

# PROPHECY: AMOS

## **OBSERVATION**

Read the book of Amos!

Would you say there is an overall theme in the book of Amos?

Come up with a title for each chapter. Don't use the ones already in your Bible!

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_

The literary type of Amos is prophecy. What do you think characterizes prophetic biblical literature? Give some examples from Amos.

Are there any major shifts in the book? Where? Is there a climax or a "turning point" anywhere?

Besides poetry, what genre(s) of literature do you see in Amos? Why do you think these sections are included?

How would you describe the pattern in chapters 1–2?

What nation(s) get the most attention in chapters 1–2? Does this surprise you? How about the rest of the book? Why is this significant? Does this help you come up with a better theme for Amos?

## **INTERPRETATION**

Who was Amos? What was he doing before God called him to prophesy?

When did he prophesy? To whom did he prophesy? What was going on in Israel at that time?

What's the difference between Israel and Judah? Where does Amos spend most of his time?

What is a prophet?

Look up Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, Moab, Israel, Judah on a map. What do you notice about these places and their geography?

Do you think the people Amos was preaching to would have needed to look up where these places were on a map? If Amos were a prophet sent to Bloomington, what places might we expect to see in his prophecy?

Look at the first few verses of chapter 3. What reason does God give for punishing Israel? Does this surprise you?

Look at the beginning of chapter 4. Do you think Amos is prophesying to Israel or to Judah? How do you know? (HINT: Where/What is Samaria?)

Do you think he's prophesying to cows in 4:1? No? But aren't you supposed to read the Bible "literally"? No?! Do you believe in the authority of Scripture? How do you handle this?

If Amos isn't talking to cows, who's he talking to? How did you come to this conclusion?