

Amos' Prophecy to Israel – Part 2 (c. 760 BC)

Amos 3–6

Cause and Effect—Sin Brings Judgment

3:1 Hear this word that Yahweh has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole clan that I brought up from the land of Egypt:

2 “You only have I chosen of all the clans of the earth. Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

3 Do two walk together unless they have met?

4 Does a lion roar in the forest when he has no prey? Does a fierce, young lion cry out from his den unless he has caught *something*?

5 Does a bird fall into a trapping net on the earth when there is no snare for it? Does a trapping net spring up from the ground unless it has certainly caught something?

6 Or is a horn blown in a city and people are not afraid? Or does a disaster occur in the city and Yahweh has not done *it*?

7 Surely my Lord does not do anything unless he has revealed his secret to his servants the prophets.

8 A lion has roared! Who is not afraid? My Lord Yahweh has spoken, who will not prophesy?

9 Proclaim to the citadel fortresses in Ashdod and the citadel fortresses in the land of Egypt and say: “Gather on the mountains of Samaria and see the great panic in her midst and the oppression in her midst!”

10 “They do not know *how* to do right,” declares Yahweh, “those who store up violence and destruction in their citadel fortresses.”

11 Therefore, thus says my Lord Yahweh, “A foe shall surround the land and bring down your strongholds, and your citadel fortresses shall be plundered.”

12 Thus says Yahweh, “Just as the shepherd rescues two legs or a piece of an ear from the mouth of the lion, so shall the people of Israel who dwell in Samaria, with the corner of a couch and the damask of a bed.”

13 “Listen and testify against the house of Jacob,” declares my Lord Yahweh, the God of hosts.

14 “For on the day I punish Israel for its transgression, I will also punish the altars of Bethel and the horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground.

15 I will ruin the winter house as well as the summer house, and the houses of ivory will perish and the great houses shall come to an end,” declares Yahweh.

Condemnation of Samaria's Self-serving Women

4:1 Hear this word, *you* cows of Bashan who *live* on the mountain of Samaria, who oppress the powerless, who crush the poor, who say to their husbands, “Bring *something* so that we may drink!”

2 My Lord Yahweh has sworn by his holiness that, “Behold, the days are coming upon you when they will take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishing hooks.

3 And you shall leave through breaches *in the wall*, each one in front of her. You will be dragged off toward Harmon,” declares Yahweh.

Condemnation of Israel's Worship

4 “Come *to* Bethel and transgress; *to* Gilgal and multiply transgression! Bring your sacrifices in the morning and your tithes on the third day.

5 And bring a thank offering of unleavened bread, and proclaim freewill offerings, pronounce them, for so you love *to do*, O people of Israel,” *is* the declaration of my Lord Yahweh.

Condemnation of Israel's Stubbornness

6 “And I in turn gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities and lack of bread in all your places. Yet you did not return to me,” *is* the declaration of Yahweh.

7 “And I also withheld the rain from you when *there were* still three months to the harvest. And I would send rain on one city and send no rain on another city. One tract of land will be rained on, and *the* tract of land on which it does not rain will dry up.

8 So two *or* three cities wandered to one city to drink water and they were not satisfied, yet you did not return to me,” *is* the declaration of Yahweh.

9 “I struck you with blight and with mildew. Frequently the cutting locust devoured your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees, yet you did not return to me,” *is* the declaration of Yahweh.

10 “I sent among you a plague in the manner of Egypt; I killed your young men with the sword, along with the captivity of your horses. And I made the stench of your camps go up into your nostrils, yet you did not return to me,” *is* the declaration of Yahweh.

11 “I overthrew some of you as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were as a stick snatched from *the* fire, and yet you did not return to me,” *is* the declaration of Yahweh.

12 “Therefore, thus I will do to you, O Israel. Because I will do this to you, O Israel, prepare to meet your God!

13 Yes, here is the one who forms *the* mountains, and the one who creates the wind, and the one who reveals to humans what his thoughts *are*, and the one who treads on the heights of the earth; Yahweh, the God of hosts, *is* his name!”

Funeral Song for Fallen Israel

5:1 Hear this word that I *am* going to intone over you *as* a lament, O house of Israel!

2 Virgin Israel has fallen and will not rise again. She is deserted on her land; there is no one to raise her up.

3 For thus says my Lord Yahweh, “The city that marches out *with* a thousand will *only* have a hundred left. And the one that marches out *with* a hundred will *only* have ten left for the house of Israel.”

4 For thus says Yahweh to the house of Israel, “Seek me so that you may live.”

5 But do not seek Bethel or go *to* Gilgal or cross over to Beersheba, for Gilgal will certainly go into exile and Bethel will come to disaster.”

6 Seek Yahweh so that you may live, so that he will not break out like a fire *against* the house of Joseph! And it will devour, with none to quench *it* for Bethel.

7 *Ah*, you who turn justice into wormwood and hurl righteousness to the ground!

8 The one who made the Pleiades and Orion and who turns deep darkness into the morning and darkens day *into* night, the one who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, Yahweh *is* his name!

9 The one who makes destruction flash upon *the* fierce, so that destruction comes upon *the* fortification.

10 They hate the one who reproves in the gate and they abhor the one who speaks honestly.

11 Therefore, because you trample on *the* poor and you take a grain tax from them, you built houses of dressed stone, but you will not live in them. You built vineyards of delightfulness, but you will not drink their wine.

12 For I know your transgressions *are* many and your sins *are* numerous, *you* foes of *the* righteous, those who take a bribe, and those who push aside *the* poor *ones* in the gate!

13 Therefore, whoever has insight will keep silent in that time, for it *is* a time of evil.

14 Seek good and not bad in order that you may live, and so Yahweh, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said.

15 Hate evil and love good and establish justice in the gate; perhaps Yahweh, the God of hosts, will be gracious *to* the remnant of Joseph.

16 Therefore, thus says Yahweh, the God of hosts, my Lord, “In all of the public squares *there will be* wailing, and in all of the streets *they will say*, ‘Alas, alas, alas!’ They shall call *the* farmers to mourning and *to* wailing, to those who are skilled *in* lamentation.

17 And in all of *the* vineyards *there will be* wailing, because I will pass in your midst,” says Yahweh.

The “Day of the LORD”

18 Alas, those who desire the day of Yahweh, why *is* this for you the day of Yahweh? It *will be* darkness and not light!

19 *It will be* as *if* a man fled from a lion and a bear met him; or he went *into* the house and leaned his hand against the wall and a snake bit him.

20 *Is* not the day of Yahweh darkness and not light, and pitch dark with no brightness in it?

Rejection of Israel’s Worship

21 “I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your assemblies.

22 Yes, *even* if you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept *them*, and I will not look at the fellowship offerings of your fattened animals.

23 Remove from me the noise of your songs, and I do not want to hear the melody of your harps!

24 But let justice roll on like the water, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

25 Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings those forty years in the desert, O house of Israel? [[Acts 7:42](#)]

26 And you will take up Sikkuth, your king, and Kaiwan, your images, the star of your gods which you made for yourselves.

27 And I will deport you beyond Damascus,” says Yahweh—the God of hosts *is* his name.

Woe Oracle against Israel

6:1 Alas *for* those being at ease in Zion, and those who feel secure on Mount Samaria, the notables of the best of the nations! The house of Israel resorts to them.

2 Cross over *to* Calneh and see, and go from there *to* Hamath Rabbah and go down *to* Gath of the Philistines. *Are* you better than these kingdoms, or is their territory greater than your territory?

3 You that put off the day of disaster and bring near a reign of violence!

4 *Alas for* those who lie on beds of ivory and lounge on their couches, and those eating young rams from *the* sheep and goats, and bull-calves from the middle of *the* animal stall.

5 *Alas for those* who sing to the tune of the harp; like David they improvise on instruments of music.

6 *Alas for those* who drink from sprinkling bowls of wine and anoint themselves with the best of olive oils and are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph.

7 Therefore, they shall now go into exile at the head of the exiles and the feast of lounging shall pass away.

A Doomed Nation

8 My Lord Yahweh has sworn by himself, declares Yahweh, the God of hosts: “I abhor the pride of Jacob and I hate his citadel

fortresses and I will deliver *the* city and its fullness!”

9 And then if ten people remain in one house, they too will die.

10 And *if* one’s relative, who burns *the body*, lifts it up and brings the body out of the house and he will say to someone in the innermost part of the house, “*Are there* any more with you?” and he will say, “None,” then he will say, “Silence,” because we must not invoke the name of Yahweh.

11 Look, Yahweh *is* going to command and the great house will be destroyed *to* bits and the little house *to* pieces.

12 Do horses run on rocks, or does one plow the sea with oxen? But you have turned justice into poison and *the* fruit of righteousness into wormwood!

13 *You* who rejoice over Lo-Debar, who say, “Have we not taken Karnaim for ourselves by our strength?”

14 Indeed, I *am* going to raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel, declares Yahweh, the God of hosts. And they shall oppress you from Lebo-hamath up to the wadi of the Arabah.

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