



A Call to Justice & Righteousness

Amos, the Shepherd Prophet



The Setting

Amos 1:1 (NIV)

The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa--
what he saw concerning Israel two years before the
earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah and
Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel.

10. Uzziah (Azariah)	767- 52 740* years	Good
11. Jotham	740- 16 732* years	Good
12. Ahaz	732- 16 716 years	Bad
13. Hezekiah	716- 29 687 years	Good

13.	782- 753*	41 years	Bad
14.	753-752	6 mo	Bad
15. Shallum	752	1 mo	Bad
16.	752-742	10 years	Bad

Isaiah
Micah

Jeroboam II
Zechariah
Menahem

Proclamations of Disaster

- 1:3-2:16 Prophecy against the nations:
- Damascus
- Gaza
- Edom
- Ammonites
- Moab
- Judah
- And Israel



The Reasons

Amos 2:6-12 (NIV)

This is what the Lord says:

"For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath. They sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals. They trample on the heads of the poor as upon the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed. Father and son use the same girl and so profane my holy name.



Injustice & Unrighteousness

[8] They lie down beside every altar
on garments taken in pledge.

In the house of their god
they drink wine taken as fines.

Loss of Conviction

Amos 8:4 (KJV)

Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail, 5. Saying, "When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?"-- skimping the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales, 6. Buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the wheat.

Judgment Upon People/Land

Amos 8:7-8 (NIV)

The Lord has sworn by the Pride of Jacob: "I will never forget anything they have done.

[8] "Will not the land tremble for this,
and all who live in it mourn?

The whole land will rise like the Nile;
it will be stirred up and then sink
like the river of Egypt.

The True & Living God

- Jehovah, of Amos, is God of Nations.
- He is the defender of the poor and needy, the righteous judge of all that is evil, and protector of good.
- “He sends punishing fire on every nation whose crimes oppose His authority...The world is subject to His command and serves His purpose even I disasters.”

James Luther Mays



Ch. 5 opens the 3rd message of the 2nd section:

- Addresses Israel's crimes and resulting judgment.
- The 2 opening vs. speak directly to Israel's unwillingness to provide relief & justice to the oppressed and is in the form of a funeral dirge.
- Vs. 3 & 4 are in the messenger formula and speak to the nation's inability to discern between right and wrong, blinded by greed.
- As a result the poor and the needy are crushed.
- They reject Jehovah's call to purity by offering sacrifices with impure hearts.
- God chastens them with plagues and kills them with sword.
- Yet they would not repent-result? Prepare to meet God!



Seek Me & Live!

Amos 5:4 (NIV)

This is what the Lord says to the house of Israel:

"Seek me and live...You who turn justice to wormwood,
and lay righteousness to rest in the earth!"



Isaiah 5:20-21 (NIV)

Woe to those who call evil good
and good evil,
who put darkness for light
and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet
and sweet for bitter.

[21] Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes
and clever in their own sight.

...Isaiah 5:23 (NIV)

who acquit the guilty for a bribe,
but deny justice to the innocent.



Messages of Repentance to the Nations

Proverbs 14:34 (NIV)

Righteousness exalts a nation,
but sin is a disgrace to any people.

God is not Mocked

Amos 7:14-16 (NIV)

Amos answered Amaziah, "I was neither a prophet nor a prophet's son, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. [15] But the Lord took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' [16] Now then, hear the word of the Lord. You say,

" 'Do not prophesy against Israel,
and stop preaching against the house of Isaac.'





I Will Not Always Strive


Amos 7:17 (NIV)

"Therefore this is what the Lord says:

" 'Your wife will become a prostitute in the city,
and your sons and daughters will fall by the sword.

Your land will be measured and divided up,
and you yourself will die in a pagan country.

And Israel will certainly go into exile,
away from their native land.' "



Amos 9:8-11 (NIV)

"Surely the eyes of the Sovereign Lord
are on the sinful kingdom.

I will destroy it

from the face of the earth--

yet I will not totally destroy
the house of Jacob,"

declares the Lord.

[9] "For I will give the command,

and I will shake the house of Israel
among all the nations

as grain is shaken in a sieve,

and not a pebble will reach the ground.



Restoration/Justice/Righteousness

[10] All the sinners among my people
will die by the sword,
all those who say,
'Disaster will not overtake or meet us.'

[11] "In that day I will restore
David's fallen tent.
I will repair its broken places,
restore its ruins,
and build it as it used to be,