

Amos

Chapter 1

- ¶1. The words of Amos, who was among the herdsmen of Tekoah, which he prophesied about Israel in the days of Uzziah, king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam ben Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.
2. And he said, Jehovah will roar from Zion, and he will send forth his voice from Jerusalem. And the shepherds' pastures will mourn, and the top of Carmel will be dried up.
3. Thus says Jehovah: "For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not turn it away because they threshed Gilead with sharp, iron tools.
4. I will cast fire on the house of Hazael, and it will devour the strongholds of Ben-Hadad.
5. I will break the bar of Damascus, and I will cut off the inhabitant of the valley of Aven and he who holds the scepter of the house of Beth-eden. And the people of Syria will go into exile to Kir," says Jehovah.
- ¶6. Thus says Jehovah: "For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not turn it away because they deported as exiles an entire population, to turn them over to Edom.
7. I will cast fire on the wall of Gaza, and it will devour her strongholds.
8. And I will cut off the inhabitant of Ashdod and he who holds the scepter of Ashkelon. And then I will turn my hand against Ekron. And the remnant of the Philistines will perish," says my Master, Jehovah.
- ¶9. Thus says Jehovah: "For three transgressions of Tyre, and for four, I will not turn it away because they

delivered an entire population as exiles to Edom, and they did not remember the brotherly covenant.

10. Therefore will I cast fire on the wall of Tyre, and it will devour her strongholds.”
- ¶11. Thus says Jehovah: “For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn it away because he pursued his brother with the sword and corrupted his feelings. His anger tore continually, and as for his wrath, he kept it forever.
12. Therefore will I cast fire on Teman, and it will devour the strongholds of Bozrah.”
- ¶13. Thus says Jehovah: “For three transgressions of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn it away because they ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead in order to enlarge their border.
14. Therefore will I kindle a fire on the wall of Rabbah, and it will devour her strongholds amid shouting in the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the windstorm.
15. And their king will go into exile, he and his princes together,” says Jehovah.

Chapter 2

- ¶1. Thus says Jehovah: “For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn it away because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime.
2. Therefore will I cast fire on Moab, and it will consume the strongholds of Kerioth. And Moab will perish amid uproar, with a war cry, with a ram’s horn.
3. I will cut off he who judges from her midst, and I will kill all her princes with him,” says Jehovah.
- ¶4. Thus says Jehovah: “For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn it away because they

rejected the law of the LORD, and did not keep His statutes. And their lies, after which their fathers walked, led them astray.

5. Therefore will I cast fire on Judah, and it will consume the strongholds of Jerusalem.”
- ¶6. Thus says Jehovah: “For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn it away because they sell the righteous for silver and the poor for a pair of sandals.
7. They pant after the dust of the earth that is on the head of the oppressed, and they cast aside the way of the poor. And a man and his father will go in to the same young woman in order to pollute my holy name.
8. As for garments taken in pledge, they stretch them out beside every altar, and in the house of their God, they drink the wine of those who are fined.
9. Yet, I am the one who destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was as the height of the cedars. He was strong as the oaks, but I destroyed his fruit above and his roots beneath.
10. And I am the one who brought you up from the land of Egypt, and I led you in the wilderness forty years, to inherit the land of the Amorite.
11. I raised up your sons for prophets and your young men for Nazarites. Is it not so, O children of Israel?” declares the LORD.
12. But you made the Nazarites drink wine, and you commanded the prophets, ‘Do not prophesy!’
13. Behold, I am weighed down with you, just as a loaded cart is pressed with cut grain.
14. Flight will perish from the swift; the strong will not retain his power; the mighty will not save his life.

15. He who handles the bow will not stand, he who is swift of foot will not save himself, the horseman will not save his life,
16. and the stout of heart among the mighty will flee away naked in that day,” says the LORD.

Chapter 3

- ¶1. Hear this word that Jehovah has spoken about you, O sons of Israel, about the whole family that I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying,
 2. “Of all the families of the earth, I have known only you. Therefore will I visit all your iniquities upon you.”
 3. Can two walk together without meeting?
 4. Will a lion roar in the forest when there is no prey for him? Will a young lion cry out from his den without catching anything?
 5. Will a bird be caught in a snare on the ground when there is no bait for it? Will a man take up a snare from the ground when he has caught nothing at all?
 6. If a trumpet is blown in a city, won't people tremble? If calamity is in a city, did Jehovah not do it?
 7. My Master, Jehovah, will not do a thing without revealing His counsel to His servants, the prophets.
 8. A lion has roared! Who will not be afraid? The Lord Jehovah has spoken! Who will not prophesy?
 9. Cause it to be heard in the citadels in Ashdod and in the citadels in the land of Egypt, and say, “Assemble on the mountains of Samaria, and watch the many tumults in it and the wrongs in its midst.
 10. They do not know to do right,” declares Jehovah, “who store up violence and devastation in their strongholds.
- ¶11. Therefore, this is what the Lord Jehovah says: “An adversary! Even surrounding the land! And he will

bring down your stronghold from you, and your citadels will be plundered.”

12. Thus says Jehovah: “As the shepherd snatches two legs or a piece of an ear from the mouth of a lion, so the children of Israel will be snatched, who are sitting on the edge of a couch in Samaria and on a divan in Damascus.
13. Listen and testify against the house of Jacob,” says the Lord Jehovah, God of hosts,
14. “that in the day that I visit the transgressions of Israel upon him, I will also visit them upon the altars of Bethel. And the horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground.
15. I will also strike the winter house along with the summer house, and the ivory houses will perish. Many houses will come to an end,” declares Jehovah.

Chapter 4

- ¶1. Hear this saying, O cows of Bashan who are in the mountain of Samaria, women who oppress the weak, crush the poor, and say to their husbands, “Bring us something to drink!”
2. My Master, Jehovah, has sworn by His holiness, “Behold, the days are coming upon you when He will carry you off with hooks, and your posterity with fish-hooks.
3. You will go out at the breaches, each cow in front of the other. And you will be driven toward Harmon¹,” says Jehovah.
4. “Come to Bethel and transgress; at Gilgal multiply transgression. Bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes every three days².

¹ Hebrew meaning uncertain.

² Or could mean “years”. See Deuteronomy 14:28.

5. Make the thanksgiving sacrifice smoke with leavened bread, and call for freewill offerings! Sound it aloud! For this is what you love, O children of Israel,” says my Master, Jehovah.
6. “I was the one who gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and a lack of food in all your places, but you did not return to me,” says Jehovah.
7. “I was the one who held back the rain from you while there were yet three months before the harvest. I sent rain on one city, and did not send it on another city; one portion was rained upon, and the portion that it did not rain on withered.
8. So, two or three cities went staggering to another city to drink water, yet they were not satisfied. Still, you did not return to me,” says Jehovah.
9. “I scourged you with blight and mildew. When your gardens, and your vineyards, and your fig trees, and your olive trees increased, the cutting locust devoured them. Still, you did not return to me,” says Jehovah.
- ¶10. “I set loose a pestilence upon you after the manner of Egypt. I killed your young men with the sword and took your horses captive. I made the stench of your camps rise up, even into your nostrils. And still, you did not return to me,” says Jehovah.
11. “I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. You were like a brand plucked from the fire. Still, you did not return to me,” says Jehovah.
- ¶12. Therefore, thus will I do to you, O Israel, and because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!
13. For behold, He who forms mountains, and creates wind, and makes known to man what his thought is, who

makes dawn out of darkness, and treads on the high places of the earth, Jehovah, God of hosts is His name.

Chapter 5

- ¶1. Hear this saying that I take up against you! A dirge for the house of Israel.
2. The virgin Israel has fallen. She will not rise again. She is forsaken! There is no one in her land to raise her up.
3. For thus says my Master, Jehovah: “The city that goes out by a thousand will have a hundred left, and the city that goes out by a hundred will have ten left to the house of Israel.”
- ¶4. This, then, is what Jehovah says to the house of Israel: “Seek me and live!”
5. Do not seek Bethel, or enter Gilgal, or cross over to Beersheba, for Gilgal will surely go into exile, and Bethel will come to nothing.
6. Seek Jehovah and live, lest He rush like fire upon the house of Joseph, and it consume, and there is no one in Bethel to extinguish it.
7. O you who turn judgment into wormwood and cast righteousness down to the ground!
8. He is the One who made Pleiades and Orion, and turns the shadow of death into morning, and makes the day dark with night, and summons the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth; Jehovah is His name!
- ¶9. He who makes devastation to burst upon the mighty, so that devastation comes upon a fortress.
10. They hate him who rebukes at the gate, and they abhor him who speaks uprightly.
11. Therefore, because you trample on the poor and take a portion of his grain, you will not live in the houses of

- hewn stone that you built, and you will not drink wine from the pleasant vineyards you planted.
12. For I know your many transgressions and your countless sins, you who vex the righteous by taking a bribe, and thrust aside the needy at the gate.
 13. That is why the prudent stays quiet in such a time, for the time is evil.
 14. Seek good and not evil so that you may live! And then Jehovah, God of hosts, will be with you, the way you claim He is.
 15. Hate evil and love good! Establish justice at the gate! It may be that Jehovah, God of hosts, will show favor to the remnant of Joseph.
 - ¶16. Therefore, this is what my Master, Jehovah, God of hosts says: “There will be wailing in every open space, and in all the streets they will say, ‘Woe, Woe!’ They will even call the plough-man to mourning and wailing, like those well acquainted with lamentation,
 17. and wailing will be in every vineyard, for I will pass through your midst, says Jehovah.
 - ¶18. Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why should you want the day of the LORD? It will be darkness and not light.
 19. It will be like a man who escapes from a lion, and a bear meets him, or he enters the house, lays his hand on the wall, and a serpent bites him.
 20. Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Even gloomy, and no brightness to it?
 21. I hate, I despise your feast days, and I take no pleasure in your sacred assemblies.
 22. For though you offer whole burnt offerings and your gift offerings to me, I will not accept them. And the peace offering of your fatlings, I will not regard.

23. Take from me the noise of your songs and the melody of your harps; I do not want to hear them!
24. Let judgment roll down like water, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream!
25. Did you bring the sacrifices and gift-offerings to me in the wilderness for forty years, O house of Israel?
26. You carried Sikkuth your king and Chiun, your images, star of your gods³ that you made for yourselves.
27. So, I will send you into exile beyond Damascus, says Jehovah, whose name is the God of hosts.

Chapter 6

- ¶1. Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and those who trust in the mountain of Samaria – the notable of the highest of the nations to whom the house of Israel comes.
2. Pass through Calneh, and look. Travel from there to Hamath Rabbah, and go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are you better than these kingdoms though their territory is bigger than your territory?
3. Those who deny the evil day, you invite violence to dwell nearby.
4. Those who lie on ivory couches, relaxed upon their divans eating the rams from the flock and calves of the stall.
5. Those who compose on the harp; like David, they invent musical instruments for themselves.
6. Those who drink by bowls of wine, and anoint with the finest of oils, but they are not grieved for the ruin of Joseph.
7. Therefore, they will now go into exile with the first exiles, and He will refuse the cry of those who are at ease.
- ¶8. My Master, Jehovah, has sworn by His life! Jehovah, God of hosts, says, “I abhor the pride of Jacob, and I

³ Hebrew uncertain.

hate his strongholds, and I will deliver up the city and its fulness.”

9. And it will come to pass, though there be ten men remaining in one house, they will die.
10. And his relative, that is, the one burying⁴ him, will take him up, to carry his bones from the house. And he will say to someone in the innermost parts of the house, “Are any still there with you?” And that one will say, “None.” And he will say, “Hush!” (So as not to bring the name of Jehovah to remembrance.)
11. For behold, Jehovah commands, and He will beat the great house into fragments and the little house into pieces.
12. Do horses run on a crag, or does one plow there with oxen? Yes, when you turn judgment into poison and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood.
13. You who rejoice at nothing⁵, who say, “Was it not by our strength that we captured Karnaim?”
14. “Behold, I am raising up a nation against you, O house of Israel!” declares Jehovah, the God of hosts. “They will oppress you from the entrance of Hamath unto the valley of Arbah.”

Chapter 7

- ¶1. This is what my Master, Jehovah, showed me: Behold, He was forming a swarm of locusts when the after-growth was beginning to sprout; that is, the growth after the king’s mowings.
2. And it came to pass when it finished eating the vegetation of the land, I said, “My Master, Jehovah! Forgive, please! How will Jacob survive? For he is small.”

⁴ Or ‘burning’.

⁵ Lo-debar.

3. Jehovah had compassion concerning this. “It will not come to pass,” said Jehovah.
4. This is what my Master, Jehovah, showed me: Behold, my Master, Jehovah, called for a judgment by fire, and it consumed the great deep, and was consuming the land.
5. And I said, “My Master, Jehovah! Stop, please! How will Jacob survive? For he is small.”
6. Jehovah had compassion concerning this. “This also will not come to pass,” said my Master, Jehovah.
- ¶7. This is what He showed me: Behold, my Master was standing upon a wall with a plumb-line, and the plumb-line was in His hand.
8. And Jehovah said to me, “What do you see, Amos?” I said, “A plumb-line.” Then my Master said, “Behold, I am setting a plumb-line in the midst of my people, Israel. I will not refrain from passing over him anymore.
9. Isaac’s high places will be desolate, Israel’s sacred places will be waste, and I will rise up against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”
- ¶10. Then Amaziah, a priest of Bethel, sent to Jeroboam, king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to endure all his words!
11. For this is what Amos said: ‘Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile from his land.’”
- ¶12. And Amaziah said to Amos, “You Seer! Go! Flee to the land of Judah! Eat bread and prophesy there!
13. But never again prophesy in Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

- ¶14. Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor was I a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a gatherer of sycamore fruit.
15. But Jehovah took me from following the flock, and Jehovah said to me, ‘Go prophesy to my people, Israel!’
16. And now, hear the word of Jehovah. You say, ‘Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not drop your word against the house of Isaac.’
17. Therefore, thus says Jehovah: “Your wife will be a harlot in the city, and your sons and daughters will fall by the sword. Your land will be divided into lots, and you will die in an unclean land, and Israel will surely go into exile from his land.”

Chapter 8

- ¶1. This is what my Master, Jehovah, showed me: Behold, a basket of summer fruit.
2. And He said, “What do you see, Amos?” I said, “A basket of summer fruit.” Then Jehovah said to me, “The end⁶ has come for my people Israel. I will no longer refrain from passing over him.
3. They will wail their temple-songs in that day,” says my Master, Jehovah. He will throw many carcasses everywhere, saying, “Hush.”
- ¶4. Hear this! You who crush the needy and destroy the poor of the land,
5. saying, “When will the new moon pass over so we can sell grain? And the Sabbath, so we can uncover the grain, making an ephah little and a shekel big, cheating with deceitful scales

⁶ There is a play on words here that does not translate into English. The Hebrew word for “summer fruit” sounds much like the Hebrew word for “end”.

6. so that we might buy the weak with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and sell the refuse of grain?”
7. Jehovah has sworn by the Excellence of Jacob: “I will damn myself⁷ if I ever forget all their deeds!”
8. Will the land not tremble and everyone who dwells in it mourn because of this? All of it will rise like the Nile, be tossed about, and fall like the Nile of Egypt.
- ¶9. “And it will come to pass in that day,” says my Master, Jehovah, “that I will make the sun go down at noon, and I will make the earth dark when it should be light.
10. I will turn your feasts into mourning and all of your songs into a dirge. I will make sackcloth be on all loins and baldness on every head. I will make it like the mourning for an only son, and its end will be a day of bitterness.
11. Behold, the days are coming,” says my Master, Jehovah, “that I will send a famine on the land. Not a hunger for bread or a thirst for water, but of hearing words from the LORD.
12. They will stagger from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east. Men will desperately go about, seeking a word from Jehovah, but they will not find it.
13. In that day, the beautiful virgins will cover themselves⁸, as well as the young men, because of this thirst.

⁷ The Hebrew construction here is part of a well-known formula for a curse of the greatest magnitude, used only in matters of extreme importance. It is the ultimate oath that could be expected or required of anyone because the one making the oath is swearing on his own life, putting everything on the line to show his full commitment to doing what he has sworn to do. It was so dreaded a curse that the curse itself was left unspoken. The silent part of the oath could be understood as, “I will damn myself if . . .”, thus giving maximum assurance of one’s determination to keep the oath.

⁸ Or faint.

14. They will fall and not rise again who swear by the shame of Samaria, and say, 'Your god, O Dan, is alive!' and, 'The manner of Beersheba lives!'"

Chapter 9

- ¶1. I saw my Master standing over the altar, and he said, "Strike the capital, and make the thresholds shake; break them at the top, all of them, and the rest of them I will slay with the sword. Whoever among them flees will not escape, and whoever among them escapes will not get away.
2. If they dig to Sheol, there my hand will take hold of them, and if they ascend into heaven, I will bring them down from there.
3. And if they hide themselves on Carmel's summit, I will search and take them from there, and if they hide themselves from me at the bottom of the sea, I will command the serpent, and it will bite them there.
4. And if they go into captivity before their enemies, I will command the sword and it will slay them there. I will set my eye upon them for evil, not for good."
5. My Master, the LORD of the hosts, is the one who will touch the earth, and it will melt, and all of its inhabitants will mourn. And all of it will rise up like the Nile and subside like the Nile of Egypt.
6. He is the one who built His levels in the heavens and fixed His vault over the earth. He is the one who summons the waters of the sea, and pours them upon the surface of the earth. Jehovah is His name!
7. "Are you not as the children of the Cushites to me, O sons of Israel?" says Jehovah. "Didn't I bring up Israel from the land of Egypt, and the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrian from Kir?"

8. Behold, the eyes of my Master, Jehovah, are on the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth; however, I will not completely destroy the house of Jacob, says Jehovah.
9. For behold, I am giving commandment, and I will sift the house of Israel among all the nations, as if it were shaken in a sieve, but the earth's grain will not fall through.
10. The sinners of my people, those who say, "Evil will not come near or overtake us" will all die by the sword.
11. In that day, I will raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and I will wall up its breaches, and I will raise up its ruins, and I will build it as in days of old,
12. so that they who are called by my name might inherit the remnant of Edom and all the nations, says the LORD who does this.
- ¶13. "Behold, days are coming," says Jehovah, "when the plough-man will overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes, the sower of the seed, and the mountains will drip sweet wine, and all the hills will flow with it.
14. And I will return the captivity of my people Israel, and they will build and inhabit the cities that were desolate, and they will plant vineyards and drink their wine, and plant gardens and eat their fruit.
15. And I will plant them in their land, and they will never be uprooted again from their land that I gave them," says Jehovah your God.