nations, not just the God of Israel, even though he prophesied to Israel. And you see in Amos chapter 9 and verse 7, the Lord says, it's a very interesting verse for the first of the

prophets in that time to say, Amos 9 verse 7, do you Israelites think that you are more important to me than the Ethiopians? Asks the Lord. I brought you out of Egypt.

That's right. But haven't I done as much for other nations? I brought the Philistines from Crete and I led the Arameans, that's the Syrians, out of here. I brought you out of Egypt.

What's the difference between you and them? That was Amos's vision. He was a new covenant man who believed that God would gather the Gentiles as much as the Jews and make them one body. It's interesting to see how even though these people were in Israel, they had a large heart for all of God's people.

They were not narrow like the other Israelites were who felt, oh we are the only people. Have you seen some Christians like that? They sit in some denomination and they say, ours is the only denomination that God has accepted. God has not accepted anybody else.

If you want to be with God, you've got to be with us. There were people like that in Israel too, not the prophets. They had a large heart.

And even today, a true servant of God will have a large heart that accepts God's people in every denomination, those who love the Lord. He realizes that Babylon is not in a system. Babylon is not this church or that church or the other church.

It's a world system which can be found in your heart. And you can sit in the best church in the world and be a part of Babylon. That's possible.

I've seen that through 25 years. People who sit in the best church in the world and they are 100% a part of Babylon. Because it's in their spirit.

They think that because they've come out of a system, they are free from it. No, you're not. If you love money, whichever church in the world you sit in, you're a part of Babylon.

If you live according to the flesh, whichever church in the world you sit in, you are an adulteress. You can glory over those other denominations saying, oh I don't worship Mary or things like that. Maybe you worship your sexual lusts.

What is the difference? So much of deception in Christendom today. Narrow-minded approach thinking that God only cares for this little group over here. This is how cults are built.

The body of Christ is larger than any denomination. God's people are not found in any denomination today. God has got his people in the Roman Catholic Church.

I believe that. There are born again people there who love the Lord. I don't agree with the system.

I don't agree with many things in that system. But I don't deny the fact that God has his people there. And there are unbelievers in the separated churches.

In the best churches there are unbelievers sitting there. Particularly in the second and third generation. People who don't know the Lord.

So we must see something of Amos's vision. God punishes all nations and he gathers people from all nations. And when you look at Amos's illustrations, his illustrations and throughout the book come from his shepherd life.

He talks about a bullock cart full of sheaves of corn. He talks about a shepherd trying to rescue bits of a lamb from a lion's mouth. He talks about caterpillars, how plowing the fields and locusts and the stars.

Showing that he sat observing the greatness of God. And God gives him a word where he pronounces judgment on rich people. And especially the rich, the wives of the rich people who lived in such luxury in those days.

You see Amos was living at a time when Jeroboam, like it says here, was ruling over Israel. And they did not have many wars in those days at that particular time. Even though Jeroboam was a man who lived in evil.

And when Israel did not have many enemies, what happened is it expanded its borders and people engaged in a lot of business. There was not expense on war. The result was people became very very rich.

Some of the things you read in the book of Amos is that there were people who had many houses. The beautiful homes of the wealthy, he says in chapter 3 verse 15. They had winter mansions and summer houses.

Now only a very rich person can have a one house for the summer and another house for the winter. Summer house in the mountains and winter house in the valleys. Rich people, they had very expensive furniture, ivory beds.

Chapter 6 verse 4. Beds made of ivory. And the same words, eating the meat of tender lambs and choice calves. They were gluttons.

They were drinking as we read in chapter 4 verse 1. And along with all this, they were also exploiting poor people. Chapter 2 verse 6. They were selling honest people for silver and selling poor people as slaves just for a pair of sandals. So you see this is the type of atmosphere in which we can say communism can breed.

You know for years and years before communism came on the scene. It was exactly like this in many many countries. The rich people, fantastically rich landlords and exploiting the poor people.

You need to get a little picture from all these verses of the type of situation in which Amos lived. You see for example, people who were eager, chapter 8 verse 5, for the Sabbath day to be over so that they could go and do business. Very business minded.

Money, money, money. As soon as the Sabbath is over, let me go and continue my business. They were the wives of the rich people.

You read off in chapter 4 verse 1. They are called the fat cows of Samaria. They oppress the poor and always asking their husbands for another drink. This is the type of situation they lived in.

And what about the rulers among God's people? The rulers and the leaders, chapter 6, lived in luxury and thinking that they were secure. At the same time, they had a lot of religion. We read for example in chapter

4 and verse 4 about their offering sacrifices in Bethel and Gilgal.

Of course they were offering to the idols but they were they were offering sacrifices in the morning and they were bringing their tithes every three days and presenting their Thanksgiving offerings and voluntary offerings and all that. Chapter 4 verse 4 and 5 and many other verses like that would show that they were a very very religious people. Chapter 5 verse 21 they had solemn assemblies, special meetings, religious festivals, burnt offerings.

Verse 23, hymns of praise. They had praise and worship. The Lord says it was all a noise in my ears.

I will not listen to your music. Verse 5, 23, no matter how lovely it is. I will not listen to your music no matter how lovely it is.

So here is a picture of the type of people to whom Amos was preaching. Rich people enjoying grand houses, upper-middle-class people, exploiting poor people and not feeling bad about it and at the same time very religious. These rich people were board members in their churches and they were given honorable positions by the pastors and the priests and leaders.

Very similar to what is happening in a lot of cities in India today. It's not popular to go and preach to such people and tell them the truth. Amos had a difficult ministry.

There were professional priests like we read in chapter 7 of Amaziah who confronted this Amos. Amaziah versus Amos. Amaziah the professional priest hired by the rich establishment and paid a very good salary by all the rich members in the board because he kept preaching things that would make them happy, keep them happy and in comes the shepherd, prophet, untrained man gets into the pulpit and thunders away at all these rich people and the rich people must have got mad.

Get this fellow out of here preaching false doctrine, preaching heresy, throw him out and Amaziah takes that job on himself to throw out Amos. So you find that these Old Testament books are very relevant to our time when we read all these verses. It's all in here if you read it carefully it's all in here and what does he say? Let's turn in chapter 1 and 2 he's talking about judgment on a number of nations and what and then in chapters 3 to 6 he gives Israel the reasons why they're being judged and then like all the prophets in the last three chapters he gives a prophecy of restoration after judgment.

Now first of all he preaches in chapter 1 and pronounces judgment on verse 3 on Damascus and on Gaza verse 6, on Tyre verse 9, on Edom and 11 verse 13 Ammon Moab chapter 2 verse 1. So here are six nations against which he prophesies and I can imagine how the Israelites when they were listening, Amos thundering away in the pulpit, woe unto Damascus, God is going to judge Gaza, God's gonna judge Tyre, God's gonna judge Edom. They're all very happy they say Amen praise the Lord it's gonna be like that and then he says woe unto Judah, woe unto Israel and then the Ammons become silent because now he's preaching directly to them.

We always like to hear a preacher who's telling us what's wrong with all the other churches right you like to hear a preacher who tells you what's wrong with all the other churches except yours that's how Amos really he sort of worked them up he got them to say their Ammons and Ammons and Ammons and Ammons and then he honed it on them he was a wise man he said you're no different you fellows in Judah chapter 2 verse 4 all of you people in Israel chapter 2 verse 6 he uses this expression for three transgressions and for four verse 3 onwards that means they have sinned again and again he that means

God is saying I ignored three transgressions but I won't let you go the fourth time not literally the fourth time that means I let you go a number of times but now that's the end I'm not gonna

let you go anymore I've forgiven you enough number of times you're just taking advantage of my goodness it's a word that we need to hear are you one of those who take advantage of God's goodness and what are the things which he condemns if you I don't have time to show it all to you but you read it in chapter 1 in chapter 2 he condemns them for being cruel to for their the way they treated other human beings for example see verse 3 the last part you beat down my people in Gilead as grain is threshed that means you took advantage of these poor people and you hammered them and verse 5 and verse 6 the other group again it is their treatment of other poor people you sent my people into exile were six selling them as slaves verse 9 the other sin again the treatment of other people they broke

their covenant of brotherhood with Israel and sold whole villages as slaves to eat on verse 11 the sin of Edom is they chase down their relatives the Israelites Israelites were their cousins chase them down with swords 13 the people of Ammon they attacked Gilead and ripped open the pregnant women and Moab chapter 2 verse 1 was so angry with the king of Edom that by the time they got there the king of Edom had died they dug up his grave pulled out his bones and took revenge on his bones burned into ashes chapter 2 verse 1 now in all these cases you find it is their anger against other people it's one common thing they're all angry with other people and want to take revenge on them and be hard on other people what is the message to us for three transgressions and for four meaning okay

you've done a lot of wrong things in your life I let you go for all of them God says but when you treat other people like this I'm really going to come down hard on you I told you when we studied Genesis God never cursed Adam he sinned and destroyed himself but when came hurt another human being he was cursed there are sins that affect us and there are sins that affect other people let me repeat it when you get drunk you smoke a cigarette you hurt yourself that's a sin you'll be judged but it's not as serious as when you sin in a way that will hurt other people when you gossip speak evil about others ruin their reputation when you hurt others when you molest a woman when you violate her purity those are sins that hurt others yeah very serious how would you like it if somebody did that to

your daughter or your sister how would you like it if somebody lusted after your daughter or your sister any sin that violates another person's life is very serious in God's eyes I believe that but it's very difficult to find a church where people believe that gossiping is worse than smoking cigarettes because we haven't got prophets to tell us what the God's Word says see how hard God was on these people now when it comes to Judah and Israel see what he says to them chapter 2 verse 4 you have rejected the laws of the Lord you have disobeyed God's Word those other fellows didn't have laws they just treated other people badly but you you had God's laws and therefore I will send fire on Judah and the people of Israel verse 6 they have sinned again and again and again and they have also hurt

other people selling poor people for a pair of sandals denied trampled helpless people in the dust verse 7 denied justice to those who are oppressed living in adultery at their religious festivals they lounge around in clothing stolen from their debtors and in the house of their God they present offerings of wine purchased with stolen money it's like people who have cheated the income tax and with that money they give it to God's work what did God what did Jesus say first give to Caesar to the government what belongs to the government and then give to God what belongs to God that's that's the order so he warns all these people and condemns them for their attitude for selling their people as slaves etc and now we come to chapter 3 one more thing I want to show you here is in verse 12

chapter 2 verse 12 you verse 11 I chose some of your sons to be prophets and I chose some of your sons to be Nazirites Nazirites were those people who were set apart to be exclusively for God like Samson but you caused the Nazirites to sin by making them drink wine that means you corrupted the few wholehearted believers there were in your church there were a few wholehearted believers in your church and you spoiled them by your worldliness and your jesting and you're fooling around and you're joking and your immoral behavior and all that even those few young wholehearted people got corrupted this is really true in India God calls some young man some young woman here and there to be a prophet or a Nazirite separated to God and they get corrupted by looking at the example of older people

who are going in a wrong direction and the Lord says to those older people you have destroyed these budding prophets you have destroyed these Nazirites so what is my word to all of you young people don't look at these bad examples you have who are older than you follow the examples of Christ like leaders and ignore all the rest even if their doctrines are correct don't just think because man's doctrines are right he's a godly man it's character Christ likeness that makes a man a godly man in chapter 3 to verse 6 chapter 6 he says about why Israel is being judged he says can two people walk together verse 3 without agreement the Lord is saying how can you and I walk together unless we are in complete fellowship if there are things in your life with which I cannot agree and you don't set

them right how can we walk together you want to walk with me sure but we must be in agreement we must be in fellowship take my yoke upon you you've got to follow me you've got to be righteous like me does a lion ever roar in a thicket without first finding a victim there's a lot young lion growl without first catching his prey he says if I'm roaring in judgment there is a reason for it there is sin when disaster comes to a city verse 6 when the war trumpet blares shouldn't the people belong when disaster comes to a city isn't it because the Lord planned it in a few years after Amos preached as Syria would come and bring disaster upon Israel in Samaria and the Lord says don't think I didn't plan it I planned it as a punishment to teach you fellows a lesson but before I do that before I

bring that nation to punish you I will always warn you through my prophets that's a wonderful word even today in the church God warns his people repeatedly through his prophets saying turn from sin if you don't you're this is what's gonna happen this is what's gonna happen it won't happen tomorrow it happened about a hundred years after Amos prophesied perhaps but it came Noah preached a hundred years later the rain came it'll come but God always warns people through his prophets before the judgment comes so since the lion has roared verse 8 tremble in fear the Sovereign Lord has spoken I dare not refuse to proclaim his message what the Lord is saying here is supposing there's a lion in front of you and he roars you would tremble there and the Lord says I'm speaking and you're

not trembling I'm speaking about your impurity in your thoughts in your eyes your unrighteousness in your financial dealings your worship of other things other than me and you're more afraid of a lion that I created than of me roaring and speaking in the pulpit you say oh that's just Amos he's just an untrained shepherd well he may have been an untrained shepherd but he was a prophet of God so he says announce this to all the leaders take your seats now and witness what is going to happen to Israel for their crimes my people have forgotten to do what in what forgotten what it means to do right chapter 3 verse 10 and in chapter 4 he speaks about the women and he calls them you fat cows you they were so fat because they ate so much and they drank so much and they were always asking their

husbands for another drink verse 1 and he says the time will come when you cows somebody will put a hook in your nose and drag you away verse 2 all of you will be dragged with a hook in your nose you fat

cows see the Lord is pretty strong sharp sarcastic when he speaks to wake up these people prophets are usually sarcastic because that's the only way to wake up people Jesus spoke with sarcasm and with strong language and these prophets also did that and he says you can keep on offering all your sacrifices I couldn't care less for any of them and then the Lord says I tried to teach you by various calamities that I was trying to that I was not happy with your life but you wouldn't listen I brought hunger to a city where six famine to another town but you wouldn't return I stopped the rain

from falling in the place where you needed it the most ruining your crops I sent rain in one town where seven and withheld it from another rain fell in one field and did not fall in the other and people staggered from town to town verse 8 for a drink of water and there wasn't enough but you still would not return to me where six you still would not return to me I struck your farms and vineyards with blight you still would not return to me I send sicknesses and plagues you still would not return to me understand I destroyed some of your cities verse 11 you still would not return to me after all this if you still don't return to me there is only one solution now verse 12 prepare to meet your God prepare to meet your God because he's tried his best through all the things that's happened in

your life to tell you that he's not happy with you you have no fellowship you're not building the body of Christ you're just wandering you don't seem to wake up okay then prepare to meet your God because he's coming in judgment okay now in chapter 5 he talks about in verse 5 don't go to worship in Bethel Gilgal Beersheba these places these are places where God worked in the past in Bethel God met with Jacob in Beersheba was another place where he met with Jacob Gilgal was the place where Joshua circumcised people after coming through Jordan places where God met with people in the past and spoke to them he says don't live in the past don't say oh the man who founded our assembly our church 200 years ago was a godly man some of these godly people who founded churches 200 300 years ago if

they came to earth today they would not join the churches they founded they would go somewhere else because those churches are backslidden so much from the time then those godly men he said don't look back to the past that's what he's saying and but see where God is now where is God moving now that's what we need to see but it says in verse 10 how you hate honest judges how you despise people who tell you the truth you trample the poor you steal what little they have through taxes and through high rents when a believer rents out his house to somebody particularly if the other person is very poor you know that God is very interested to see how much rent he charges for that man you believe that God is interested to see if one believer is exploiting another believer little things like this

and Amos says I know you fellas don't like somebody who tells you the truth but this is the truth if you do all this one day God will punish you and you will take away these good houses that you're living in I know the vast number of your sins you oppress verse 12 good people by taking bribes and you deprive with the poor people of justice in the courts so this is an evil time so he says do what is good and run from evil verse 14 that you may live now chapter 6 verse 1 how terrible it'll be for all of you who lounge in luxury and think that you're secure in verses 4 to 6 it speaks about their living in luxury eating tender food and singing a lot of songs to the sound of the harp and it says you fancy that you're great musicians like King David it's quite sarcastic the Lord is there so you

fellas think you can play music like King David he had a good heart you fellas just have music you just play the cassettes that's all you drink wine by the bowl full and you got such a lot of perfume and fragrances and you care nothing that the church is in such a pathetic state you're just happy that everything is going well in your home you got your music and you got your nice house and your good food but how many of

you are concerned about the condition of the nation in our time the condition of the church Joseph's affliction that's what it's called you're not concerned about the Joseph's affliction Joseph is a word representing Israel you're not concerned about that and the Lord says I despise verse 8 the pride and the false glory of Israel I hate their beautiful homes do you think

God hates beautiful homes he does hate it if such a person is not concerned that the church should be beautiful I don't mean the physical building of the church I'm talking about the people if there is no the person is not concerned for holiness in the church however beautiful a home he may build God says I hate your beautiful home now we come to visions of judgment and promises of restoration in chapter 7 there's a vision of a fire verse 4 a great fire with which God was going to punish his people the fire had burned up the depths of the sea and was devouring the entire land and Amos prayed as his old sovereign Lord please don't do it if you send a fire like this nothing will be left and the Lord gave up the plan verse 6 see one man stood in the gap in Ezekiel 22 verse 30 there's a verse

which says I sought for a man to stand in the gap but I didn't find one I did not find an intercessor here was one man who stood in the gap he saw this fire coming sweeping across destroying Israel and he said Lord please just like Moses and God wanted to destroy Israel he pleaded these prophets were people who prayed and though Israel did not value the prophets it was because of one prophet sometimes that Israel was saved Israel was saved because of Moses Israel was saved because of Amos they didn't know it then the Lord gave him another vision and he says here is a plumb line you know the plumb line which masons use when building a building to see if it's absolutely straight and he says I'm going to test people with this plumb line verse 8 I will not ignore their sins and I will destroy

them and then you see this confrontation between the Babylonian priest and this man who was building Jerusalem Amos Amosiah the priest of Bethel when he heard what Amos was saying he went to the king and he told a lie he said Amos is hatching a plot against you you know these false preachers and false prophets they're always ready to spread lies about the true prophets of God saying that he's preaching this and he's preaching that to turn people against the true prophets it's happened in Amos time it's happened in the 2,000 years of church history he's preaching this the truth this will lead to confusion if you listen to what he's preaching it lead to confusion in your church and Amosiah came to Amos and verse 12 said get out of here you seer you came from Judah to Israel to preach here

go back to your country and preach over there don't bother us here in Bethel with your prophecies we've got enough preachers here we don't want any of your preaching here but Amos said listen Amosiah verse 14 I'm not one of your professional prophets I didn't get any training to be a prophet I'm just a shepherd I'm not a prophet I'm not a son of a prophet I take care of fig trees and I was looking after my flock and the fig trees when God one day came to me and said go to the northern kingdom and prophesied to them that's why I came I didn't come here to make money or any such thing now the Lord says listen to this message Amosiah the Lord is saying you're telling me to stop prophesying to Israel you're telling me to stop preaching this is what the Lord says because you oppose me and you

refuse to listen your wife will become a prostitute in this city and your sons and daughters will be killed here your land will be divided up and you yourself will die in a foreign land it's a dangerous thing to fight against God's prophets then the Lord gave him another vision of ripe fruit said what do you see a basket full of ripe fruit and the Lord said this fruit means Israel is ripe for punishment and then we see this verse in 11 and 12 there's going to be a famine of the Word of God in the last days not a famine of bread and water Amos 8 11 and 12 but people will go here and there here and there looking for the Word of the Lord I

believe we are living in such a time today not the Word of God the Word of God is an expression for the Bible this is the Word of God but when it says the

Word of the Lord the Word of the covenant Jehovah that means a prophetic word which comes from a prophets mouth that Word of the Lord will be rare the Bible Society will make sure that the Bibles are distributed but the Word of the Lord the prophetic word will still be rare and people will wander here and there to hear a prophet and they will not find it they'll go from sea to sea and beautiful girls and fine young women will grow faint and weary thirsting for the Lord's Word so what is the answer when you get an opportunity to hear such a word listen to it carefully listen to what God is saying to your heart take it seriously and in chapter 9 the Lord says in verse 11 I'll restore the fallen kingdom of David it's now like a house and ruins the tabernacle of David that's the verse that's

quoted in Acts chapter 15 verse 16 and 17 James quotes this verse to refer to the building of the church so we know that this is referring to the building of the church the tabernacle of David which is going to be restored now it's like a house in ruins I will rebuild its walls and if the church is in a ruined condition in many places the Lord says I will rebuild it and Israel will possess what is left of Edom a picture of the flesh and all the nations I the Lord have spoken it and I will do it and the time will come when the plowman verse 13 will overtake the reaper what does that mean we have sough many wrong things in the past and we are reaping reaping reaping reaping but the Lord says the time will come when the plowman will overtake the reaper that means the new things that you are

sowing in your life after you're converted after you've decided to be wholehearted will wipe out the things that you're reaping from your old life this will overtake that the dirty thoughts that plague your mind because you've read such a lot of pornographic filthy literature in the past and which is causing you such a lot of filthy dreams gradually the reaping of that will be replaced by what you're going to reap because now you're filling your mind with the Word of God and those dirty dreams will become less and less and less frequent and gradually disappear think of that because now you're sowing good seed not the bad seed like the old days that's the end of Amos Obadiah is just one chapter we can just look at it Obadiah was a man who preached during the same period as Jeremiah and

have you ever wondered why Obadiah just wrote a small chapter of 21 verses very small just about one page I thought about that and I got this answer if you had gone to Obadiah and said well Obadiah why did you write such a small one-page prophecy he'd have said well brother Jeremiah is here and he's been preaching for 30 years and he's a godly man and he has said so much I don't want to speak too much in the presence of such a godly man I see the humility there in Obadiah when you understand that he was preaching at the same time as Jeremiah you know like in a church where there's freedom for ministry and a godly older brother has got up and spoken for a long time ministry of God's Word and then you get up and you add just a few sentences because you respect the godliness of this older

man this is Obadiah I want you to have a little respect for him so that when you meet him in heaven and he asks you did you read my book you'll be able to say yes I did read it I never read it till we had those special meetings but after that I did read it and that's one advantage of going through this Bible study when you meet all these people in heaven and say yes at least we spent a half an hour reading what you had to write about you won't be embarrassed when you meet these people okay Obadiah is speaking about the judgment of Edom.

Edom is a picture of the flesh and it's a picture of the destruction of the flesh and it says here about their pride you are proud verse 3 because you live in a rock like an eagle in a fortress up there you see it's verse 4 though you soar as high as eagles and build your nest among the stars see the flesh tries to exalt itself like an eagle and it thinks it's got a security like the nest of an eagle up there but God says I'll bring it all down it's a prophecy of the destruction of the flesh and we praise God that the flesh that we have is going to be destroyed completely by the Holy Spirit and verse 49 the Lord says he's going to use the very things that Edom trusted in to destroy him if thieves came at night verse 5 and robbed you they would not take everything and even those who

harvest grapes will always leave a few for the poor but your enemies will wipe you out completely every nook and cranny of Edom will be searched and looted every treasure will be found and taken spiritually the meaning of this is every little corner that is called flesh in our life every lust of the flesh is going to be destroyed completely and overcome by the power of the Spirit all your allies will turn against you they have helped to chase you from your land and so on now in actual terms why Edom was punished was because of the violence verse 10 that they did to their close relatives Israel because in the time of Israel's greatest need verse 11 when they were being taken captive you stood aloof and you refused to lift a finger to help them when foreign invaders carried off their wealth

you acted as though you were one of Israel's enemies you shouldn't have done this you know there are sins of commission and sins of omission sometimes we think only of sins that are committed let me ask you in the story of the Good Samaritan you know the story of the man who was going from Jerusalem Jericho and it was beaten up and it was falling fallen by the wayside what sin did the priest do who walked by what sin did the Levite commit who walked by did they go and hammer up that man some more no their sin was they did not lift a finger to help that needy man how many of you believe that when you don't lift a finger to help a person whom you can help that that is a sin you don't have to slap him the very fact like it says here you just stood aloof verse 11 you did not lift a finger

to help that person that's the same it's a sin of omission and the Lord takes it seriously you shouldn't have done this and the other is you gloated that means when something bad happened to somebody whom you did not like you felt a little happy have you felt a little happy when something bad happened to somebody you did not like that's the sin mentioned here you should not have rejoiced because somebody else is suffering misfortune you should not have and they did something more they fought against these people and cut them down at the crossroads verse 14 they cooperated with their enemies and finally the Lord says restoration again all these prophets speak about restoration but Jerusalem will become a refuge for those who escape one day we're 17 it'll be a holy place the

people of Israel will come back to reclaim their inheritance at that time Israel will be a flaming fire for the Lord and Edom a field of dry stubble and the exiles verse 20 of Israel will come back and deliver us will go up to Mount Zion in Jerusalem to rule over the mountains of Edom and the Lord himself will be King today God has called us to be those deliverers who go and proclaim to people behold your King invite people to come back I want to show you one more verse before I close and that is it says here in verse 3 and 4 the pride of your heart has deceived you why is it many believers are deceived what is the reason for deception here is the answer right when we are proud we open ourselves up to spiritual deception because pride is the very nature of Satan the deceiver the moment we

become proud of something maybe you're proud of your good looks proud of your intelligence proud of your spirituality proud of Bible knowledge proud of anything the moment you have pride of any sort you

immediately the devil holds your hand and says wonderful you're you and I are in fellowship now any type of pride there is not an atom of pride in Jesus Christ he was the humblest man that walked on the earth the moment you humble yourself you're in fellowship with Jesus and Jesus says you and I are in fellowship now it's a very dangerous thing to be proud I would say pride is more dangerous than adultery because adultery is a sin which is evident and sins which are evident are not as serious as sins which are not evident pride Obadiah is preaching against pride like an eagle living up in

its nest he says here you think you're secure you think you're so great that is why you are deceived let's learn a lesson from this one page that this man wrote this brief exhortation and let us go as deliverers like it says in verse 21 to proclaim that Jesus is King and let's lift our fingers at least or our hands to help others who are in need and if we do that Obadiah would not have written that one page in vain let's pray

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