

# “SEEK THE LORD, THAT YOU MAY LIVE”

## The Book of Amos

### Who wrote The Book of Amos?

This Book of Amos was written by the prophet Amos who was a shepherd in Tekoa, a city in the kingdom of Judah. There is a possibility that one of his disciples also contributed to this book.

### How did The Book of Amos get its name and/or what does that name mean?

The Book of Amos was named after its author, Amos.

### When did these events take place?

This book was written during the reign of King Jeroboam II who reigned from 786 thru 746 B.C.

### For more about The Book of Amos:

See page 951 in the Fireside Catholic Youth Bible.

Have you ever had an encounter with a stranger that resulted in good things happening to you? Perhaps you were warned by the driver of an oncoming car of some danger on the road just ahead of you. Or, maybe someone at school who you barely know just happened to bump into you trying to get rid of some free tickets to a concert you were just dying to go to. When you think about it you realize that God can use anyone to remind you that He is still there.

That's what happens in The Book of Amos. In this book we again hear the story of how the Israelites had decided to turn away from God just prior to being conquered and sent into captivity. But instead of using a priest, or someone recognized as a prophet, God chose a simple shepherd as the instrument to spread His word. As He had many times before, God was trying to warn His chosen people that unless they turned away from sin and abandoned their evil ways, they would be punished. Even though he was a most unlikely candidate to be “a messenger of God,” Amos was very clear in His message. The essence of his call was: “Seek the Lord so that you may live.” He warned the Israelites that if they didn't, they too would suffer the consequences. Unfortunately for them, most of the people probably didn't even notice him, or ignored him because they thought he was insignificant.

Are there people like Amos in your life? Are there people, right in front of you, who you sometimes simply don't see. The prophet Amos reminds us not to ignore the poor, the unpopular, the weak or anyone suffering injustice around us. After all, they just might be the ones God is working through to reach you.

**Interesting Fact:** Amos prophesized that the Israelites in the north would be conquered and carried off into exile because of their empty worship and toleration of injustice. That is what happened 30 years later.

**Bonus Point:** What was Amos' job before he was called to be a prophet?