

Syllabus: Reading the Bible Together – The Book of Amos

Course Overview

This course explores the Book of Amos, focusing on its historical context, literary features, and theological messages. Through close reading and analysis, students will engage with key linguistic and literary devices that shape the prophetic messages.

Week 1: Introduction to Amos and His Times

- Amos – The Man and His Context
- Early Prophecy: Chapters 1-2
- Metaphors and Parallelisms in Amos
- Linguistic Features: The Northern Vernacular

Week 2: Amos 4:3-5 – Prophecy and Worship

- *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* in the service of fragmented texts
- The Imperative & Infinitive Absolute in Prophetic Speech
- Worship in Amos: A Subversive Perspective

Week 3: Amos 4:6-8 – Prophetic Critique of Temple Worship

- Amos' Criticism of the Temple Prayers
- Linguistic Analysis: שבתם עדי
- Examining Verb Inconsistencies in Amos

Week 4: Amos 4:9-11 – Destruction and Intertextuality

- Prophetic Past Tense and its Function
- The Literary Conventions of Destruction Prophecies
- Intertextuality in Amos and its possible meanings
- Root Study: ה.פ.כ.

Week 5: Amos 4:12-13 – Doxology and Prophecy

- Theological Significance of Doxology in Amos
- The Three-Verb Pattern in Prophetic Rhetoric
- Conventions of Victory and Judgment
- Circular Constructs in Biblical Prophecy

Week 6: Amos 5:1-3 – Lamentation and Curses

- The Elegiac Structure of Amos 5
- Present Tense and Prophetic Speech
- Root Study: א.ש.נ
- The Maiden of Israel and the Formulae of the Curse

Week 7: Amos 5:4-6 – Unity and Theological Geography

- Thematic Connections Between Prophetic Units
- Understanding לְדֶרֶשׁ אֶת ה'
- Be'er Sheva or Beit Awen?
- Leitwort and Thematic Circuits in Amos