

The Lion Has Roared

November 20, 2016 ~ Amos 3.1-8

Lion Roaring Over His Prey

- ❖ “Have you ever heard a lion roar?”
 - ✧ They can reach 114 decibels / 25 times louder than lawn mower
 - ✧ **!!!**: Vocal cords of 3 lions and 3 tigers from Henry Doorly Zoo examined in 2011
- ❖ Amos references ‘lion’ 5 times in his book / 3 of them are in our text
 - ✧ The word lions occurs 57 times in the OT books of prophecy / common motif
- ❖ Amos asks 7 rhetorical questions from v2 to v8 / Implied answer to all is ‘No’
- ❖ Note what Amos implies about lions
 - ✧ v4 ~ They roar when they have prey
 - ✧ v8 ~ God’s proclamation compared to roaring of a lion
 - ✧ God is roaring through Amos to terrify His prey, “but will they listen?”

Minor Prophets

- ❖ The last 12 books of Bible are called the Minor Prophets
 - ✧ They are only called ‘minor’ because of their size
 - ✧ The Jews regarded them as 1 book / difficult to sequence chronologically
- ❖ The book of Amos is amongst the earliest of all the prophetic books ~ 760-755 BC
 - ✧ By this time the kingdom has been divided about 170 years
 - ✧ Each has a special emphasis / Jonah against Assyria / Obadiah against Edom
 - ✧ Let’s hear to whom Amos addressed his book in ch1

“For 3 Transgressions and for 4...”

- ❖ This phrase indicates many sins, 7 reflects completeness, “sins to the full”
 - ✧ MH ~ “with seven transgressions .. they’ve filled up the measure of their iniquities”
 - ✧ **Gen 15.16** ~ “.. the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete”
- ❖ Amos pronounces judgment upon the following nations:
 - ✧ Ch1 ~ Syria (v3) / Philistia (v6) / Tyre (v9)
 - ✧ Ch1 ~ Edom (v11) / Ammon (v13)
 - ◇ Edom (Esau – brother of Jacob) / Ammon & Moab (Lot’s sons ~ Jacob’s 2nd cousins)
 - ✧ Ch2 ~ Moab (v1) / Judah (v4) / Last but not least Israel (v8)
- ❖ Note the rebukes begin afar and come closer and closer to home
 - ✧ They probably rejoiced to hear prophecies against other nations

Xition: But did they know Amos was saving the worst rebukes for them?

“What Were the Sins of the 7 Nations?”

1. Syria (**Read 1.3**) ~ cruelty against Gilead
2. Philistia (**Read 1.6**) ~ enslaved a people, selling them to Edom
3. Tyre (**Read 1.9**) ~ enslaved a people, selling them to Edom
4. Edom (**Read 1.11**) ~ pursued brother with sword and without pity
5. Ammon (**Read 1.13**) ~ ripped open pregnant women in Gilead for land
6. Moab (**Read 2.1**) ~ burned bones of king of Edom to lime
7. Judah (**Read 1.4**) ~ rejected the law of the LORD

“What Were the Sins of Israel?”

- ❖ Amos devoted 1 or 2 verses to each of the first 7 nations
- ❖ Amos begins in **2.6** and goes thru **v16** and on for another **6 ½** chapters
- ❖ I’ve listed 12 sins they were accused of:
 1. greed ~ “sell the righteous for silver”
 2. lewdness ~ sexual sin listed in **2.7**
 3. injustice ~ “drink the wine of those that have been fined”
 4. violence ~ “those who store up violence and robbery”
 5. theft ~ “make the ephah small and the shekel great”
 6. idolatry ~ “Bethel .. is a temple of the kingdom”
 7. decadence ~ “anoint themselves with the finest oils”
 8. oppression ~ “oppress the poor”, “crush the needy”, “trample the poor”
 9. revelry ~ “drink wine in bowls”
 10. rebellion ~ “I gave you .. yet you did not return to me”
 11. bribery ~ “take a bribe”
 12. idleness ~ “lie in beds of ivory”, “stretch themselves out on couches”

“What punishment was pronounced against the 7 nations?”

- ❖ Each of the first 7 nations were told the same thing
 - ✧ “I will send a fire upon .. and it shall devour the strongholds”
- ❖ But Israel’s punishment is spread out over the remainder of the book
 - ✧ Amos interleaves God’s goodness and their rebellion
 - ✧ God’s loving rebuke and their refusal to repent
 - ✧ Their many sins and their coming judgment

Xition: Let’s review some judgments God was bringing upon them

Punishments to Come Upon Israel

- ❖ Read 2.14-16 ~ “Flight shall perish .. declares the Lord.”
- ❖ Read 3.11-12 ~ “Therefore thus says the Lord .. part of a bed.”
- ❖ Read 4.2 ~ “The Lord God .. you with fishhooks.”
- ❖ Read 5.1-3 ~ “Hear this word .. to the house of Israel.”
- ❖ Read 5.23-24 ~ “Take away from me .. an ever-flowing stream.”
- ❖ Read 6.8 ~ “I abhor the pride of Jacob .. all that is in it.”
- ❖ I’ll share just a bit more on this topic later / 2 other thoughts

God Still Regarded Israel as His Possession

- ❖ The 10 tribes had split from Judah after Solomon’s reign
 - ✧ Jeroboam set up golden calves at Dan and Bethel (1 Kings 12)
- ❖ Read 2.9-11 ~ “destroyed the Amorites”, “of Egypt”, “raised up .. prophets”
- ❖ Read 3.2 ~ “You only have I known of all the families of the earth”
- ❖ Read 3.13-14 ~ “Hear, and testify .. fall to the ground”
- ❖ Read 8.11 ~ “Behold the days are .. they shall not find it” / **But they looked!**

But the Israelites Disregarded God’s Loving Rebuke (ch 4.6-11)

- ❖ God’s discipline is a sign of His love / He loved Israel
 - ✧ v6 ~ “I gave you cleanness of teeth .. lack of bread”
 - ✧ v7 ~ “I withheld the rain from you”
 - ✧ v9 ~ “I struck you with blight and mildew”
 - ✧ v10a ~ “I sent among you a pestilence”
 - ✧ v10b ~ “I killed your young men with the sword”
 - ✧ v10c ~ “I carried away your horses”
 - ✧ v11 ~ “I overthrew some of you”

God Sent a Devastating Earthquake then the Assyrians

- ❖ Read 1.1 ~ “The words of Amos .. two years before the earthquake”
- ❖ Read 3.12 ~ “corner of a couch”, “part of a bed”
- ❖ Read 6.11 ~ “ the great house shall be .. little house into bits”
- ❖ Read 8.8 ~ “Shall not the land tremble on this account”
- ❖ Read 9.9a ~ “For behold, I will command .. all the nations”
- ❖ Read 9.1 ~ “I saw the Lord standing .. I will kill with the sword”
 - ✧ Earthquake killed some / Invaders later killed many more

Xition: Let’s look at 4 visions Amos has of the Israelites

4 Visions in Chapters 7 and 8

- ❖ Read 7.1-3 ~ Locusts ate the latter growth / Amos intercedes / God relents
- ❖ Read 7.4-6 ~ Fire sweeping across the land / Amos intercedes / God relents
- ❖ Read 7.7-9 ~ God stood with a plumb line / God refuses to relent
- ❖ Read 8.1-2 ~ Amos sees basket of summer fruit / God refuses to relent
- ❖ Read 8.2 with emphasis as poetry

“How Does America Compare to Israel of that Day?”

1. greed ~ Jesus said, “The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.”
“The point is, ladies and gentleman, that greed, for lack of a better word, is good. Greed is right, greed works. Greed clarifies, cuts through, and captures the essence of the evolutionary spirit. Greed, in all of its forms; greed for life, for money, for love, for knowledge has marked the upward surge of mankind.” - Gordon Gecko from “Wall Street” (1987)
2. lewdness ~ Lust is glorified and rampant in our society
3. injustice ~ Daily life is politicized, Christians demonized, injustice on the rise
4. violence ~ widely tolerated if deemed politically correct in motivation
5. theft ~ by government is definitely on the rise
6. idolatry ~ When God is abandoned idols proliferate
7. decadence ~ **III**: Indian co-worker said “filthy rich” this week (“filthy lucre” 1 Tim 3)
8. oppression ~ Liberals say they want to help, but policies keep poor dependent
9. revelry ~ drugs and alcohol abused across the economic spectrum / weekend
10. rebellion ~ respect for authority was the norm until the 60’s
11. bribery ~ A Clinton white house would have perpetuated this
12. idleness ~ Over 100M Americans receive means-tested benefit (35%)

But God’s Mercy is Abundant

- ❖ Read 9.13-15 ~ “Behold, the days are coming .. says the Lord your God”
- ❖ Zechariah 10.6 ~ “I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back, because I have mercy on them. They shall be as though I had not cast them aside; for I am the Lord their God, and I will hear them.”

☐ God’s patience is great and His mercy is new every morning

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,

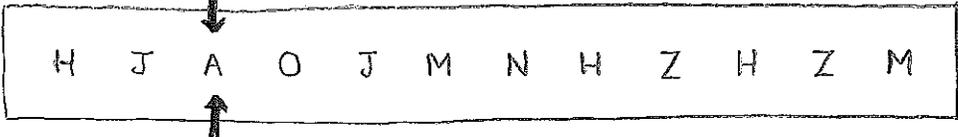
And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

To God our Savior, who alone is wise,

Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

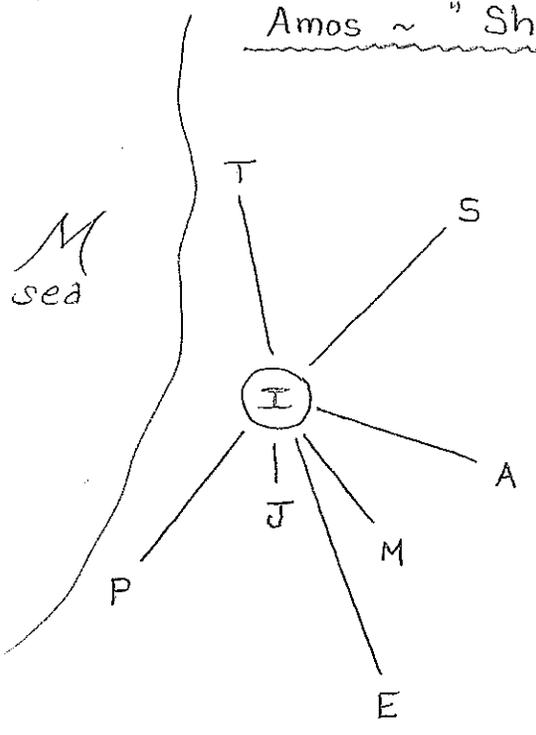
Amen *pause* Go in peace . . .

— MINOR PROPHETS —



DCC Sermon Notes
 Nov 20, 2016
 Amos 3:1-8
 "The Lion Has Roared"

Amos ~ "Shepherd of Tekoa"



"For 3 transgressions of _____
 and for 4, I will not revoke
 punishment, because ..."

	<u>Israel</u>
Syria - cruelty	1. _____
Philistia - enslavement	2. _____
Tyre - enslavement	3. _____
Edom - vengeance	4. _____
Ammon - cruelty	5. _____
Moab - desecration	6. _____
Judah - rejected God's law	7. _____
	8. _____
	9. _____
	10. _____
	11. _____
	12. _____

Frequency of topics in Amos:

1. _____ 63%
2. _____ 22%
3. _____ 13%
4. _____ 11%
5. _____ 8%
6. _____ 3%

4 Visions

1. _____ God relented
 2. _____ God relented
 3. _____
 4. _____
- } "I will never again pass by them."

Israel Disregarded God's Loving Rebukes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

"Let justice roll down like waters,
 and righteousness like
 an ever-flowing stream."



- idolatry / syncretism
- judgment
- God's majesty
- sins
- blessings
- wealth / decadence
avarice

Amos 1-9 English Standard Version (ESV)

1 The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds^[a] of Tekoa, which 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^[b] before the earthquake.

Judgment on Israel's Neighbors

2 And he said:

"The LORD roars from Zion
and utters his voice from Jerusalem;
the pastures of the shepherds mourn,
and the top of Carmel withers."

	verses
63-7.	92
22-7.	32
13-7.	19
11-7.	16
8-7.	12
3-7.	4 (14 thus says)

3 Thus says the LORD:

"For three transgressions of Damascus,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,^[c]
because they have **threshed Gilead**
with threshing sledges of iron.

Syria 1

CRUELTY

4 So I will **send a fire** upon the house of Hazael,
and it shall **devour the strongholds** of Ben-hadad.

5 I will break the gate-bar of Damascus,
and cut off the inhabitants from the Valley of Aven,^[d]
and him who holds the scepter from Beth-eden;
and the people of Syria shall go into exile to Kir,"
says the LORD.

6 Thus says the LORD:

"For three transgressions of Gaza,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because they **carried into exile a whole people**
to deliver them up to Edom.

Philistia 2

SLAVE TRADERS

7 So I will **send a fire** upon the wall of Gaza,
and it shall **devour her strongholds.**

8 I will cut off the inhabitants from Ashdod,
and him who holds the scepter from Ashkelon;
I will turn my hand against Ekron,
and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish,"
says the Lord GOD.

9 Thus says the LORD:

"For three transgressions of Tyre,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because they delivered up a whole people to Edom,
and did not remember the covenant of brotherhood.

Tyre 3

SLAVE TRADERS

10 So I will send a fire upon the wall of Tyre,
and it shall devour her strongholds."

11 Thus says the LORD:

"For three transgressions of Edom,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because he pursued his brother with the sword
and cast off all pity,
and his anger tore perpetually,
and he kept his wrath forever.

Edom 4

VENGEANCE

12 So I will send a fire upon Teman,
and it shall devour the strongholds of Bozrah."

13 Thus says the LORD:

"For three transgressions of the Ammonites,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead,
that they might enlarge their border.

Ammon 5

CRUELTY
AVARICE

14 So I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah,
and it shall devour her strongholds,
with shouting on the day of battle,
with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind;

15 and their king shall go into exile,
he and his princes together,"
says the LORD.

2 Thus says the LORD:

Moab 6

"For three transgressions of Moab,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,^[7]
because he burned to lime
the bones of the king of Edom.

DESECRATION

2 So I will send a fire upon Moab,
and it shall devour the strongholds of Kerioth,
and Moab shall die amid uproar,
amid shouting and the sound of the trumpet;
3 I will cut off the ruler from its midst,
and will kill all its princes^[9] with him,"
says the LORD.

Judgment on Judah

⁴ Thus says the LORD:

"For three transgressions of Judah,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because they have rejected the law of the LORD,
and have not kept his statutes,
but their lies have led them astray,
those after which their fathers walked.

ABANDONED
GOD'S LAW

5 So I will send a fire upon Judah,
and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem."

Judah 7

Judgment on Israel

⁶ Thus says the LORD:

"For three transgressions of Israel,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,

Israel 8

because they sell the righteous for silver,
and the needy for a pair of sandals—
7 those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth
and turn aside the way of the afflicted;
a man and his father go in to the same girl,
so that my holy name is profaned;
8 they lay themselves down beside every altar
on garments taken in pledge,
and in the house of their God they drink
the wine of those who have been fined.

GREED

LEWDNESS

INJUSTICE

- 9 "Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them,
whose height was like the height of the cedars
and who was as strong as the oaks;
I destroyed his fruit above
and his roots beneath.
- 10 Also it was I who brought you up out of the land of Egypt
and led you forty years in the wilderness,
to possess the land of the Amorite.
- 11 And I raised up some of your sons for prophets,
and some of your young men for Nazirites.
Is it not indeed so, O people of Israel?"
declares the LORD.
- 12 "But you made the Nazirites drink wine,
and commanded the prophets,
saying, 'You shall not prophesy.'

- 13 "Behold, I will press you down in your place,
as a cart full of sheaves presses down.
- 14 Flight shall perish from the swift,
and the strong shall not retain his strength,
nor shall the mighty save his life;
- 15 he who handles the bow shall not stand,
and he who is swift of foot shall not save himself,
nor shall he who rides the horse save his life;
- 16 and he who is stout of heart among the mighty
shall flee away naked in that day,"
declares the LORD.

Israel's Guilt and Punishment

3 Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O people of Israel,
against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt:

- 2 "You only have I known
of all the families of the earth;
therefore I will punish you
for all your iniquities.
- 3 "Do two walk together,
unless they have agreed to meet?
- 4 Does a lion roar in the forest,
when he has no prey?

Does a young lion cry out from his den,
if he has taken nothing?
5 Does a bird fall in a snare on the earth,
when there is no trap for it?
Does a snare spring up from the ground,
when it has taken nothing?
6 Is a trumpet blown in a city,
and the people are not afraid?
Does disaster come to a city,
unless the LORD has done it?
7 "For the Lord GOD does nothing
without revealing his secret
to his servants the prophets.
8 The lion has roared;
who will not fear?
The Lord GOD has spoken;
who can but prophesy?"

9 Proclaim to the strongholds in Ashdod
and to the strongholds in the land of Egypt,
and say, "Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria,
and see the great tumults within her,
and the oppressed in her midst."

10 "They do not know how to do right," declares the LORD,
"those who store up violence and robbery in their strongholds."

VIOLENCE

11 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:

"An adversary shall surround the land
and bring down^[h] your defenses from you,
and your strongholds shall be plundered."

12 Thus says the LORD: "As the shepherd rescues from the mouth of the lion
two legs, or a piece of an ear, so shall the people of Israel who dwell in
Samaria be rescued, with the corner of a couch and part^[i] of a bed."

13 "Hear, and testify against the house of Jacob,"
declares the Lord GOD, the God of hosts,

14 "that on the day I punish Israel for his transgressions,
I will punish the altars of Bethel,
and the horns of the altar shall be cut off
and fall to the ground."

IDOLATRY

15

I will strike the winter house along with the summer house,
and the houses of ivory shall perish,
and the great houses shall come to an end,"
declares the LORD.

OPULENCE

4

"Hear this word, you cows of Bashan,
who are on the mountain of Samaria,
who oppress the poor, who crush the needy,
who say to your husbands, 'Bring, that we may drink!'

OPPRESSION

REVELRY

2

The Lord GOD has sworn by his holiness
that, behold, the days are coming upon you,
when they shall take you away with hooks,
even the last of you with fishhooks.

3

And you shall go out through the breaches,
each one straight ahead;
and you shall be cast out into Harmon,"
declares the LORD.

4

"Come to Bethel, and transgress;
to Gilgal, and multiply transgression;
bring your sacrifices every morning,
your tithes every three days;

IDOLATRY

5

offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened,
and proclaim freewill offerings, publish them;
for so you love to do, O people of Israel!"
declares the Lord GOD.

Israel Has Not Returned to the LORD

6

"I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities,
and lack of bread in all your places,
yet you did not return to me,"
declares the LORD.

Loving
Rebukes

7

"I also withheld the rain from you
when there were yet three months to the harvest;
I would send rain on one city,
and send no rain on another city;
one field would have rain,
and the field on which it did not rain would wither;

8

so two or three cities would wander to another city
to drink water, and would not be satisfied;

yet you did not return to me,"

declares the LORD.

9 "I struck you with blight and mildew;
your many gardens and your vineyards,
your fig trees and your olive trees the locust devoured;

yet you did not return to me,"

declares the LORD.

10 "I sent among you a pestilence after the manner of Egypt;
I killed your young men with the sword,
and carried away your horses,^[k]
and I made the stench of your camp go up into your nostrils;

yet you did not return to me,"

declares the LORD.

11 "I overthrew some of you,
as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah,
and you were as a brand^[l] plucked out of the burning;

yet you did not return to me,"

declares the LORD.

12 "Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel;
because I will do this to you,
prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"

13 For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind,
and declares to man what is his thought,
who makes the morning darkness,
and treads on the heights of the earth—
the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!

Seek the LORD and Live

5 Hear this word that I take up over you in lamentation, O house of Israel:

2 "Fallen, no more to rise,
is the virgin Israel;
forsaken on her land,
with none to raise her up."

3 For thus says the Lord God:

"The city that went out a thousand shall have a hundred left, and that which went out a hundred shall have ten left to the house of Israel."

4 For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel:

"Seek me and live; but do not seek Bethel, and do not enter into Gilgal or cross over to Beersheba; for Gilgal shall surely go into exile, and Bethel shall come to nothing."

IDOLATRY

6 Seek the LORD and live, lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel,

7 O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth!

INJUSTICE

8 He who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the LORD is his name;

9 who makes destruction flash forth against the strong, so that destruction comes upon the fortress.

10 They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks the truth.

REBELLION

11 Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.

OPPRESSION

GREED

12 For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins— you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate.

BRIBERY

INJUSTICE

13 Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time,
for it is an evil time.

14 Seek good, and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,
as you have said.

15 Hate evil, and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

16 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the Lord:

"In all the squares there shall be wailing,
and in all the streets they shall say, 'Alas! Alas!'
They shall call the farmers to mourning
and to wailing those who are skilled in lamentation,
17 and in all vineyards there shall be wailing,
for I will pass through your midst,"
says the LORD.

Let Justice Roll Down

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why would you have the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, and not light,
19 as if a man fled from a lion,
and a bear met him,
or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,
and a serpent bit him.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 "I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

24 But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

25 "Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? 26 You shall take up Sikkuth your king, and Kiyyun your star-god—your images that you made for yourselves, 27 and I will send you into exile beyond Damascus," says the LORD, whose name is the God of hosts.

Woe to Those at Ease in Zion

6 "Woe to those who are at ease in Zion,
and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria,
the notable men of the first of the nations,
to whom the house of Israel comes!

ONE
People
Israel +
Judah

2 Pass over to Calneh, and see,
and from there go to Hamath the great;
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.
Are you better than these kingdoms?
Or is their territory greater than your territory,
3 O you who put far away the day of disaster
and bring near the seat of violence?

4 "Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and stretch themselves out on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the midst of the stall,

IDLENESS

5 who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David invent for themselves instruments of music,
6 who drink wine in bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

REVELRY
LUXURY

7 Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile,
and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass
away."

8 The Lord GOD has sworn by himself, declares the LORD, the God of hosts:

"I abhor the pride of Jacob
and hate his strongholds,
and I will deliver up the city and all that is in it."

⁹And if ten men remain in one house, they shall die. ¹⁰And when one's relative, the one who anoints him for burial, shall take him up to bring the bones out of the house, and shall say to him who is in the innermost parts of the house, "Is there still anyone with you?" he shall say, "No"; and he shall say, "Silence! We must not mention the name of the LORD."

¹¹ For behold, the LORD commands,
and **the great house shall be struck down into fragments,**
and **the little house into bits.**

¹² Do horses run on rocks?
Does one plow there^[o] with oxen?
But **you have turned justice into poison**
and **the fruit of righteousness into wormwood**^[p]—

¹³ you who rejoice in Lo-debar,^[q]
who say, "Have we not by our own strength
captured Karnaim^[r] for ourselves?"

¹⁴ "For behold, I will raise up against you a nation,
O house of Israel," declares the LORD, the God of hosts;
"and they shall oppress you from Lebo-hamath
to the Brook of the Arabah."

Warning Visions

7 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, he was forming locusts when the latter growth was just beginning to sprout, and behold, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings. ²When they had finished eating the grass of the land, I said,

"O Lord GOD, please forgive!
How can Jacob stand?
He is so small!"

³ **The LORD relented** concerning this:
"It shall not be," said the LORD.

⁴This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, the Lord GOD was calling for a judgment by fire, and it devoured the great deep and was eating up the land. ⁵Then I said,

"O Lord GOD, please cease!
How can Jacob stand?
He is so small!"

⁶ **The LORD relented** concerning this:
"This also shall not be," said the Lord GOD.

⁷This is what he showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"Behold, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;

I will never again pass by them;

3

⁹ the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword!"

IDOLATRY

Amos Accused

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 thus Amos has said,

"Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land."

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, "I was^[s] no prophet, nor a prophet's son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. ¹⁵But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' ¹⁶Now therefore hear the word of the LORD.

"You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel,
and do not preach against the house of Isaac.'

¹⁷Therefore thus says the LORD:

"Your wife shall be a prostitute in the city,
and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword,
and your land shall be divided up with a measuring line;
you yourself shall die in an unclean land,
and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land."

The Coming Day of Bitter Mourning

8 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, a basket of summer fruit.
2And he said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me,

"The end^[v] has come upon my people Israel;
I will never again pass by them."

3 The songs of the temple^[w] shall become wailings^[v] in that day," declares the Lord GOD.

"So many dead bodies!"
"They are thrown everywhere!"
"Silence!"

4 Hear this, you who trample on the needy
and bring the poor of the land to an end,

INJUSTICE

5 saying, "When will the new moon be over,
that we may sell grain?

And the Sabbath,

GREED

that we may offer wheat for sale,

THEFT

that we may make the ephah small and the shekel^[w] great,
and deal deceitfully with false balances,

6 that we may buy the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:

"Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

8 Shall not the land tremble on this account,
and everyone mourn who dwells in it,
and all of it rise like the Nile,

and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?"

9 "And on that day," declares the Lord GOD,

"I will make the sun go down at noon
and darken the earth in broad daylight.

10 I will turn your feasts into mourning
and all your songs into lamentation;

I will bring sackcloth on every waist
and baldness on every head;

I will make it like the mourning for an only son
and the end of it like a bitter day.

- 11 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord GOD,
"when I will send a famine on the land—
not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water,
but of hearing the words of the LORD.
- 12 They shall wander from sea to sea,
and from north to east;
they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD,
but they shall not find it.
- 13 "In that day the lovely virgins and the young men
shall faint for thirst.
- 14 Those who swear by the Guilt of Samaria,
and say, 'As your god lives, O Dan,'
and, 'As the Way of Beersheba lives,'
they shall fall, and never rise again."

The Destruction of Israel

9 I saw the Lord standing beside^[x] the altar, and he said:

- 'Strike' the capitals until the 'thresholds shake,'
and shatter them on the heads of all the people;^[y]
and those who are left of them I will kill with the sword;
not one of them shall flee away;
not one of them shall escape.
- 2 "If they dig into Sheol,
from there shall my hand take them;
if they climb up to heaven,
from there I will bring them down.
- 3 If they hide themselves on the top of Carmel,
from there I will search them out and take them;
and if they hide from my sight at the bottom of the sea,
there I will command the serpent, and it shall bite them.
- 4 And if they go into captivity before their enemies,
there I will command the sword, and it shall kill them;
and I will fix my eyes upon them
for evil and not for good."
- 5 The Lord GOD of hosts,
he who touches the earth and it melts,
and all who dwell in it mourn,
and all of it rises like the Nile,

and sinks again, like the Nile of Egypt;
6 who builds his upper chambers in the heavens
and founds his vault upon the earth;
who calls for the waters of the sea
and pours them out upon the surface of the earth—
the LORD is his name.

7 "Are you not like the Cushites to me,
O people of Israel?" declares the LORD.

"Did I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt,
and the Philistines from Caphtor and the Syrians from Kir?

8 Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom,
and I will destroy it from the surface of the ground,
except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob,"
declares the LORD.

9 "For behold, I will command,
and shake the house of Israel among all the nations
as one shakes with a sieve,
but no pebble shall fall to the earth.

10 All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword,
who say, 'Disaster shall not overtake or meet us.'

The Restoration of Israel

11 "In that day I will raise up
the booth of David that is fallen
and repair its breaches,
and raise up its ruins
and rebuild 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,"^[2]
declares the LORD who does this.

13 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD,
"when the plowman shall overtake the reaper
and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed;
the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
and all the hills shall flow with it.

14 I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel,
and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine,

and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.

- 15 I will plant them on their land,
and they shall never again be uprooted
out of the land that I have given them,"
says the LORD your God.

Footnotes:

- a. Amos 1:1 Or *sheep breeders*
- b. Amos 1:1 Or *during two years*
- c. Amos 1:3 Hebrew *I will not turn it back*; also verses 6, 9, 11, 13
- d. Amos 1:5 Or *On*
- e. Amos 1:15 Or *officials*
- f. Amos 2:1 Hebrew *I will not turn it back*; also verses 4, 6
- g. Amos 2:3 Or *officials*
- h. Amos 3:11 Hebrew *An adversary, one who surrounds the land—he shall bring down*
- i. Amos 3:12 The meaning of the Hebrew word is uncertain
- j. Amos 3:15 Or *and many houses* 1 - 15
- k. Amos 4:10 Hebrew *along with the captivity of your horses* 2 - 16 31
- l. Amos 4:11 That is, a burning stick 3 - 15 46
- m. Amos 5:7 Or *to bitter fruit* 4 - 13 59
- n. Amos 5:11 Or *you tax* 5 - 27 86
- o. Amos 6:12 Or *the sea* 6 - 14 100
- p. Amos 6:12 Or *into bitter fruit* 7 - 17 117
- q. Amos 6:13 *Lo-debar* means *nothing* 8 - 14 131
- r. Amos 6:13 *Karnaim* means *horns* (a symbol of strength) 9 - 15 146
- s. Amos 7:14 Or *am*; twice in this verse
- t. Amos 8:2 The Hebrew words for *end* and *summer fruit* sound alike
- u. Amos 8:3 Or *palace*
- v. Amos 8:3 Or *The singing women of the palace shall wail*
- w. Amos 8:5 An *ephah* was about 3/5 bushel or 22 liters; a *shekel* was about 2/5 ounce or 11 grams
- x. Amos 9:1 Or *on*
- y. Amos 9:1 Hebrew *all of them*
- z. Amos 9:12 Hebrew; Septuagint (compare Acts 15:17) *that the remnant of mankind and all the nations who are called by my name may seek the Lord*

English Standard Version (ESV)

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