

# St. Athanasius Academy of Orthodox Theology

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The Most Rev. Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate

The V. Rev. Fr. Jon Braun, President

*In The Spirit of Evangelism – Bringing His Incarnation to Prisoners-Students*

February 2016

Dear Friend of St. Athanasius Academy,

Please remember our prisoner-students. Let them know we care.

They struggle with us, but we need your special donation to complete the task. (Mat. 25:34-40)

## THE BOOK OF AMOS

THE ANOINTED ONE – THE VIRGIN – SEEK HIM AND LIVE

Last month we quietly introduced the Book of Amos – St. Athanasius Academy OSB-Old Testament, p. 996. A relatively short Book in page count, often put off in favor of one of the major Prophets. As a result, it is easy to see why its importance maybe overlooked, grasped, or even studied. It is not read during the Liturgical year. As a result, one understands why its profound depth is often overlooked and lacks the appreciation it deserves.

In preparation for translating and editing the Greek Septuagint into English, we discovered a research book regarding Amos, of 1,000 pages. Wow! It offered a detail of explanations that literally caught us off guard. Imagine 7 pages of Scripture needing 1,000 pages to help us understand all that was being said and offered.

Amos was a shepherd living in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, and his Book of prophecy – the Book of Amos – is often studied as if three books

make up the one. The first of the three – the Book of Doom – speaks of His chosen ones rebelling against their Lord, the “I AM” of Moses. The Book of Woes and Lamentations speaks more specifically to their fallen ways of thinking and patterns of behavior. Such was open and in arrogant opposition to the Covenant they held with the Lord, their very Creator. The Book of Vision, brings forth the poor fruit awaiting the unrepentant sons of Israel.

Interestingly, at the end of the Book of Doom, Chapter 4, and the beginning of the Book of Woes, Chapter 5, are found three profound statements one might find relevant to the Lord's Incarnation and the establishment of His New Covenant – a relational promise offered to all through His Baptism, His Light of Transfiguration, and His Cross – the banquet feast Table.

If you have questions, comments, or thoughts after reading the below references to Amos, please let us know.

We welcome your call at 916-686-6230.

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**An Academic Community of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America**

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Amos 4:13 *For behold, I am the One who strengthens the thunder, and creates the wind, and proclaims His Anointed One to mankind, making the daybreak and the darkness, while treading upon the high places of the earth. The Lord God Almighty is His name!*"

*Note:* The Son of the One most High, is His anointed One. He is the divine One named and anointed Jesus, the same I AM of the Old and New Testament. He it is Who was a son of Mary, the Virgin Temple, and came to us, clothed in the flesh of mortality – Incarnation.

Amos 5: 1-2 *O house of Israel, hear this word of the Lord, a lamentation which I take up against you. 2 The virgin of Israel has fallen; she will rise no more; she tripped over her land, and there is no one who shall raise her up.*

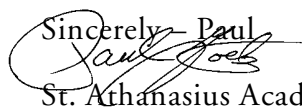
*Note:* The virgin of Israel fell because man came to believe the “land” was a tool of barter with the Lord. Yet in fulfillment, the divine One raised up and restored the forsaken Virgin. St. John Chrysostom proclaimed this One to be His Anointed One: He Who is the One true Man and Son of His eternal Father – Jesus Christ. And in this, He does not raise up another building, but something far better - a living Virgin, filled with His Spirit.

Her name is Mary, the daughter of Joachim and Anna. She is the ever-faithful living Temple and maidservant of the Lord. She kept Him above all else and first in her life. She never turned away from Him – not for the cares of the world, its teaching, nor its foolish wisdom. She not only contained within her the Word and Wisdom of the Lord, she tirelessly takes His “good news” out, for all the world to hear.

Amos 5: 4 *For thus says the Lord to the house of Israel: “Seek Me, and you will live.*

*Note:* This is a common, consistent theme throughout Amos and the Prophets – a call to repentance. Yet this call remained as if dead, until openly proclaimed by John the Baptist. A call meant for all to hear, not just Israel. Why? For all are called to salvation; to being washed, cleansed, and healed by the waters of Baptism and the indwelling of His Spirit. In Him, the I AM, we stand victorious over all attempts to divide or separate us from our Lord and Father, Jesus our Christ.

As we prepare for Great Lent, let’s us dig deeper into the mystery of Mary and her being the Virgin. It helps in understanding our being called living Temples of His Word. With this, we seek to test our faith and temper it with fire. For in His name and His spirit, we become better servants.

Sincerely, Paul  
  
St. Athanasius Academy