

WHAT IS PROPHECY?

AMOS, HOSEA, & THEIR PREDECESSORS

PROPHECY IS NOT REALLY ABOUT
PREDICTION;
IT'S ABOUT CONFRONTATION

The Lord said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.”

(1 Samuel 8:7)

When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is it you, you troubler of Israel?” He answered, “I have not troubled Israel; but you have, and your father's house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals.”

(1 Kings 18:17-18)

Prophets against the Kings?
Prophets against the way things are.

Prophecy is always bad news!

WHY?

AMOS:

CRIME & PUNISHMENT:

You . . . commanded the prophets, saying, “You shall not prophesy. . . .

“The time is surely coming,” says the Lord God,

“when I will send a famine on the land;
not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water,

but of hearing the words of the Lord.” (2:12, 8:11)

Because you trample on the poor

and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,

but you shall not live in them;

you have planted pleasant vineyards,

but you shall not drink their wine. (5:11)

THE CALL TO REPENTANCE:

Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.
Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.
(5:14-15)

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings
and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
(21-24)

Amos, a Judahite, cried out against wickedness in Israel in a time of peace & prosperity. Hosea, an Israelite, prophesied to his own people when things were falling apart, just before the end.

AMOS
DENOUNCES INJUSTICE
& OPPRESSION OF THE POOR
CALLS FOR JUDGMENT

WHAT IS HOSEA ABOUT?

INFIDELITY

HOSEA'S MARRIAGE
TO THE PROSTITUTE GOMER
IS AN ANALOGY FOR G*D'S COVENANT
WITH WITH FAITHLESS ISRAEL
ADULTERY = IDOLATRY

FAITHLESSNESS
RESULTS FROM WILLED IGNORANCE
VIOLATION OF *CHESED*

WHAT DOES G*D WANT?
ACCORDING TO AMOS?

ACCORDING TO HOSEA?

G*D wants to be loved (*chesed*)

Therefore (?), HOSEA seems more hopeful than AMOS:
the analogy of his frustrated longing for Gomer,
becomes a story of G*d's redeeming love for Israel
After a period of purgation, Hosea redeems Gomer.
The children whom he had named *G*d-sows-Bloodshed*
(Jezreel), *Not-Pitied*, & *Not-My-People*,
he renames *God-sows-Plenty*, *Pitied*, & *My-People*.

In the same way, God redeems his penitent people:

I will heal their disloyalty;
I will love them freely,
for my anger has turned from them.
I will be like the dew to Israel;
he shall blossom like the lily,
he shall strike root like the forests of Lebanon.
His shoots shall spread out;
his beauty shall be like the olive tree,
and his fragrance like that of Lebanon.
They shall again live beneath my shadow,
they shall flourish as a garden;
they shall blossom like the vine,
their fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon.
(Hosea 14:4-7)