Amos’ View Of Yahweh

Intro: Amos is a great book of 9 chapters. Some great lessons we learn regard Amos’ view of Yahweh.

I. Personality
   A. Yahweh is a person.
      1. He possesses emotions.
      2. He has volition.
      3. He is active.
   B. He swears by Himself
      1. Amos 6:8 “The Lord God hath sworn by himself, saith the Lord the God of hosts, I abhor the excellency of Jacob, and hate his palaces: therefore will I deliver up the city with all that is therein.”
      2. Amos 4:2 “The Lord God hath sworn by his holiness, that, lo, the days shall come upon you, that he will take you away with hooks, and your posterity with fishhooks.”
   C. He repents
      1. Amos 7:3 “The Lord repented for this: It shall not be, saith the Lord.”
      2. Repented in that He changed His purpose in destroying them by the locust.
   D. He communicates with others; Amos 3:7 “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”
   E. He commands; Amos 9:3-4 “And though they hide themselves in the top of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from my sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent, and he shall bite them: 4 And though they go into captivity before their enemies, thence will I command the sword, and it shall slay them: and I will set mine eyes upon them for evil, and not for good.”
   F. He determines upon lines of action.
      1. Amos 6:8 “The Lord God hath sworn by himself, saith the Lord the God of hosts, I abhor the excellency of Jacob, and hate his palaces: therefore will I deliver up the city with all that is therein.”
      2. Amos 7:3 “The Lord repented for this: It shall not be, saith the Lord.”
   G. He hates and abhors; Amos 5:21-22 “I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. 22 Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.”

II. Omnipotence
   A. Seen in the acts of creation.
      1. Amos 4:13 “For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The Lord, The God of hosts, is his name.”
      2. Amos 5:8-9 “Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The Lord is his name: 9 That strengtheneth the spoiled against the strong, so that the spoiled shall come against the fortress.”
   B. Seen in His control over the forces of nature
      1. Amos 4:6-11 “And I also have given you clearness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. 7 And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered. 8 So two or three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not
satisfied: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the L ORD. 9 I have smitten you with blasting and mildew: when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured them: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the L ORD. 10 I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up unto your nostrils: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the L ORD.

2. Amos 6:2, 14 “2 Pass ye unto Calneh, and see; and from thence go ye to Hamath the great: then go down to Gath of the Philistines: be they better than these kingdoms? or their border greater than your border?... 14 But, behold, I will raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel, saith the L ORD the God of hosts; and they shall afflict you from the entering in of Hemath unto the river of the wilderness.”

3. Amos 9:2-6 “2 Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down: 3 And though they hide themselves in the top of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from my sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent, and he shall bite them: 4 And though they go into captivity before their enemies, thence will I command the sword, and it shall slay them: and I will set mine eyes upon them for evil, and not for good. 5 And the L ORD G OD is he that toucheth the land, and it shall melt, and all that dwell therein shall mourn: and it shall rise up wholly like a flood; and shall be drowned, as by the flood of Egypt. 6 It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The L ORD is his name.”

C. Seen in His control over the nations.

1. Amos 1-2
2. Amos 9:7 “7 Are ye not as children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel? saith the L ORD. Have not I brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt? and the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir?”

D. Seen in the titles used of Yahweh

III. OMNIPRESENCE

A. Implied in Amos 1-2
B. Taught in Amos 9:2-4 “2 Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down: 3 And though they hide themselves in the top of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from my sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent, and he shall bite them: 4 And though they go into captivity before their enemies, thence will I command the sword, and it shall slay them: and I will set mine eyes upon them for evil, and not for good.”

IV. OMNISCIENCE

A. Taught in Amos 9:2-4 “2 Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down: 3 And though they hide themselves in the top of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from my sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent, and he shall bite them: 4 And though they go into captivity before their enemies, thence will I command the sword, and it shall slay them: and I will set mine eyes upon them for evil, and not for good.”

B. He knows man’s thoughts; Amos 4:13 “13 For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The L ORD, The God of hosts, is his name.”
V. Righteous
A. This is perhaps the most important element in Amos’ teaching.
B. Constantly emphasizes this:
1. Amos 1:2
2. Amos 9:7 "Are ye not as children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel? saith the LORD. Have not I brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt? and the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir?"
C. He is most severe to the people who have received the highest privileges; Amos 3:2 "You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities."

VI. Mercy
A. Although the prophet dwells primarily on the theme of God’s righteousness, he does not forget His mercy.
B. Amos intercedes twice for Israel
1. Amos 7:2 “And it came to pass, that when they had made an end of eating the grass of the land, then I said, O Lord God, forgive, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small.”
2. Amos 7:5 “Then said I, O Lord God, cease, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small.”
C. He promises mercy upon certain conditions; Amos 5:15 “Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.”

Conclusion: God also promises us His mercy if we meet His conditions of salvation. We, thus, need to, as Israel of old, need to prepare to meet God; Amos 4:12 “Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: And because I will do this unto thee, Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.”