

I. Key Information

- A. Recipient: Northern Kingdom
- B. Period: Reign of Jeroboam II
- C. Theme: Threat of Impending Judgment
- D. Outline:
 - 1. Eight Introductory Oracles 1-2
 - 2. Three Warning Messages 3-6
 - 3. Five Explanatory Visions 7-9

II. Reign of Jeroboam II

- A. Little is said in Scripture about Jeroboam II's reign
 - 1. Last significant king in Jehu's line
 - 2. Longest reign of any king in Israel
- B. Characteristics of the period
 - 1. Time of peace and prosperity
 - a) Assyria had seriously weakened Syria (Aram) leaving Israel the leading economic and military power in the region
 - b) Assyria was forced to temporarily withdraw from the area
 - 2. Period of popular religious revival
 - a) Jehu had removed Baal worship
 - b) Assyria's withdrawal was seen as a sign of God's favor on the nation

Assignment:

Read Amos again. Note the indications Amos gives of the conditions in Israel we described in the meeting tonight.

- c) Enthusiasm about Jehovah worship (Jeroboam's version) peaked
 - (1) Keeping sacrifices
 - (2) Observing the Sabbath
 - (3) Writing religious music
 - (4) Use of religious symbols
- 3. Period of terrible social injustice

III. Amos' Approach

- A. Difficulties:
 - 1. Amos is from Judah
 - 2. He is not an "official" prophet
 - 3. He was a farmer lacking the sophistication of Samaria
 - 4. He spoke to an optimistic age
- B. Message: Everything is fine now, but judgment is looming
- C. Key pictures to present the message:
 - 1. *The Lord roars from Zion* (1:2)
 - a) A lion has roared – who will not fear (3:8)
 - 2. *For three transgressions and for four* (1:1 – 2:16)
 - 3. *Hear this word, you cows of Bashan* (4:1)
 - 4. *Prepare to meet your God* (4:12)
 - a) Yet you have not returned to Me
 - 5. *I take up a dirge* (5:1)
 - 6. *Basket of summer fruit* (8:1)

