

The Calm before the Storm

“Therefore this is what I will do to you, Israel, and because I will do this to you, Israel, prepare to meet your God.” He who forms the mountains, who creates the wind, and who reveals his thoughts to mankind, who turns dawn to darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth— the LORD God Almighty is his name.

Amos 4:12–13 (NIV)

THE UNLIKELY SPOKESMAN

Why some would counsel Amos to stay on the farm:

Why God told him to go:

God **uses** the one *he* **chooses** in the **way he chooses**

Amos; it's all about **visions, sermons, oracles, and promises.**

God's discipline in rebellious Israelites always had a purpose; yet they didn't respond. God's critique:

“Yet you have not returned to me.”

Some Things to Think About
For the week of August 23, 2015

It got so bad that God even hated **church**. (In their time, temple worship)

He couldn't stand their celebrations, their offerings, their singing, or their gathering together.

Amos's sobering words: "**Prepare to meet your God.**"

Four pictures that spelled doom:

Locusts

Fire

A plum line

A fruit basket – when it was really done

A CONFRONTATION THAT DEMONSTRATED A PROPHET'S CHARACTER

Prophets don't really **want to be loved**, they really **want to be heard**.

When the curse turns to blessing

This week Jim talked about an unlikely candidate for the prophetic mission, but God saw things in Amos that others might not have seen.

Think back over the study. What are some things that people might have said would disqualify Amos from prophesying in the cultured religious center of Bethel?

Read about the encounter between Amos and Amaziah in Amos 7:12-20. What are some qualities that Amos had to be able to stand up to such an intimidating situation?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:20-31. What are some connecting points that you see between this passage and God's selection of Amos?

What are the things that you count as weakness or foolish in your own life that God might consider strengths if you would just put them in his hands?