



# Amos: Unpopular Love





# The Bible is a Love Story

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Our relationship with God is like a **Marriage Covenant**.

But it is also like a **Familial Relationship** between a **PARENT AND CHILD!**





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**Matthew 18:1-5** → At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, **“Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”**

<sup>2</sup> He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. <sup>3</sup> And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and **become like little children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Therefore, **whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.** <sup>5</sup> And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.





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**Luke 15:17-20** → <sup>17</sup> “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was **filled with compassion for him**; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.







# The Bible is a Love Story

**Reconciliation** – To **restore** a bad relationship back to Good.

**Purification** – To **take away what is Dirty and Filthy** and restore it to cleanliness (takes a looong time)

**Blind Justice** – God's character is **completely Just**.

**Blind Mercy** – God's character is **completely Forgiving**.



# The Bible is a Love Story

**Humility –**

**Imputation -**

**Social Justice -**



# The Bible is a Love Story

**Humility** – the practice of **understanding our limitations**, and being open **to God's unlimited power**.  
Submissiveness and Obedience to God.

**Imputation** – The act of **being made right with God** through Christ's saving Work and Sacrifice. **TO BE HIM!**

**Social Justice - Equality** in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society.  
Society made **RIGHT** and **JUST** in God's sovereignty.



# The Bible is a Love Story

**When reading the Bible remember:**

**From Beginning to End**, this is about a broken relationship in **need of mending**.

The prophets are a warning to us to recognize how **completely Sinful we are** and **how Completely loved we are**. (Do not skip steps!)



# Roadmap

## **Amos: Unpopular Love**

### **I. Amos Background**

- I. Humble beginnings to persecution

### **II. On Social Justice**

### **III. On Popularity and Humility**



# I. Background: Amos 1

“The words of Amos, **one of the shepherds of Tekoa**—the vision he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake, **when Uzziah was king of Judah** and **Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel.**”



# I. Background: Amos 1

The Book of Amos is the **oldest of the four books that come to us from prophets who were active during the eighth century B.C.** (the others are Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah).

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- ❑ **Amos was from Tekoa, south of Jerusalem**
  - ❑ **His Prophecy is directed toward the Northern Kingdom of Israel.**







# I. Background: Amos 1

The time during which Amos prophesied was **a time of relative peace and prosperity** for the kingdom of Israel and her neighbors.

His prophecies were against their **Selfishness, Greed,** and their **Shallow Worship** of God



# I. Background: Amos 1

**Point #1:** One cannot worship the Lord and lead a life of Injustice.

To do so is to **Reject the Lord.**



## II. On Social Justice

### Amos 2:6-8

<sup>6</sup> *This is what the LORD says: “For three sins of Israel even for four, I will not relent. They sell the innocent for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals. **<sup>7</sup> They trample on the heads of the poor as on the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed.** Father and son use the same girl and so profane my holy name. <sup>8</sup> They lie down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge. In the house of their god they drink wine taken as fines.*



## II. On Social Justice

More than almost any other book of Scripture, the book of Amos **holds God's people accountable** for their **ill-treatment of others**.



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More than almost any other book of Scripture, the book of Amos **holds God's people accountable** for their **ill-treatment of others**.

It repeatedly points out the failure of the people to fully embrace God's idea of justice:

**They were selling off needy people for goods, taking advantage of the helpless, oppressing the poor, and the men were using women immorally (Amos 2:6–8; 3:10; 4:1; 5:11–12; 8:4–6).**



## II. On Social Justice

**They were also passive and chose to ignore the brokenness around them (Amos 6:1, 4-7)**

→ **Woe to you who are complacent** in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, you notable men of the foremost nation...<sup>4</sup> You lie on beds adorned with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves...<sup>6</sup> You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, **but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph.**<sup>7</sup> Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end.



## II. On Social Justice

**Injustice permeates our world, yet as Christians we often **turn a blind eye to the suffering of others** for “more important” work like praying, preaching, and teaching.**



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**Injustice permeates our world**, yet as Christians we often **turn a blind eye to the suffering of others** for “more important” work like praying, preaching, and teaching.

God has called Christians not only to be in relationship with Him but also to be **in relationships with others.**





## II. On Social Justice

**What are some Social Injustices we see in the World Today??**

**How are Christians supposed to respond to this?**











## II. On Social Justice

**Liberation Theology** states that in society... **we have people who are oppressed and need to be delivered.**

It focuses more on the Worldly deliverance by God.



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It focuses more on the **Worldly deliverance** by God.

**Salvation Theology** is recognizing that the root of all our problems is **SIN! We cannot save Ourselves.** We need the identity and works of a Savior **imputed** on us!!



## II. On Social Justice

Point #2:

**BE CAREFUL** about Focusing too much on Social Justice!

Look to **the Savior of Society**, not just on our ability to fix social ills.





# III. On Popularity and Humility:

## Amos 7:10-15

Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: “Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. <sup>11</sup> For this is what Amos is saying: “Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.’”



### III. On Popularity and Humility:

<sup>12</sup> Then Amaziah said to Amos, “Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. <sup>13</sup> Don’t prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king’s sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom.”

<sup>14</sup> Amos answered Amaziah, “I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. <sup>15</sup> But the LORD took me from tending the flock and said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”



### III. On Popularity and Humility:

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Amos was **rejected** by the King and people during his time.

**1. Have you ever faced rejection or persecution about your faith?**

**2. What are some unpopular views from the Bible that people in today's culture struggle with?**



### III. On Popularity and Humility:

God uses Amos to deliver a message of judgment to the Israelites

But the people uses Amos's status as a shepherd and foreigner as an excuse to ignore his message of judgment for their many sins.



### III. On Popularity and Humility:

Point #3: People with Humility **know their position in Christ.**

They must be able to **receive his rebukes and guidance** and be willing to **Proclaim His Gospel unflinchingly.**



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**Question:**

**What are some aspects of your life that need correction?**



# III. On Popularity and Humility:

## John 15:16-19

<sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, **but I chose you and appointed you** so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup>**This is my command: Love each other.** <sup>18</sup>“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup>If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, **you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.**





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<sup>11</sup> “In that day “I will **restore** David’s fallen shelter— I will **repair** its broken walls and restore its ruins— **and will rebuild it as it used to be...** New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills,<sup>14</sup> **and I will bring my people Israel back from exile.**

“They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. <sup>15</sup> **I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,” says the LORD your God.**



# Conclusion

1. Remember that the **Bible is a Love Story with God pursuing and saving us** through the work of **His Son!** (nothing else!)
2. **The root of Social Justice lies on the character of God to forgive Sin**, rather than our ability to fix social ills.
3. If you obey God and **preach the Good News**, this message will be **deeply unpopular** with the World.