

## Chapter 1

**Amos 1: [1] The words of Amos, who was among the herdman 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 before the earthquake.**

### 1. The Man, Amos

The name Amos means burden or burden bearer.  
Amos is going to be used of God to deliver a wake up call to the nation of Israel.

Israel is really a divided kingdom.  
There are the 10 tribes considered the northern kingdom or Israel.  
There is the southern kingdom named Judah.

Amos is one of the herdman of Tekoa.  
Tekoa is about 10 miles south of Jerusalem.  
Amos does not call himself a shepherd. He doesn't even lead the sheep.  
He works amongst the sheep. He is a sheep raiser.

Amos 7:14-15 tells us that Amos was a simple farmer.  
But God called him to stand before a nation. Amos may seem foolish, but God chose him.

### 2. The Moment

Amos says that God has given him a word and a vision, "words" "which he saw."  
Amos gives us a timeline of his ministry.  
Amos spoke during the days of Uzziah king of Judah and Jeroboam the king of Israel.

God speaks from Jerusalem, not Dan or Bethel, where the king sanctioned calf worship.  
God has chosen Jerusalem, the place He ordained for worship.

This ministry took place 2 years the earthquake.  
The earthquake is also mentioned in Zechariah.  
In fact, Amos forewarned 2 years before and wrote more of the warning in Amos 3:15.  
I can only speculate through other writers such as Josephus that it happened around 2Chr 26:16.

**Amos 1: [2] And he said, The LORD will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither.**

### 3. The Method

Amos said "*the Lord will roar from Zion.*"  
God disturbs the peace (Amos 6:1), like a lion who suddenly roars before he tears.

Amos says "*the habitation of the shepherds shall mourn.*"  
The famine has come and will grow worse, Amos 4:6-7. The fertile fruitful lands will be ruined.

**Amos 1: [3] Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have threshed Gilead with threshing instruments of iron: [4] But I will send a fire into the house of Hazeal, which shall devour the palaces of Ben-hadad. [5] I will break also the bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitant from the plain of Aven, and him that holdeth the sceptre from the house of Eden: and the people of Syria shall go into captivity unto Kir, saith the LORD.**

#### **4. The Message**

The judgment of God is coming on Israel.

To qualify the warning, first God warns that He will bring judgment on Israel's enemies.

When they see this taking place, they should know that it will happen to them.

Israel is not exempt. God will examine all the nations.

If I am under the judgment of God, I want to know.

#### **A. Damascus, Syria 3-5 (North of Israel)**

"*For three transgressions and for four*", this is God's formula.

This "formula" will introduce God's announcement of judgment against each nation.

It doesn't mean that Damascus only committed three sins, and then God thought of a fourth.

This formula simply has the idea of "*sin upon sin upon sin.*"

God will not turn away their punishment, it is too late.

The region of Gilead belonged to Israel.

God will judge the Syrians for coming against the land of God's people.

Syria had tortured the Gileadites. Damascus will be brought into judgment for their cruelty.

**2Kings 8:12** Hazeal had dashed their children and ripped up their women with child, 2Kings 10:32-33.

**2Kings 13:7** Hazeal destroyed Israel like the dust be threshing.

God will bring such destruction that it is as if a deep plow had been run through the land.

God will burn and devour the palaces of Syria.

God will break the bar which holds the gate of Damascus and the Syrian will no longer be safe.

God allowed the Assyrians to invade and carry Damascus away into captivity unto Kir, 2Kings 16:9.

**Amos 1: [6] Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they carried away captive the whole captivity, to deliver them up to Edom: [7] But I will send a fire on the wall of Gaza, which shall devour the palaces thereof: [8] And I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, and him that holdeth the sceptre from Ashkelon, and I will turn mine hand against Ekron: and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish, saith the Lord GOD.**

#### **B. Gaza, Philistines 6-8 (West of Israel)**

Again God says "for sin upon sin", He will bring judgment.

2Kings 21:16-17, the Philistines carried away Israel into captivity to Edom.

The Philistines enslaved Israel. For their sins God will burn the palace of Gaza.

God will cause the Philistines thoroughly to "*perish.*"

**Amos 1: [9] Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Tyrus, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they delivered up the whole captivity to Edom, and remembered not the brotherly covenant: [10] But I will send a fire on the wall of Tyrus, which shall devour the palaces thereof.**

**C. Tyre, Phoenicia                      9-10 (West of Israel)**

Tyre sold Israelites to the Edomites.

Tyre had forgotten the covenant they had made with Israel. Tyre was continually breaking treaties. This covenant was between King Solomon and King Hiram, 1Kings5: 12. See also 1Kings 9:13 "brother."

God says the palace of Tyre will be devoured by fire.

Nebuchadnezzar took Tyre after 13 years of siege.

**Amos 1: [11] Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he did pursue his brother with the sword, and did cast off all pity, and his anger did tear perpetually, and he kept his wrath for ever: [12] But I will send a fire upon Teman, which shall devour the palaces of Bozrah.**

**D. Edom                                      11-12 (South of Israel)**

Edom unmercifully pursued the people of God.

This has been a perpetual problem. Edom continually had a vengeful spirit.

Remember the division of Jacob and Esau.

Edom's ancestry is Esau.

Israel's ancestry is Jacob.

*Numbers 20:18*, Edom opposed Israel passage as they journeyed toward the promised land.

At every opportunity the Edomites attacked Israel and Judah.

They were attacking their brother!

For this perpetual sin, God will devour the palaces of Edom.

**Amos 1: [13] Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of the children of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border: [14] But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour the palaces thereof, with shouting in the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind: [15] And their king shall go into captivity, he and his princes together, saith the LORD.**

**E. Ammon                                      13-15 (East Of Israel)**

Ammon destroyed the pregnant women and children of Israel.

How could people be so inhuman. No cruelty to great to enhance their property and economy.

Ammon attacked Israel and destroyed the people to enlarge their territory.

Ammon was a violent people.

Jeremiah 49:1, the Ammonites just took Gad and justified it by saying Israel had no heir.

See Ezekiel 25:2,6. For their sin, God will devour the people of Ammon.