

Background.

In about 920 BC King Solomon dies and Israel splits into the northern 10 tribes known as Israel and the two southern tribes known as Judah. After the split, King Jeroboam of Israel didn't like everyone going to Jerusalem (in Judah) to worship, so he set up his own religion with golden calves with centers of worship at Dan and Bethel.

This is about 760 BC almost 200 years later. Amos is from Judah and he comes up the northern kingdom to tell them they are bad guys. Amos will be one of several prophets to come whose message is about social and economic justice.

- This is a time for prosperity for Israel.

Amos 7:10-15

- Amos' background
- You don't have to be special to be used by God
- We are all called.

Amos 8:4-6

- They saw religious activities as an inconvenience
- God never intended that our spiritual lives and daily lives would be separate.
- Following God is following God. It's not "sign your name on the line" and you're good. We are asked - no required - to be different.