

WEEK 25 — WARNING CRIES FROM THE PROPHETS

Date: roughly 762 BC to shortly before 722 BC

The Story: God has kept his word: he has blessed Judah and Israel whenever they have been faithful to his covenant with them. But now, some 250 years after King David, Judah's faithfulness is inconsistent, and Israel's worse: Israel is full of idolatry and, with it, frequent evil conduct (remember Ahab and Jezebel?). But God is not ready to give up on Israel quite yet. Through several prophets—Amos, Hosea, and Isaiah in this week's readings—he warns both Israel and Judah to turn from their evil ways before judgment comes upon them. This week's readings cover the reigns of Kings Ahaziah (also called Uzziah) and Jotham in Judah and a succession of kings in increasingly unstable Israel: Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, and Pekah.

* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

JUNE 19 AMOS 5-7

Today's reading continues Amos's tirade against the powerful and influential in Israel. Notice his complaints against those who overtax the poor (5:11), corrupt the court system (5:10, 5:12, 5:15), worship both God and idols (5:21-26), and live in luxury while Israel is on the brink of collapse (6:1-7). Amos pleads with God for mercy (7:1-6), but God will not wait much longer before he brings judgment. In a brief narrative the priest of Bethel (site of the worship of a golden calf idol), tries to stop Amos from prophesying (7:10-17).

Date: around very roughly 762 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Amos 5-7

Kids' Reading*: Amos 7

JUNE 20 AMOS 8-9 • HOSEA 1-3

Today's reading concludes the prophecies of Amos with final warnings of Israel's coming destruction, but also with the hopeful message that after God has shaken all the sinners out of Israel, he will restore his people. Hosea, probably a younger contemporary of Amos, commences his prophecies with an analogy that God commands Hosea to live out: Hosea must marry an unfaithful woman and love her, as God loves his unfaithful people Israel. But will Hosea's wife—and Israel—respond to such genuine love?

Date: around very roughly 762 BC (Amos) • maybe between 766 and 747 BC (Hosea)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Amos 9 • Hosea 1-3

Kids' Reading*: Amos 9

JUNE 21 2 KINGS 15 • 2 CHRONICLES 26-27

Today's reading lets us dip our feet again briefly in the stream of Israel's and Judah's history. 2 Kings 15 speeds us through the reigns of two kings in Judah, which is relatively stable at this time, and five in Israel, where coups and assassinations rule the day. Israelite society is falling apart. In this context Amos and Hosea have been pleading with Israel to repent before it is too late. Chronicles, as usual, focuses entirely on Judah, where the kings obey God, but not all the time.

Date: about 753-732 BC (2 Kings) • about 767-732 BC (2 Chronicles)

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 2 Kings 15 • 2 Chronicles 26

Kids' Reading*: Hosea 1 • Hosea 3

JUNE 22 ISAIAH 1-2

Today's reading informs us that Isaiah's message is directed toward Judah and Jerusalem in the time of four kings of Judah: Uzziah (also called Ahaziah), Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (1:1). They ruled in a time of decision in Judah. Would Judah follow Israel into idolatry, wickedness, and potential judgment? Or would Judah be true to God and find God's favor? From this context, Isaiah warns Judah to "wash and make yourselves clean... [S]top doing wrong. Learn to do right" (1:16-17). Then Judah will receive God's blessing.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

Date: maybe around roughly 745 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Isaiah 1-2

Kids' Reading*: 2 Kings 15:1-15 • 2 Kings 15:17-38

JUNE 23 ISAIAH 3-5

Today's reading warns Judah of destruction coming from God (3:1 to 4:1) —but that destruction will lead to Jerusalem's cleansing (4:2-6). A song about a vineyard follows; it's not really about a vineyard, but about the good fruit God expects from and is not finding among his people. Condemnation of sinful behavior comes next, culminating in a warning of military action that will bring destruction upon Judah.

Date: maybe around roughly 745 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Isaiah 3:1 to 5:7

Kids' Reading*: 2 Chronicles 26-27

JUNE 24 HOSEA 4-7

Today's reading returns us to Israel, where Hosea continues to speak God's message to the Israelites (4:1). Track two themes in this reading: first, the many sins of Israel that God lists (4:2, 4:11, 5:4, etc.); and second, God's yearning to heal Israel, if only they would repent (6:1-3, 6:11, 7:1).

Date: maybe between 743 and 725 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Hosea 4 • Hosea 6-7

Kids' Reading*: Isaiah 2 • Isaiah 5:1-7

JUNE 25 HOSEA 8:1 to 11:11

Today's reading presents more of Hosea's typical message to the effect of, "Israel has sinned and not repented, and so the people will face God's judgment." A key sin in chapter 8 is Israel's continuing worship of the golden calf that Jeroboam I had set up two centuries earlier. Chapter 11 reveals God's grieved passion for Israel: He loves Israel as his own son, but Israel continues to turn away from God.

Date: maybe sometime between 732 and before 722 BC

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Hosea 9:1 to 11:11

Kids' Reading*: Hosea 6:1-3 • Hosea 8 • Hosea 11:1-11

Parents' Guide

PG preview for young children

2K 15:10 (V), 14 (V), 25 (V), 29-30 (V)

2Chr 26:19-21 (T)

Is 1:2-4 (T), 5-9 (V), 11 (T), 15 (V), 20 (V), 21 (S, V)

Is 3:5 (T), 11-12 (T), 15 (V), 17 (T), 24-25 (V)

Is 5:7 (V), 11 (T), 13-14 (T), 22-24 (T), 29 (V)

Hos 1:2 (S), 4 (V), 6 (T), 9 (T)

Hos 3:1-3 (S)

Hos 4:2-5 (S, T, V), 15 (S), 18 (S, T)

Hos 5:2 (V), 3-4 (S), 7 (T), 13-15 (T, V)

Hos 6:1 (V), 5 (V), 8-9 (V), 10 (S)

Hos 7:1-7 (T), 4 (S), 13-16 (T, V)

Hos 8:9 (S), 14 (V)

Hos 9:1 (S), 6-9 (T)

Hos 10:2 (V), 7-10 (V), 15 (V)

Hos 11:6 (V)

Am 5:2 (S), 3 (T), 5-6 (T), 9 (V), 10-13 (T), 16-17 (T), 19 (T), 27 (T)

Am 6:3-7 (V), 11 (V), 14 (T)

Am 7:4 (T), 9 (V), 11 (V), 17 (S, V)

Am 8:3 (V), 4-6 (T), 10 (T), 13-14 (T)

Am 9:1-4 (V), 5 (T), 8-10 (T, V)

PG-13 preview for under age 13

Is 5:25 (V)

Hos 2:2-13 (N, S, T)

Hos 4:10-14 (S, T)

Am 6:9-10 (T)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

2K 15:16 (V)

Hos 9:12-14 (S, V), 16 (V)

Hos 10:14 (V)

C = Circumcision
N = Nudity
S = Sexuality
T = Dark/Sensitive Themes
V = Violence