**The Book of Amos**

**Amos Chapter 1**

1The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, that he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. 2He said:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “Yahweh will roar from Zion  and utter his voice from Jerusalem,  and the pastures of the shepherds will mourn,  and the top of *Mount* Carmel will wither.” |

3This is what Yahweh says:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “For three transgressions of Damascus, yes, for four,  I will not turn away its punishment,  because they have threshed Gilead  with threshing instruments of iron; |
| 4 | but I will send a fire into the house of Hazael  and it will devour the palace-fortresses of Ben-hadad. |
| 5 | I will break the gate bar of Damascus,  and cut off the inhabitants from the valley of Aven,  and the one who holds the scepter from the house of Eden;  and the people of Syria will go into captivity to Kir,”  says Yahweh. |

6This is what Yahweh says:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “For three transgressions of Gaza, yes, for four,  I will not turn away its punishment,  because they carried away captive an entire population  to deliver it up to Edom; |
| 7 | so I will send a fire on the wall of Gaza,  and it will devour its palaces. |
| 8 | I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod,  and the one who holds the scepter from Ashkelon,  and I will turn my hand against Ekron;  and the remnant of the Philistines will perish,”  says the Lord Yahweh. |

9This is what Yahweh says:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “For three transgressions of Tyre, yes, for four,  I will not turn away its punishment;  because they delivered up an entire population to Edom,  and did not remember the covenant of brotherhood; |
| 10 | so I will send a fire on the wall of Tyre,  and it will devour its palaces.” |

11This is what Yahweh says:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “For three transgressions of Edom, yes, for four,  I will not turn away its punishment;  because he pursued his brother with the sword  and cast off all pity,  and his anger raged continually,  and he kept his wrath forever; |
| 12 | so I will send a fire on Teman,  and it will devour the palaces of Bozrah.” |

13This is what Yahweh says:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “For three transgressions of the children of Ammon, yes, for four,  I will not turn away its punishment;  because they have ripped open  the pregnant women of Gilead,  in order to enlarge their territory. |
| 14 | so I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah,  and it will devour its palaces  amid war cries in the day of battle,  and a storm in the day of the whirlwind; |
| 15 | and their king will go into captivity,  he and his officials together,”  says Yahweh. |

**Amos Chapter 2**

1This is what Yahweh says:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “For three transgressions of Moab, yes, for four,  I will not turn away its punishment;  because he burned the bones  of the king of Edom into lime; |
| 2 | so I will send a fire on Moab,  and it will devour the palaces of Kerioth,  and Moab will die with tumult,  with shouting and with the sound of the shofar; |
| 3 | and I will cut off the judge from their midst,  and will kill all its officials with him,”  says Yahweh. |

4This is what Yahweh says:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “For three transgressions of Judah, yes, for four,  I will not turn away its punishment;  because they have rejected Yahweh’s law  and have not kept his statutes,  and their lies,[[1]](#footnote-28349) those after which their fathers walked, have led them astray. |
| 5 | But I will send a fire on Judah,  and it will devour the strongholds of Jerusalem.” |

6This is what Yahweh says:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “For three transgressions of Israel, yes, for four,  I will not turn away its punishment;  because they have sold the righteous for silver  and the needy for a pair of sandals; |
| 7 | They trample on the heads of the poor  as on the dust of the earth,  and deny justice to the oppressed.  And a man and his father go into the same girl  thereby profaning my holy name. |
| 8 | And they lay themselves down beside every altar  on clothes taken in pledge,  and in the house of their God  they drink the wine taken as fines. |
| 9 | Yet I destroyed the Amorite before them,  whose height *was* like the height of the cedars,  and he was strong as the oaks;  yet I destroyed his fruit from above and his roots from beneath. |
| 10 | Also I brought you up out of the land of Egypt  and led you 40 years in the wilderness,  to possess the land of the Amorite. |
| 11 | I raised up some of your sons for prophets,  and some of your young men for Nazirites.  Is this not true, O children of Israel?”  says Yahweh. |
| 12 | “But you gave the Nazirites wine to drink,  and commanded the prophets,  saying, ‘Do not prophesy!’ |
| 13 | Behold, I will crush you in your place  as a cart crushes that is full of grain. |
| 14 | Flight will perish from the swift,  and the strong will not muster his strength;  nor will the mighty *warrior* deliver himself, |
| 15 | nor will he who handles the bow stand *his ground*;  and he who is swift of foot will not escape,  nor will he who rides the horse deliver himself; |
| 16 | and he who is courageous among the mighty *warriors*  will flee away naked on that day,”  says Yahweh. |

**Amos Chapter 3**

1Hear this word that Yahweh has spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt, saying,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “You only have I chosen  of all the families of the earth;  therefore I will punish you for all of your sins. |
| 3 | Do two walk together,  unless they have agreed? |
| 4 | Will a lion roar in the thicket  when he has no prey?  Does a young lion cry out of his den,  if he has caught nothing? |
| 5 | Can a bird fly down into a trap on the earth  where no snare is set for him?  Does a snare spring up from the ground  when there is nothing to catch? |
| 6 | If a shofar is blown in a city,  will not the people be afraid?  Does evil happen to a city,  and Yahweh has not done it? |
| 7 | Surely the Lord Yahweh will do nothing  unless he reveals his secret  to his servants the prophets. |
| 8 | The lion has roared.  Who will not fear?  The Lord Yahweh has spoken.  Who can but prophesy?” |
| 9 | Proclaim in the palaces at Ashdod  and in the palaces in the land of Egypt and say,  “Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria,  and see what unrest is in her,  and what oppression is among them.” |
| 10 | “Indeed they do not know to do right,”  says Yahweh,  “those who hoard up violence and robbery in their palaces.” |

11Therefore this is what the Lord Yahweh says:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “An adversary will overrun the land,  and he will pull down your strongholds,  and your fortresses will be plundered.” |

12This is what Yahweh says:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “As the shepherd rescues out of the mouth of the lion  two legs or a piece of an ear,  so will the children of Israel be rescued  who sit in Samaria on the corner of a couch  and on the silken cushions of a bed. |
| 13 | Listen, and testify against the house of Jacob,”  says the Lord Yahweh,  the God of Armies. |
| 14 | “For in the day that I visit the transgressions of Israel on him,  I will also visit the altars of Bethel;  and the horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground. |
| 15 | I will strike the winter house  along with the summer house,  and the houses of ivory will perish,  and the great houses will have an end,”  says Yahweh. |

**Amos Chapter 4**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | “Listen to this word, you cows of Bashan  who are on the mountain of Samaria,  who oppress the poor,  who crush the needy,  who tell their husbands,  ‘Bring us drinks!’ |
| 2 | The Lord Yahweh has sworn by his holiness that,  behold, the days will come on you  that they will take you away with hooks,  and the last of you with fish hooks. |
| 3 | You will go out through the breaks in the wall,  everyone straight before her,  and you will be thrown out toward Harmon,”  says Yahweh. |
| 4 | “Go to Bethel, and sin;  at Gilgal sin *even* more.  Bring your sacrifices every morning;  your tithes every three days, |
| 5 | and offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened,  and publicly proclaim your freewill offerings and brag about them;  for this is what you love to do,  O children of Israel,”  says the Lord Yahweh. |
| 6 | “I also have given you cleanness of teeth  in all your cities,  and lack of food in every town,  but you have not returned to me,”  says Yahweh. |
| 7 | “I also have withheld the rain from you,  when there were yet three months to the harvest;  and I caused it to rain on one city,  and caused it not to rain on another city.  One place was rained on,  and the place where it did not rain withered. |
| 8 | So two or three cities staggered  to one city to drink water,  and were not satisfied;  yet you have not returned to me,”  says Yahweh. |
| 9 | “I struck you with blight and mildew  many times in your gardens and your vineyards,  and your fig trees and your olive trees  the swarming locust has devoured;  yet you have not returned to me,”  says Yahweh. |
| 10 | “I sent plagues among you like I did Egypt.  I have slain your young men with the sword,  and have carried away your horses;  and I filled your nostrils with the stench of your camp,  yet you have not returned to me,”  says Yahweh. |
| 11 | “I have overthrown some of you,  as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah,  and you were like a burning stick  plucked out of the fire;  yet you have not returned to me,”  says Yahweh. |
| 12 | “Therefore, Israel, that is what I will do to you,  and since I will do that to you,  prepare to meet your God, O Israel.” |
| 13 | For behold,  he who forms the mountains  and creates the wind  and declares to humankind what are his thoughts,  who makes the morning darkness  and treads on the high places of the earth—  Yahweh, the God of Armies, is his name.” |

**Amos Chapter 5**

1Listen to this word that I take up for a lamentation over you, O house of Israel.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | “The Virgin, Israel, is fallen,  no more to rise;  she lies abandoned on her land,  there is no one to raise her up.” |

3For this is what the Lord Yahweh says:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “The city that went out 1,000  will have 100 left,  and that which went out 100  will have ten left to the house of Israel.” |

4For this is what Yahweh says to the house of Israel:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “Seek me, and you will live; |
| 5 | but do not seek Bethel,  nor enter into Gilgal,  and do not pass to Beer-sheba;  for Gilgal will surely go into captivity,  and Bethel will come to nothing.” |
| 6 | Seek Yahweh, and you will live;  lest he break out like fire  in the house of Joseph,  and it devour,  and there be no one to quench it in Bethel. |
| 7 | You who turn justice into wormwood[[2]](#footnote-28266)  and cast down righteousness to the ground, |
| 8 | seek him who made the Pleiades and Orion,  and turns the shadow of death into the morning,  and makes the day dark with night,  who calls for the waters of the sea  and pours them out on the surface of the earth,  Yahweh is his name; |
| 9 | who brings sudden destruction on the strong,  so that destruction comes on the fortress. |
| 10 | They hate him who reproves at the gate,  and they abhor him who speaks with integrity. |
| 11 | Therefore, because you trample on the poor  and take taxes of grain from him,  you have built houses of cut stone  but you will not live in them;  you have planted pleasant vineyards  but you will not drink their wine. |
| 12 | For I know how many are your transgressions,  and how great are your sins—  you who afflict the just, who take a bribe,  and who turn aside the needy in the courts. |
| 13 | Therefore a prudent person keeps silent  in such a time,  for it is an evil time. |
| 14 | Seek good, and not evil,  that you will live;  and so Yahweh, the God of Armies,  will be with you, just as you have said *he is*. |
| 15 | Hate evil, love good,  and establish justice in the courts.  It may be that Yahweh, the God of Armies, will be gracious  to the remnant of Joseph. |

16Therefore this is what Yahweh, the God of Armies, the Lord, says:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “Wailing will be in all the *town* squares;  and they will say in all the streets, ‘Alas! Alas!’  and they will call the farmer to mourning,  and those who are skillful in lamentation to wailing. |
| 17 | In all the vineyards there will be wailing,  for I will pass through the midst of you,”  says Yahweh. |
| 18 | Woe to you who desire the Day of Yahweh!  Why do you long for the Day of Yahweh?  It is darkness and not light, |
| 19 | as if a man fled from a lion  and a bear met him,  or he went into the house and leaned his hand on the wall,  and a snake bit him. |
| 20 | Will not the Day of Yahweh  be darkness, and not light?  Even very dark, and no brightness in it? |
| 21 | “I hate, I despise your feasts,  and I cannot stand your solemn assemblies. |
| 22 | Even though you offer up to me  your burnt offerings and your grain offerings,  I will not accept them;  and I will not look at  the choice fellowship offerings of your fat animals. |
| 23 | Take away from me the noise of your songs!  I will not listen to the music of your lyres. |
| 24 | But let justice roll on like rivers,  and righteousness like a mighty stream. |

25Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness 40 years, O house of Israel? 26You also carried the tent of your king and the shrine of your images, the star of your god that you made for yourselves. 27Therefore I will cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus,” says Yahweh, whose name is the God of Armies.

**Amos Chapter 6**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | “Woe to those who are at ease in Zion,  and to those who are secure on the mountain of Samaria,  the notable men of the chief of the nations  to whom the house of Israel come! |
| 2 | Go to Calneh, and see;  and from there go to Hamath the great;  then go down to Gath of the Philistines.  Are they better than these kingdoms?  Or is their territory greater than your territory? |
| 3 | Those who put far away the evil day  and cause the seat of violence to come near, |
| 4 | who lie on beds of ivory  and stretch themselves on their couches  and eat the lambs out of the flock  and the calves out of the middle of the stall, |
| 5 | who strum on the strings of a lyre,  who invent for themselves instruments of music, like David, |
| 6 | who drink wine in bowls  and anoint themselves with the best oils,  but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph. |
| 7 | Therefore they will now go captive  with the first who go captive,  and the feasting and lounging will end.” |

8The Lord Yahweh has sworn by himself, says Yahweh, the God of Armies:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “I abhor the pride of Jacob,  and detest his fortresses.  Therefore I will deliver up the city with all that is in it.” |

9It will happen, if there remain ten men in one house, that they will die. 10When a man’s relative carries him, even he who burns him, to bring bodies out of the house, and asks him who is in the innermost parts of the house, “Is there yet any with you?”

And he says, “No,”

then he will say, “Hush! Indeed we must not mention the name of Yahweh.”

11For behold, Yahweh commands,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | and the great house will be smashed to pieces,  and the little house into bits. |
| 12 | Do horses run on the rocky crags?  Does one plow there with oxen?  But you have turned justice into poison,  and the fruit of righteousness into bitterness; |
| 13 | you who rejoice in *the conquest of* Lo-debar,  who say, “Have we not taken for ourselves Karnaim  by our own strength?” |
| 14 | “For behold, I will raise up against you a nation,  house of Israel,”  says Yahweh, the God of Armies;  “and they will afflict  you from Lebo-hamath  to the brook of the Arabah.” |

**Amos Chapter 7**

1This is what the Lord Yahweh showed me: behold, he was forming locusts in the beginning of the shooting up of the latter growth; and behold, it was the latter growth after the king’s harvest. 2And when they made an end of eating the grass of the land, then I said, “Lord Yahweh, forgive, I beg you! How could Jacob stand? For he is small.”

3Yahweh changed his mind concerning this. “It will not be,” says Yahweh.

4This is what the Lord Yahweh showed me: behold, the Lord Yahweh called for judgment by fire, and it devoured the great deep, and would have eaten up the land. 5Then I said, “Lord Yahweh, stop, I beg you! How could Jacob stand? For he is small.”

6Yahweh changed his mind concerning this. “This also will not be,” says the Lord Yahweh.

7This is what he showed me: behold, the Lord stood beside a wall made by a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand.

8Yahweh said to me, “Amos, what do you see?”

I said, “A plumb line.”

Then the Lord said, “Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel. I will not again pass by them any more.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 9 | The shrines of Isaac will be desolate,  the sanctuaries of Israel will be laid waste;  and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam  with the sword.” |

10Then Amaziah the 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 bear all his words. 11For Amos says, ‘Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely be led away captive out of his land.’”

12Amaziah also said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away into the land of Judah, and eat bread there and prophesy there, 13but do not prophesy again any more at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a royal house!”

14Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I was not a prophet, nor was I a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a farmer of sycamore figs, 15but Yahweh took me from following the flock, and Yahweh said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’

16Now therefore listen to the word of Yahweh: You say,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | ‘Do not prophesy against Israel,  and do not preach against the house of Isaac.’ |

17Therefore this is what Yahweh says:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | ‘Your wife will be a prostitute in the city,  and your sons and your daughters will fall by the sword,  and your land will be divided by line;  and you yourself will die in a land that is unclean,  and Israel will surely be led away captive  out of his land.’” |

**Amos Chapter 8**

1Thus the Lord Yahweh showed me: behold, a basket of summer fruit. 2He said, “Amos, what do you see?”

I said, “A basket of summer fruit.”

Then Yahweh said to me, “The end has come on my people Israel. I will not again pass by them any more. 3The songs of the Temple will be wailings in that day,” says the Lord Yahweh. “The dead bodies will be many. In every place they will throw them out with silence.”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 4 | Hear this, you who desire to swallow up the needy,  and cause the poor of the land to fail, |
| 5 | saying, “When will the new moon be gone,  so that we can sell grain?  And the Sabbath,  so that we can market wheat,  making the ephah small  and the shekel large,  and dealing deceitfully with false balances; |
| 6 | that we may buy the poor for silver,  and the needy for a pair of sandals,  and sell the sweepings with the wheat?” |

7Yahweh has sworn by the pride of Jacob:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “Surely I will never forget any of their works. |
| 8 | Will not the land tremble for this,  and everyone mourn who dwells in it?  Yes, it will rise up wholly like the River,  and it will be stirred up and sink again  like the River of Egypt. |
| 9 | It will happen in that day,”  says the Lord Yahweh,  “that I will cause the sun to go down at noon,  and I will darken the earth in the clear day. |
| 10 | I will turn your feasts into mourning  and all your songs into lamentation,  and I will make you wear sackcloth on all your bodies  and baldness on every head.  I will make it like the mourning for an only son,  and its end like a bitter day. |
| 11 | Behold, the days come,”  says the Lord Yahweh,  “that I will send a famine in the land,  not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water,  but of hearing the words of Yahweh. |
| 12 | They will wander from sea to sea,  and from the north even to the east;  they will run back and forth to seek the word of Yahweh,  and will not find it. |
| 13 | In that day the beautiful virgins  and the young men will faint for thirst. |
| 14 | Those who swear by the sin of Samaria  and *also* say, ‘As your god lives, O Dan,’  and, ‘As the Way of Beer-sheba lives.’  They will fall, and never rise up again.” |

**Amos Chapter 9**

1I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and he said,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “Strike the tops of the pillars  so that the thresholds shake,  and break them in pieces on the heads of all of them;  and I will kill the last of them with the sword.  Not one of them will flee away from there,  and not one of them will escape from there. |
| 2 | Though they dig into Sheol,  my hand will capture them there;  and though they climb up to heaven,  from there I will bring them down. |
| 3 | And though they hide themselves  on the top of *Mount* Carmel,  I will search them out and capture them there;  and though they are hidden from my sight  on the bottom of the sea,  I will command the serpent,  and it will bite them there. |
| 4 | Though they go into captivity  before their enemies,  I will command the sword there,  and it will kill them.  I will set my eyes on them for evil  and not for good. |
| 5 | For the Lord, Yahweh of Armies,  is he who touches the land and it melts,  and all who dwell in it will mourn;  and all of it will rise up like the *Nile* River,  and will sink again, like the River of Egypt. |
| 6 | It is he who builds his rooms in the heavens  and has founded his vault on the earth;  he who calls for the waters of the sea  and pours them out on the surface of the earth—  Yahweh is his name. |
| 7 | Are you not like the children of the Ethiopians to me, children of Israel?”  says Yahweh.  “Did I not bring Israel up out of the land of Egypt,  and the Philistines from Caphtor,  and the Syrians from Kir? |
| 8 | Behold, the eyes of the Lord Yahweh  are on the sinful kingdom,  and I will destroy it  from off the face of the earth;  except that I will not utterly destroy[[3]](#footnote-10737) the house of Jacob,”  says Yahweh. |
| 9 | “For behold, I will command,  and I will sift the house of Israel  among all the nations  as grain is sifted in a sieve,  yet not the least kernel will fall on the earth. |
| 10 | All the sinners of my people will die by the sword,  who say, ‘Evil won’t overtake nor meet us.’ |
| 11 | In that day  I will raise up David’s booth that is fallen,  and close up its gaps,  and I will raise up its ruins,  and I will build it as in the days of old, |
| 12 | that they may possess  the remnant of Edom,  and all the nations  who are called by my name,”  says Yahweh who does this. |
| 13 | “Behold, the days are coming,”  says Yahweh,  “that the plowman will overtake the reaper,  and the one treading grapes *will overtake* the one who sows seed;  and sweet wine will drip from the mountains  and the hills will flow with it. |
| 14 | I will bring my people Israel back from captivity,  and they will rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them;  and they will plant vineyards and drink wine from them.  They will also make gardens and eat their fruit. |
| 15 | I will plant them on their land,  and they will no more be plucked up  out of their land that I have given them,”  says Yahweh your God. |

1. I.e., idols [↑](#footnote-ref-28349)
2. Wormwood was used figuratively for bitterness. [↑](#footnote-ref-28266)
3. Lit. “destroy destroy” [↑](#footnote-ref-10737)