

Amos' Prophecy to Israel – Part 3 (c. 760 BC)

Amos 7–9

Amos' First Vision—the Locusts

7:1 The sovereign LORD showed me this: I saw him making locusts just as the crops planted late were beginning to sprout. (The crops planted late sprout after the royal harvest.)

2 When they had completely consumed the earth's vegetation, I said,

“Sovereign LORD, forgive Israel!
How can Jacob survive?
He is too weak!”

3 The LORD decided not to do this.
“It will not happen,” the LORD said.

Amos' Second Vision—the Fire

4 The sovereign LORD showed me this: I saw the sovereign LORD summoning a shower of fire. It consumed the great deep and devoured the fields.

5 I said,

“Sovereign LORD, stop!
How can Jacob survive?
He is too weak!”

6 The LORD decided not to do this.
The sovereign LORD said, “This will not happen either.”

Amos' Third Vision—the Plumb Line

7 He showed me this: I saw the sovereign One standing by a [a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand].

8 The LORD said to me, “What do you see, Amos?” I said, “[A plumb line].” The sovereign One then said,

“Look, I am [setting a plumb line] among my people Israel.
I will no longer overlook their sin.

9 Isaac's centers of worship will become desolate;
Israel's holy places will be in ruins.
I will attack Jeroboam's dynasty with the sword.”

Amaziah, Priest of Bethel, Urges Jeroboam II to Get Rid of Amos

10 Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent this message to King Jeroboam of Israel: “Amos is conspiring against you in the very heart of the kingdom of Israel! The land cannot endure all his prophecies.

11 As a matter of fact, Amos is saying this:

‘Jeroboam will die by the sword
and Israel will certainly be carried into exile
away from its land.’”

12 Amaziah then said to Amos, “Leave, you visionary! Run away to the land of Judah! Earn your living and prophesy there!

13 Don't prophesy at Bethel any longer, for a royal temple and palace are here!”

14 Amos replied to Amaziah, “I was not a prophet by profession. No, I was a herdsman who also took care of sycamore fig trees.

15 Then the LORD took me from tending flocks and gave me this commission, ‘Go! Prophesy to my people Israel!’

16 So now listen to the LORD's message!

You say, ‘Don't prophesy against Israel!
Don't preach against the family of Isaac!’

17 “Therefore this is what the LORD says:

‘Your wife will become a prostitute in the streets
and your sons and daughters will die violently.
Your land will be given to others
and you will die in a foreign land.’

Israel will certainly be carried into exile away from its land.”

Amos' Fourth Vision—A Basket of Summer Fruit

8:1 The sovereign LORD showed me this: I saw a basket of summer fruit.

2 He said, “What do you see, Amos?” I replied, “A basket of summer fruit.” Then the LORD said to me,

“The end has come for my people Israel!

I will no longer overlook their sins.

3 The women singing in the temple will wail in that day.”

The sovereign LORD is speaking.

“There will be many corpses littered everywhere! Be quiet!”

Indictment of Greedy Merchants

4 Listen to this, you who trample the needy,
and do away with the destitute in the land.

5 You say, “When will the new moon festival be over,
so we can sell grain?

When will the Sabbath end,

so we can open up the grain bins?

We're eager to sell less for a higher price,

and to cheat the buyer with rigged scales!

6 We're eager to trade silver for the poor,
a pair of sandals for the needy!

We want to mix in some chaff with the grain!”

7 The LORD confirms this oath by the arrogance of Jacob:

“I swear I will never forget all you have done!

The LORD's Judgment

8 Because of this the earth will quake,
and all who live in it will mourn.

The whole earth will rise like the River Nile,

it will surge upward and then grow calm, like the Nile in Egypt.

9 In that day,” says the sovereign LORD, “I will make the sun set at noon,
and make the earth dark in the middle of the day.

10 I will turn your festivals into funerals,
and all your songs into funeral dirges.

I will make everyone wear funeral clothes

and cause every head to be shaved bald.

I will make you mourn as if you had lost your only son;

when it ends it will indeed have been a bitter day.

11 Be certain of this, the time is coming,” says the sovereign LORD,

“when I will send a famine through the land—

not a shortage of food or water

but an end to divine revelation!

12 People will stagger from sea to sea,
and from the north around to the east.

They will wander about looking for a revelation from the LORD,

but they will not find any.

13 In that day your beautiful young women
and your young men will faint from thirst.

14 These are the ones who now take oaths in the name of the sinful idol goddess of Samaria.

They vow, ‘As surely as your god lives, O Dan,’

or ‘As surely as your beloved one lives, O Beer Sheba!’

But they will fall down and not get up again.”

Amos' Fifth Vision—The LORD Standing by the Altar

9:1 I saw the sovereign One standing by the altar and he said,

“Strike the tops of the support pillars, so the thresholds shake!

Knock them down on the heads of all the people,
and I will kill the survivors with the sword.

No one will be able to run away;
no one will be able to escape.

2 Even if they could dig down into the netherworld,
my hand would pull them up from there.

Even if they could climb up to heaven,
I would drag them down from there.

3 Even if they were to hide on the top of Mount Carmel,
I would hunt them down and take them from there.

Even if they tried to hide from me at the bottom of the sea,
from there I would command the Sea Serpent to bite them.

4 Even when their enemies drive them into captivity,
from there I will command the sword to kill them.

I will not let them out of my sight;
they will experience disaster, not prosperity.”

The Lord Almighty

5 The sovereign LORD who commands armies will do this.

He touches the earth and it dissolves;
all who live on it mourn.

The whole earth rises like the River Nile,
and then grows calm like the Nile in Egypt.

6 He builds the upper rooms of his palace in heaven
and sets its foundation supports on the earth.

He summons the water of the sea
and pours it out on the earth’s surface.

The LORD is his name.

Destruction of the Sinful Kingdom

7 “You Israelites are just like the Ethiopians in my sight,” says the LORD.

“Certainly I brought Israel up from the land of Egypt,
but I also brought the Philistines from Caphtor and the Arameans from Kir.

8 Look, the sovereign LORD is watching the sinful nation,
and I will destroy it from the face of the earth.

But I will not completely destroy the family of Jacob,” says the LORD.

9 “For look, I am giving a command

and I will shake the family of Israel together with all the nations.

It will resemble a sieve being shaken,
when not even a pebble falls to the ground.

10 All the sinners among my people will die by the sword—

the ones who say, ‘Disaster will not come near, it will not confront us.’

Future Restoration of Israel

11 “In that day I will rebuild the collapsing hut of David.

I will seal its gaps, repair its ruins,
and restore it to what it was like in days gone by.

12 As a result they will conquer those left in Edom [*that the remnant of men may earnestly seek me (LXX)*]
and all the nations subject to my rule.” [*and all the Gentiles upon whom my name is called (LXX)*]

The LORD, who is about to do this, is speaking! [[Acts 15:13-21](#)]

13 “Be sure of this, the time is coming,” says the LORD,

“when the plowman will catch up to the reaper
and the one who stomps the grapes will overtake the planter.

Juice will run down the slopes,
it will flow down all the hillsides.

14 I will bring back my people, Israel;

they will rebuild the cities lying in rubble and settle down.

They will plant vineyards and drink the wine they produce;
they will grow orchards and eat the fruit they produce.

- 15 I will plant them on their land
and they will never again be uprooted from the land I have given them,”
says the LORD your God.

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