



# TEACHING AMOS

Unlocking the Prophecy of Amos  
for the Bible Teacher

**BOB FYALL**

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**CHRISTIAN FOCUS**





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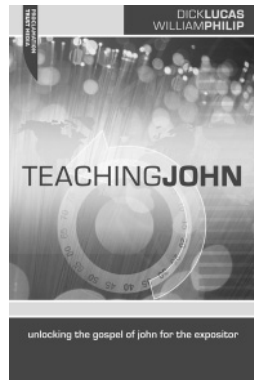
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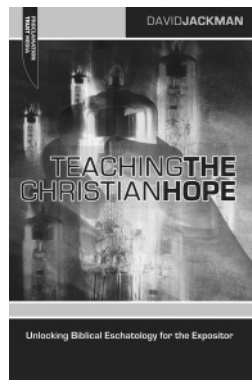


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## SERIES PREFACE

Whether you are a preacher, a small group Bible study leader or a youth worker, the *Teach the Bible* Series will be an ideal companion in your study. Few commentaries are written specifically with the preacher or the Bible teacher in mind, and with the sermon or Bible talk as the point of reference. The preacher or teacher, the sermon or talk and the listener are the 'key' drivers in this series. The books are purposely practical, seeking to offer real help for those involved in teaching biblical material to others. The aim is to help the Bible teacher get to grips with the text, with its intended purpose clearly in view – its proclamation as the living Word of God. The series is strategically positioned to complement the Bible commentaries. Commentaries are an essential resource for the serious Bible teacher and accordingly, each book will include a synopsis/guide to the best of them.

There are a number of specific features common to the books in this series. The opening chapter offers an overview of the biblical book or doctrinal theme ('Getting Our Bearings in Amos'), identifying key themes, structure, literary style etc.



Issues pertinent to preaching and teaching the material are a key focus of this navigation chapter. For example, *Teaching Amos* includes a section on dealing with repetition in Scripture, a particular feature of the prophetic literature. The opening chapter concludes with a number of suggestions as to how the material might best be divided for a preaching or teaching series. These range from expository series that cover the entire biblical book, to shorter series on sections of the text. Having identified a number of possible approaches, one of the whole book series is selected as the basis for the meat of the *Teaching* book. Individual chapters correspond with individual sermons or talks. The content is neither commentary nor sermon, but rather expositions for expositors or teachers. The material is specifically geared toward working from text to sermon or talk, combining rigorous exposition with relevant application, always with an eye to the main teaching point of the passage. At the end of each chapter, a short section, entitled 'Preaching and Teaching Notes', suggests one or more outline structures for a sermon or talk. These sections also contain discussions of pertinent issues for the preacher or Bible teacher. For example, *Teaching Amos* includes a helpful excursus on 'Preaching on Judgement'. Indeed we trust that under God, one of the major contributions of this book will be a recovery of nerve amongst preachers to preach judgement fairly and squarely.

*Teaching Amos* is written by Dr Bob Fyall, who has a wealth of experience in preaching and teaching the Old Testament. Bob is a scholar and writer but, above all, he is a passionate preacher of this material. It is our prayer that this volume will encourage better preaching on Amos in particular, and the prophetic literature in general, confident in the striking relevance of the prophet's message for today.

David Jackman and Robin Sydserff, Series Editors  
London, March 2006



## AUTHOR'S PREFACE

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In whatever context you are preaching or teaching the Bible, this book is written with your needs in view. Its primary focus is to facilitate preaching and teaching on Amos in particular, and on the Old Testament prophetic literature in general. Unlocking this material yields a wealth of rich and relevant resources.

The book of Amos is a good way to get into systematic exposition of the Old Testament prophets. It is short enough to tackle in a relatively brief space of time yet it grapples with major issues and anticipates in smaller compass the great prophets, such as Isaiah and Jeremiah. Above all, it is a book that brings us face to face with God in a life-changing encounter. Our authority and example for preaching the Old Testament comes from the Lord Jesus Christ himself. Jesus' words on the road to Emmaus are striking: 'And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself' (Luke 24:27). We cannot understand Christ unless we



engage with the Old Testament. As preachers and Bible teachers we have a responsibility to facilitate people's engagement with the whole Bible.

While this is not an exhaustive exposition of Amos, all sections of the book are covered in some detail. Amos' book has a marked simplicity in its focus on three great themes: the God who Speaks, the God of Creation and the God of History. At the same time it embodies rich variety, exploring these themes from different angles and presenting them in different styles.

This book will be best used after the preacher or Bible teacher has done some hard work on the text using the kind of commentaries mentioned in the Appendix. Commentaries are seldom geared specifically to the preacher or teacher and *Teaching Amos*, like others in the series, is designed to help those who need guidance on how to organise the material for effective preaching. The concern is always to listen to the voice of God through the words of Amos and proclaim it as the living Word of God.

The conviction of this series is that the whole Bible is the Word of God and that through the written Word we meet the living Word, Christ Jesus. Thus, the aim is to help preachers not simply to understand the text in an academic sense, but to so allow that Word to become part of themselves so that they will be better able to feed those to whom they preach, whether in sermons or in individual conversations. My hope and prayer is that many will be inspired to preach and teach Amos, appreciating the power and timely relevance of its message.

Bob Fyall  
Edinburgh, March 2006