

# Elijah and Amos Speak for the Lord

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 21*.

❖ A prophet is someone called by God to represent him and to point out how people are turning away from God.

PAGE 183

❖ God started calling prophets after Solomon's death because the people had become unfaithful and turned away from God. The prophets were called to bring God's Word to the people, even when they did not want to hear it.

PAGE 183

❖ The three major prophets of the prophetic books are Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. Their books are the longest of the prophetic books.

PAGE 183

❖ The prophet Elijah lived in the northern kingdom, which was ruled by a wicked king named Ahab and his wicked queen, Jezebel. He held a contest between God and Baal in which he proved that Baal was a fake. Jezebel tried to have Elijah killed after he persuaded Ahab to repent for his sins and return to God. Because Elijah was protected by God, he was able to escape to safety. When his work was finished, he was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot.

PAGE 184

❖ The prophet Amos was called by God while raising sheep and caring for sycamore trees. Amos told the rich city people of the northern kingdom that because all human beings have equal dignity, we are all called to eliminate inequality in society. He told people to tend to the needs of those who were poor, to defend and promote dignity for all, and to share resources, just as we are called to do today. Amos also reminded the people that one of their responsibilities was to make the true God known to all people.

PAGES 184–185

❖ Archbishop Oscar Romero spoke out against injustice and violence, and became a martyr for human rights. He spent his life working against human rights violations and supporting El Salvador's civil war victims and those who were poor.

PAGE 186

❖ Works of mercy are things that we can do to help those in need. Corporal works of mercy address the physical needs of others. Spiritual works of mercy help meet the emotional and spiritual needs.

PAGE 186

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