

Amos' Prophecy to Israel – Part 1 (c. 760 BC)

Amos 1–2

Title and Theme

1:1 The words of Amos, who was among the shepherders from Tekoa, which he envisioned in visions concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

2 He said, "The LORD roars from Zion
And from Jerusalem He utters His voice;
And the shepherds' pasture grounds mourn,
And the summit of Carmel dries up."

Oracle against Syria

3 Thus says the LORD,
"For three transgressions of Damascus and for four
I will not revoke its *punishment*,
Because they threshed Gilead with *implements* of sharp iron. [cf. [2 Kgs 10:32–33; 13:1–7](#)]
4 "So I will send fire upon the house of Hazael
And it will consume the citadels of Ben-hadad.
5 "I will also break the *gate* bar of Damascus,
And cut off the inhabitant from the valley of Aven,
And him who holds the scepter, from Beth-eden;
So the people of Aram will go exiled to Kir,"
Says the LORD.

Oracle against Philistia

6 Thus says the LORD,
"For three transgressions of Gaza and for four
I will not revoke its *punishment*,
Because they deported an entire population
To deliver *it* up to Edom.
7 "So I will send fire upon the wall of Gaza
And it will consume her citadels.
8 "I will also cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod,
And him who holds the scepter, from Ashkelon;
I will even unleash My power upon Ekron,
And the remnant of the Philistines will perish,"
Says the Lord GOD.

Oracle against Phoenicia

9 Thus says the LORD,
"For three transgressions of Tyre and for four
I will not revoke its *punishment*,
Because they delivered up an entire population to Edom
And did not remember *the* covenant of brotherhood.
10 "So I will send fire upon the wall of Tyre
And it will consume her citadels."

Oracle against Edom

- 11 Thus says the LORD,
“For three transgressions of Edom and for four
I will not revoke its *punishment*,
Because he pursued his brother with the sword,
While he stifled his compassion;
His anger also tore continually,
And he maintained his fury forever.
- 12 “So I will send fire upon Teman
And it will consume the citadels of Bozrah.”

Oracle against Ammon

- 13 Thus says the LORD,
“For three transgressions of the sons of Ammon and for four
I will not revoke its *punishment*,
Because they ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead
In order to enlarge their borders.
- 14 “So I will kindle a fire on the wall of Rabbah
And it will consume her citadels
Amid war cries on the day of battle,
And a storm on the day of tempest.
- 15 “Their king will go into exile,
He and his princes together,” says the LORD.

Oracle against Moab

- 2:1 Thus says the LORD,
“For three transgressions of Moab and for four
I will not revoke its *punishment*,
Because he burned the bones of the king of Edom to lime.
- 2 “So I will send fire upon Moab
And it will consume the citadels of Kerioth;
And Moab will die amid tumult,
With war cries and the sound of a trumpet.
- 3 “I will also cut off the judge from her midst
And slay all her princes with him,” says the LORD.

Oracle against Judah

- 4 Thus says the LORD,
“For three transgressions of Judah and for four
I will not revoke its *punishment*,
Because they rejected the law of the LORD
And have not kept His statutes;
Their lies also have led them astray,
Those after which their fathers walked.
- 5 “So I will send fire upon Judah
And it will consume the citadels of Jerusalem.”

Oracle against Israel

- 6 Thus says the LORD,

- “For three transgressions of Israel and for four
I will not revoke its *punishment*,
Because they sell the righteous for money
And the needy for a pair of sandals.
- 7 “These who pant after the *very* dust of the earth on the head of the helpless
Also turn aside the way of the humble;
And a man and his father resort to the same girl
In order to profane My holy name.
- 8 “On garments taken as pledges they stretch out beside every altar,
And in the house of their God they drink the wine of those who have been fined.
- 9 “Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them,
Though his height *was* like the height of cedars
And he *was* strong as the oaks;
I even destroyed his fruit above and his root below.
- 10 “It was I who brought you up from the land of Egypt,
And I led you in the wilderness forty years
That you might take possession of the land of the Amorite.
- 11 “Then I raised up some of your sons to be prophets
And some of your young men to be Nazirites.
Is this not so, O sons of Israel?” declares the LORD.
- 12 “But you made the Nazirites drink wine,
And you commanded the prophets saying, ‘You shall not prophesy!’
- 13 “Behold, I am weighted down beneath you
As a wagon is weighted down when filled with sheaves.
- 14 “Flight will perish from the swift,
And the stalwart will not strengthen his power,
Nor the mighty man save his life.
- 15 “He who grasps the bow will not stand *his ground*,
The swift of foot will not escape,
Nor will he who rides the horse save his life.
- 16 “Even the bravest among the warriors will flee naked in that day,” declares the LORD.

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Chronological Notes

1) Amos.¹

- A) Amos ministered during the reigns of King Jeroboam II of Israel (793n–753n BC) and King Uzziah (Azariah) of Judah (791t–740t BC), specifically two years before "the earthquake" (Amos 1:1). Zechariah also referred to a notable earthquake during the reign of Uzziah (Zech 14:5). Josephus wrote that an earthquake occurred when Uzziah entered the temple and was struck with leprosy (2 Chron. 26:16–20).² However this may be simply Jewish tradition. Archaeological excavations at Hazor and

¹ Thomas L. Constable, *Notes on Amos*, 2.

² Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, 9:10:4.

Samaria point to evidence of a violent earthquake in Israel about 760 BC.³ So perhaps Amos ministered about 760 BC. This date may account for the omission of the name of King Jotham who ruled as coregent with Uzziah from 750–740 BC. Thus Amos was a contemporary of the other eighth-century prophets: Jonah, Hosea, Isaiah, and Micah.

³ Y. Yadin, et al., *Hazor II: An Account of the Second Season of Excavations, 1956*, pp. 24, 26, 36–37; and Philip J. King, *Amos, Hosea, Micah—An Archaeological Commentary*, p. 21.