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## DAILY SCRIPTURES TO CONSIDER

**Monday:**

Amos 1:1-2  
2 Kings 14:23-29

**Tuesday:**

Amos 4:6-12  
Deuteronomy 28

**Wednesday:**

Amos 5:21-24  
James 2:14-26

**Thursday:**

Amos 6:1-8  
James 5:1-6

**Friday:**

Amos 9:11-12  
Acts 15:16-17

## SUMMARY

Amos was a simple shepherd, not a professional prophet, who had a life-changing experience with the Living God, who gave him a very important message for the people of Israel. Amos prophesied toward the northern kingdom of Israel before the exile, somewhere around the 700s BC. The Israelites lived in a golden age with a thriving capital city of Samaria, abundant riches (for the wealthy, at least), and plenty of acted-out (if not true) righteousness. Amos storms in with dire warnings about what it really means to be the people of God and the consequences they face for their selfishness, pride, and disregard for the poor and marginalized.

In Amos, we see the indicative-imperative framework of Bible study this way. God's love and his choosing Israel are the indicative (the foundational truth); the imperative (the action in response to the truth) is that they be the people of God. The expectation is that they love and seek righteousness and justice. They care for the poor and marginalized. They don't take advantage of their neighbors. And in this, Israel has failed.

We often fail in these ways too. Amos's specific lens focuses us on what it means to be the people of God and the inward transformation that occurs when we believe. When we understand the depth of our sin and its incompatibility with God's perfect character, we feel our own need of judgment—and the refreshing fall of mercy that God offers us out of his perfect love through the person and work of Jesus. And then we, because we have been changed and redeemed, become givers of mercy to those in need. The restoration God promised the remnant of the Israelites at the end of the book of Amos describes the restoration of all things we as believers will experience in the new heavens and new earth. What hope we have with which to look forward, but what mission we have to fulfill in these days

## QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION

What aspects of God's character are most on display in the book of Amos? What did you learn about God through this study?

Amos calls the Israelites to live as the people of God. In what ways does he call them to do so? Are any of those areas that you feel the Lord calling you to live differently?

We know that our salvation is not secured by our works, but Amos (and also the passages read in James) remind us that the way we live matters. How do you think about the relationship between salvation and works? What questions come to mind as you read?

Why does God place such emphasis on justice and mercy? Evaluate your own life. How do you prioritize (or not) a posture toward justice and mercy in your daily choices? What are ways you can grow in this area?