**Amos**

**The Herdmen of Tekoa**

**Chapter One**

**The Words of Amos**

**1 The words of Amos, who was among the herdmen 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.**

   Notice the first verse says that this book is the words of Amos. It does not say it is the words of the LORD, but that is not a problem because what was said is true, they were the words of Amos but the visions that he saw were revelations straight from the LORD.

   Amos was not a priest, nor a prophet, he was a simple herdmen from Tekoa, near Bethlehem. While he was from the area under Judah (the southern kingdom) he was called to prophesy to the Northern Kingdom around 800 BC just before Israel was taken into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar.

   This prophecy came at a specific time in Israel’s history. Amos tells us it was given two years before the earthquake that happened in the days of Uzziah (the King of Judah) and Jeroboam (the King of Israel) and this was no ordinary earthquake, this was an earthquake brought about by God.

   Rest assured that God is not causing earthquakes today to get our attention in the dispensation of grace because it is the dispensation of Grace. Israel was under the Law, and they were warned that just such things would come to pass if they were disobedient.

**The Prophecy**

**Isaiah 29:6 Thou shalt be visited of the LORD of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire.**

**The Fulfillment**

**Zechariah 4:5 And ye shall flee *to* the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, *and* all the saints with thee.**

   Jeroboam was the king that had caused Israel to sin by placing two golden calves in Dan and Bethel to cause the people to turn away from worshipping in Jerusalem at the Temple. Twenty-one times in 1st and 2nd Kings it says that Jeroboam caused Israel to sin.

**1st Kings 12:28 Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves *of* gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.**

**1st Kings 14:16 And he shall give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and who made Israel to sin.**

**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.**

**The LORD roars from Zion**

**Jeremiah 25:30 Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread *the grapes,* against all the inhabitants of the earth.**

**Joel 3:16 The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD *will be* the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.**

   I cannot give enough emphasis to this roaring that the LORD will do. In anger and in wrath the LORD will take vengeance on all that have opposed his people including the unbelieving in Israel and Judah who always persecuted the remnant of believers.

**For Three Transgressions, and for Four**

  Eight times Amos begins by saying **“for three transgressions of .., and for four”** in chapters one and two as a way of getting the recipients attention.

   Peter was frustrated at the Lord when he asked him the same question three times but this far exceeds that and should have been heeded by its recipients in the beginning, but it wasn’t.

  Over and over these nations were warned and yet they continued in their transgressions and the LORD was holding them accountable for their actions in rejecting him.

   The usage of this method of speech is used over and over again in the bible. Proverbs 30:15-33 is a good example accept in Amos the LORD doesn’t list what the four transgressions are. Sometimes he only lists one other times he lists only two or three.

   If you go to the actual stories in which these nations sinned, you will find considerably more transgressions have been committed than have been mentioned here in Amos. Another good example and the object of many sermons is found in the book of proverbs:

**Proverbs 6:16 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.**

**Job 5:19 He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.**

   The LORD could have just said he shall deliver thee in seven troubles and no evil shall touch thee, but he said it in such a way as to get your attention. This was not something the reader should ignore but it was vital to their understanding of just exactly what the LORD was doing or was about to do.

**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 Hazael, which shall devour the palaces of Benhadad. 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.**

  Damascus gets the first pronouncement of pending punishment from the Lord for their treatment of Gilead. Gilead is the father of the Gileadites who settled on the other side of Jordan because the land was good for cattle. Gilead was from the tribe of Manasseh.

   God then says he is going to send a fire into the house of Hazael who was the King of Syria that was anointed by Elijah when Elijah was hiding in the cave from Jezebel. Elijah did not want to anoint Hazael after the LORD showed Elijah how he would one day persecute Israel and Judah.

**2nd Kings 13:24** **So Hazael king of Syria died; and Benhadad his son reigned in his stead.**

   The Kingdom of Syria under Benhadad prospered somewhat more than in Hazael’s days and Benhadad built many palaces to govern from throughout the land.

   Aven was the place of high places that caused Israel to sin. High places are a reference to places for the worship of false gods. Nimrod built the highest of the high places and look what happened to him and his followers.

**Hosea 10:8 The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us.**

   In verses three through six Amos prophesies against Damascus which is the chief (capital) city of Syria and tells them they will be taken captive into the city of Kir. What is said here is also said of the wicked in the tribulation period.

**2 Kings 16:9 And the king of Assyria hearkened unto him: for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus, and took it, and carried *the people of* it captive to Kir, and slew Rezin.**

   In chapter nine of the book of Amos and verse seven Syria’s deliverance from Kir is realized, but we will look at that in greater detail when we get to chapter nine.

**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.**

Do you remember anything being said about the Philistines in the New Testament? No you do not, because God said the remnant of the Philistines would perish and they did because of their treatment of Israel.

**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.**

   The brotherly covenant was a reference to the friendship that Hiram the King of Tyre made with King David. Tyre supplied Israel with the cedars of Lebanon that were used to build David’s house and later in the days of Solomon Hiram’s son Huram sent Solomon cedar wood to build the Temple in Solomon’s day. 1st Chronicles 14:1, and 2nd Chronicles 2:3.

    But Tyre rebelled against Israel when it forgot the brotherly covenant made with them and they along with Gaza and the Philistines with Tyre delivered up the captivity of Israel and sold them unto Edom. For this God would have to judge them. For background on Amos’ prophecy we need to look to the words of Ezekiel:

**Ezekiel 26:1 And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first *day* of the month, *that* the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, because that Tyrus hath said against Jerusalem, Aha, she is broken *that was* the gates of the people: she is turned unto me: I shall be replenished, *now* she is laid waste: 3 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I *am* against thee, O Tyrus, and will cause many nations to come up against thee, as the sea causeth his waves to come up. 4 And they shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. 5 It shall be *a place for* the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea: for I have spoken *it,* saith the Lord GOD: and it shall become a spoil to the nations. 6 And her daughters which *are* in the field shall be slain by the sword; and they shall know that I *am* the LORD. 7 For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will bring upon Tyrus Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, a king of kings, from the north, with horses, and with chariots, and with horsemen, and companies, and much people.**

This eventually happened just as Amos prophesied. Liberals hate this book and want to give it a later dating because they cannot accept that the Bible really is God’s word and he knows the end from the beginning and tells his prophets to tell the people so when it comes to pass, they will know that the LORD he is God.

**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.**

When Israel was going to enter the land Edom refused to allow Israel to pass safely through their land. When Israel was being invaded Edom pursued those who were fleeing from their captors and overcame them. God never forgot that.

**Numbers 2o:14 And Moses sent messengers from Kadesh unto the king of Edom, Thus saith thy brother Israel, Thou knowest all the travail that hath befallen us: 15 How our fathers went down into Egypt, and we have dwelt in Egypt a long time; and the Egyptians vexed us, and our fathers: 16 And when we cried unto the LORD, he heard our voice, and sent an angel, and hath brought us forth out of Egypt: and, behold, we *are* in Kadesh, a city in the uttermost of thy border:** **17 Let us pass, I pray thee, through thy country: we will not pass through the fields, or through the vineyards, neither will we drink *of* the water of the wells: we will go by the king's *high* way, we will not turn to the right hand nor to the left, until we have passed thy borders. 18 And Edom said unto him, Thou shalt not pass by me, lest I come out against thee with the sword. 19 And the children of Israel said unto him, We will go by the high way: and if I and my cattle drink of thy water, then I will pay for it: I will only, without *doing* any thing *else,* go through on my feet. 20 And he said, Thou shalt not go through. And Edom came out against him with much people, and with a strong hand. 21 Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him.**

**Isaiah 63:1 Who *is* this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this *that is* glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. 2 Wherefore *art thou* red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? 3 I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people *there was* none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. 4 For the day of vengeance *is* in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. 5 And I looked, and *there was* none to help; and I wondered that *there was* none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. 6 And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.**

   Who is this indeed? It is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ at his return. Notice the route he is taking here as he comes to establish his Kingdom. It is the same route that Israel travelled from Egypt through the wilderness to enter the Promised Land.

**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.**

   Ammon is where we get the Ammonites from. We first learn about Ammon in Genesis 19:38. They are the descendants of Benammi the son of Lot and his youngest daughter.

**Genesis 19:36 Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father. 37 And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same *is* the father of the Moabites unto this day. 38 And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name Benammi: the same *is* the father of the children of Ammon unto this day.**

    The Ammonites came into being because Abram didn’t follow God’s command to leave his family behind in Ur of the Chaldees. He instead took Lot who turned out to be a “lot” of trouble.

   Do you remember any Ammonites mentioned in the New Testament? No because God dealt with them for how they dealt with Israel in the past as they came through the wilderness and desired to pass through the land peacefully.

   Sihon, King of Ammon, would not allow Israel to pass through the land of Gilead and instead gathered his forces to fight against Israel.

   When the Ammonites were defeated Israel dispossessed Ammon of the land of Gilead, and it was given to the tribes of Reuben and Gad. Half of the tribe of Manasseh was given part of the land of Gilead as well.

   Even when Israel was disobedient to their Creator, they were still the apple of his eye. Amman is pronounced Amman which is the capital of Jordan today.

   Notice that they Ammonites ripped up the women with child of Gilead so that they might enlarge their border. Gilead was on the other side of the Jordan River in the area that was given unto Rueben and Gad. It was the chief city on the border near the river Jabot that separated Israel from the Ammonites.

   Judges 10-11 tell the story of Israel as they acquired the land from the Ammonites. God gave Israel their land because they dared to come against his people. Had they just let Israel pass through they would have prospered at that time, but they cursed the seed of Abraham instead of blessing it and they were cursed for that reason.

**Judges 11:12 And Jephthah sent messengers unto the king of the children of Ammon, saying, What hast thou to do with me, that thou art come against me to fight in my land? 13 And the king of the children of Ammon answered unto the messengers of Jephthah, Because Israel took away my land, when they came up out of Egypt, from Arnon even unto Jabbok, and unto Jordan: now therefore restore those *lands* again peaceably. 14 And Jephthah sent messengers again unto the king of the children of Ammon: 15 And said unto him, Thus saith Jephthah, Israel took not away the land of Moab, nor the land of the children of Ammon: 16 But when Israel came up from Egypt, and walked through the wilderness unto the Red sea, and came to Kadesh; 17 Then Israel sent messengers unto the king of Edom, *saying, Let me, I pray thee, pass through thy land:* but the king of Edom would not hearken *thereto.* And in like manner they sent unto the king of Moab: but he would not *consent:* and Israel abode in Kadesh. 18 Then they went along through the wilderness, and compassed the land of Edom, and the land of Moab, and came by the east side of the land of Moab, and pitched on the other side of Arnon, but came not within the border of Moab: for Arnon *was* the border of Moab. 19 And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon; and Israel said unto him, Let us pass, we pray thee, through thy land into my place. 20 But Sihon trusted not Israel to pass through his coast: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and pitched in Jahaz, and fought against Israel. 21 And the LORD God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they smote them: so Israel possessed all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country. 22 And they possessed all the coasts of the Amorites, from Arnon even unto Jabbok, and from the wilderness even unto Jordan. 23 So now the LORD God of Israel hath dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel, and shouldest thou possess it?**

   They could have just let them pass but they refused. They pitched in Jahaz and fought against Israel, and they lost. When they lost, they lost the land to Israel, the victors.

   Israel is not occupying Jordanian land today in what the world calls the west bank (meaning the west bank of Jordan), it is Jordan that is occupying land in Gilead that belongs to Israel today. It will be returned along with a lot of other land once the Kingdom is established.

**Chapter Two**

**Moab, Judah, and Israel**

**1 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime: 2 But I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth: and Moab shall die with tumult, with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet: 3 And I will cut off the judge from the midst thereof, and will slay all the princes thereof with him, saith the LORD.**

   Little is known about this event that Amos, like which Moabite king dug up which Edomite king, but what is important is that this sin was a serious thing to the LORD.

   It is a very disrespectful deed to dig up a body and to burn it into lime. Moab dies with the sound of a trumpet. This is a reference to a battle. People were often called to battle at the sound of a trumpet.

**4 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked: 5 But I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem.**

   How did Judah, and eventually Israel, make it on this list in Amos’ prophecies? They both made it because judgment must first begin at the house of the LORD and Israel and Judah were both guilty for turning their backs on the LORD and he was trying to get them both to repent through his chastening hand.

   When John the Baptist and Jesus along with his disciples preached the Kingdom of Heaven as being “at hand” they were still calling Israel to repent from their turning their back on the covenant they made with the LORD at Mount Sinai.

   It was a national repentance being sought by the LORD and his messengers in both instances. Notice that it says that Judah despised the law of the LORD. Fire is also promised to Judah’s palaces as was all the others in the LORD’S prophecy through Amos.

**6 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes;  7 That pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek: and a man and his father will go in unto the same maid, to profane my holy name: 8 And they lay themselves down upon clothes laid to pledge by every altar, and they drink the wine of the condemned in the house of their god.**

   This same accusation is elaborated on in chapter eight of the book of Amos and I will leave much of my commentary for when we get to that part of the book, but needless to say, God holds Israel accountable for how they treat the poor.

   The LORD also tells Israel through Amos that immorality such as was mentioned above will not be tolerated in the land of Israel. God had removed the Canaanite and others from the land for the very same reason, sexual immorality.

**9 Yet destroyed I the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars, and he was strong as the oaks; yet I destroyed his fruit from above, and his roots from beneath. 10 Also I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and led you forty years through the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite. 11 And I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites. Is it not even thus, O ye children of Israel? saith the LORD. 12 But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophesy not. 13 Behold, I am pressed under you, as a cart is pressed that is full of sheaves.**

   The LORD had taken all he was going to take from rebellious Israel after all he had done for them, they had forgotten him and became like the nations around them. Why was the LORD even concerned with this? Why didn’t he just let them go?

   The LORD always has eternity in mind, and he was not willing to let his children become prey for the destroyer and spend eternity separated from their Creator. That is why he sent Amos and all the other prophets to bring Israel back to faith that he may tabernacle among them one day in the future kingdom.

**14 Therefore the flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not strengthen his force, neither shall the mighty deliver himself: 15 Neither shall he stand that handleth the bow; and he that is swift of foot shall not deliver himself: neither shall he that rideth the horse deliver himself. 16 And he that is courageous among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day, saith the LORD.**

    The LORD would not allow the rich and powerful buy their way out of this coming judgment, especially since they were guilty of violating the word of the LORD.

    Before we move on to the next prophecies of Amos let us take a look at the words of the LORD as they were spoken from the mouth of Jeremiah, the weeping prophet concerning the judgement that was to come upon these different nations and peoples:

**Jeremiah 27:1 In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah came this word unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 2 Thus saith the LORD to me; Make thee bonds and yokes, and put them upon thy neck, 3 And send them to the king of Edom, and to the king of Moab, and to the king of the Ammonites, and to the king of Tyrus, and to the king of Zidon, by the hand of the messengers which come to Jerusalem unto Zedekiah king of Judah; 4 And command them to say unto their masters, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say unto your masters; 5 I have made the earth, the man and the beast that *are* upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me. 6 And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him. 7 And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him. 8 And it shall come to pass, *that* the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the LORD, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand. 9 Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: 10 For they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish. 11But the nations that bring their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him, those will I let remain still in their own land, saith the LORD; and they shall till it, and dwell therein.**

**Chapter Three**

**Can two walk together, except they be agreed?**

**1 Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, 2 You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.**

**Deuteronomy 7:6 For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth.**

   Abraham was chosen to be the father of the Jewish nation that would one day rule with the Messiah in a literal, physical, earthly kingdom and they would serve as a nation of priests to the Gentiles to teach them God’s ways. But Satan caused Israel and the Gentiles as well to follow his course for this world instead of God’s.

**Ephesians 2:2 Wherein times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:**

**3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed? 4 Will a lion roar in the forest, when he hath no prey? will a young lion cry out of his den, if he have taken nothing? 5 Can a bird fall in a snare upon the earth, where no gin is for him? shall one take up a snare from the earth, and have taken nothing at all? 6 Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?**

These are rhetorical questions, and the answer of course is no! God cannot walk with Israel, nor Israel with God, as long as they are not in agreement with one another. This verse is often used out of its context and there is some liberty with that, but this is very clear that God will not walk with Israel once they have gone so far from him.

**7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.**

   As I witnessed to one of the leading Torah scholars in Israel, he told me I was wrong about Jesus being the Messiah and he told me that the reason why he knew he was right was because of what the prophet Amos said in verse seven.

   I then told him that the reason I knew I was right was because of the very same verse. God had revealed to his prophets, and they had revealed in their writings. I then sent him all the prophecies that came from the LORD’s servants, the prophets. He was speechless for the first time.

    I was later told by his son who followed in his father’s footsteps as the head Torah scholar at a major University in Israel that his father spent the next few weeks before his death agonizing over what I had shared with him. I pray he trusted Christ.

**8 The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy? 9 Publish in the palaces at Ashdod, and in the palaces in the land of Egypt, and say, Assemble yourselves upon the mountains of Samaria, and behold the great tumults in the midst thereof, and the oppressed in the midst thereof. 10 For they know not to do right, saith the LORD, who store up violence and robbery in their palaces.**

   They didn’t know to do right any longer because they had gotten away from the LORD by building alternate places of worship with priests that were not Levites bound by the law of the LORD but rather hirelings serving the King.

**11 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; An adversary there shall be even round about the land; and he shall bring down thy strength from thee, and thy palaces shall be spoiled. 12 Thus saith the LORD; As the shepherd taketh out of the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear; so shall the children of Israel be taken out that dwell in Samaria in the corner of a bed, and in Damascus in a couch. 13 Hear ye, and testify in the house of Jacob, saith the Lord GOD, the God of hosts, 14 That in the day that I shall visit the transgressions of Israel upon him I will also visit the altars of Bethel: and the horns of the altar shall be cut off, and fall to the ground. 15 And I will smite the winter house with the summer house; and the houses of ivory shall perish, and the great houses shall have an end, saith the LORD.**

   Israel lived lavishly for much of their time because they sought after wealth at any costs, even the slavery of their own people who were less fortunate than them. The LORD did not allow Israel to buy bond slaves of their brethren, but it says in this chapter that they bought them for a pair of shoes.

**Chapter Four**

**Prepare to Meet thy God, O Israel.**

**1 Hear this word, ye kine of Bashan, that are in the mountain of Samaria, which oppress the poor, which crush the needy, which say to their masters, Bring, and let us drink. 2 The Lord GOD hath sworn by his holiness, that, lo, the days shall come upon you, that he will take you away with hooks, and your posterity with fishhooks. 3 And ye shall go out at the breaches, every cow at that which is before her; and ye shall cast them into the palace, saith the LORD.**

   Israel had become fat with their excess. Gain is not a sign of Godliness for even the wicked prosper. The LORD causes the rain to fall on the just and the unjust. They were getting fat on the backs of the poor they oppressed. God has always had a special place in his heart for the poor. How about you?

**4 Come to Bethel, and transgress; at Gilgal multiply transgression; and bring your sacrifices every morning, and your tithes after three years: 5 And offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven, and proclaim and publish the free offerings: for this liketh you, O ye children of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.**

   The children of Israel were religious, but they were not following the God of the Bible. They were following the state religion set up by Jeroboam that kind of looked like the religion God gave to Moses, but it was a counterfeit.

**6 And I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. 7 And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered. 8 So two or three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. 9 I have smitten you with blasting and mildew: when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured them: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. 10 I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up unto your nostrils: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. 11 I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.**

   Amos tells Israel that the LORD has five times punished Israel to get them to return (repent) unto him. Five courses of punishment were laid out in Leviticus twenty-six to chasten Israel to get them to repent and return unto the LORD.

   The fifth course of punishment was captivity and that is where they found themselves in Amos’ day, about to be taken captive.

**12 Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel. 13 For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name.**

   Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel. That is pretty plain. Unbelieving Israel, do you want to know what God is going to do? Get ready because you are about to meet him when you are destroyed from the face of the earth.

   Did God destroy all of Israel? No, of course not! He could not because of his promises to Israel that are eternal. But that generation suffered great loss of life because of their own rebellion.

**Chapter Five**

**The Virgin of Israel is fallen**

**1 Hear ye this word which I take up against you, even a lamentation, O house of Israel. 2 The virgin of Israel is fallen; she shall no more rise: she is forsaken upon her land; there is none to raise her up. 3 For thus saith the Lord GOD; The city that went out by a thousand shall leave an hundred, and that which went forth by an hundred shall leave ten, to the house of Israel.**

   The Virgin of Israel is a reference to Jerusalem when she was in harmony with the law of Moses, but Jerusalem has played the harlot and has fell with her many lovers. Jerusalem shall be sifted of nine-tenths of her inhabitants, and none will come to her rescue when Nebuchadnezzar destroy.

**2nd Kings 19:21 This *is* the word that the LORD hath spoken concerning him; The virgin the daughter of Zion hath despised thee, *and* laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee.**

**4 For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live: 5 But seek not Bethel, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not to Beersheba: for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall come to nought. 6 Seek the LORD, and ye shall live; lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Bethel.**

   The key for Israel was to truly seek the LORD and not return unto Bethel or anywhere else but they were to go to Jerusalem to seek the LORD. Again the reference to Joseph is a reference to the tribe that inherited the land where the capital city of Samaria was located.

   Bethel was one of the two cities that Jeroboam set up as alternate places of worship for the Northern Kingdom to keep them loyal to the Northern Kingdom.

**7 Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth, 8 Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name: 9 That strengtheneth the spoiled against the strong, so that the spoiled shall come against the fortress.**

There are seven stars in the constellation of Orion that make it appear as an hour glass. Orion’s belt has three stars in its middle that are inside the four stars that form a rectangle around it to give it its unique shape. Israel was told to seek the LORD that made Orion and all the stars, but she did not.

**10 They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly. 11 Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat: ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them. 12 For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right.**

   Over and over again since the beginning of the law the LORD commanded Israel to listen to the prophets that he sent unto them and to not to take bribes or oppress the poor, but they would not listen, so he took away their possessions and made them poor.

**Isaiah 33:13 Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might. 14 The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? 15 He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; 16 He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure. 17 Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.**

**13 Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time. 14 Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. 15 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.**

   Even in this prophecy of destruction and captivity the LORD is still pleading with the children of Israel to return unto him. While they would not escape the captivity that was coming and possible death, they would at least have a place in the Kingdom if they repented.

**16 Therefore the LORD, the God of hosts, the Lord, saith thus; Wailing shall be in all streets; and they shall say in all the highways, Alas! alas! and they shall call the husbandman to mourning, and such as are skilful of lamentation to wailing. 17 And in all vineyards shall be wailing: for I will pass through thee, saith the LORD. 18 Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light. 19 As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. 20 Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?**

The Day of the LORD is darkness and not light! Remember this! Why on earth would anyone want the last days to come in their time? All over scripture the last days of Israel’s Prophecy Program are called “the Dark” “Darkness” and “the Night.”

   Notice what our Apostle says about us concerning the Tribulation Period which is also called the Time of Jacob’s Trouble (Not Ours!), he says we are children of the light.

**1st Thessalonians 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.**

**21 I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. 22 Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. 23 Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols. 24 But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. 25 Have ye offered unto me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel? 26 But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves. 27 Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name is The God of hosts.**

   The star of their god Remphan is still used by them to this day. They just call it the Star of David. How ignorant are Israel’s leaders today who allow that same star that brought about their captivity to be placed on their national flag. How easily Satan deceives the masses.

**Acts 7:43 Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.**

**Chapter Six**

**At Ease in Zion**

**1 Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came! 2 Pass ye unto Calneh, and see; and from thence go ye to Hamath the great: then go down to Gath of the Philistines: be they better than these kingdoms? or their border greater than your border?**

   Zion is usually a term used to describe a specific mountain in Israel which is in Jerusalem, but it is also used to describe the people of the promise.

   You have heard of songs called “Marching unto Zion” and sometimes the Jewish people today are called “Zionists.” So it is not wrong to attribute the name Zion to those in the northern kingdom as it is a hope that all Israelites longed for when the LORD would one day rule in Zion in a future kingdom. The word Zion in Hebrew means a castle.

   The Mountain of Samaria stands around 800 meters high and is not all that high when compared with other mountains in the region, but it was where the house of Israel (the ten northern tribes) had their capital city also called Samaria.

   They felt protected in the high spot looking down upon their enemy but if your enemy were big enough and patient enough they could just wait and starve you out of your lofty position and then destroy you. Babylon came with such a force that the prosperous people of Samaria were easily taken captive.

   Calneh belonged to the kingdom established by Nimrod in the land of Shinar (modern day Iraq). Genesis 10:10. Hamath (pronounced Hama today) is north of Mount Hermon and just to the east of Lebanon in the Northwestern region of Syria.

   It is now the third largest city in Syria after Aleppo has been laid waste in recent years and its inhabitants killed by either ISIS fighters or by the Syrian forces and forced to flee that once great city of close to a million people.

**3 Ye that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near; 4 That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall; 5 That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David; 6 That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.**

   The people of the northern country of Israel would not listen to the words of Amos or the other prophets that prophesies a day of evil and they put those thoughts far away from their memory.

   One of the ways they did that was by persecuting the prophets and putting many of them to death. Amos in the next chapter would be told not to prophesy in Bethel because it is the King’s Chapel. Amos 7:13

   People often try to ignore the problems in their life and hope that they will just go away but putting the evil day that is coming in the future out of their minds would not help to deter it from coming, in fact it hastened it’s coming and brought the seat of violence upon themselves by not repenting of their evil.

   The affliction of Joseph is a reference to the inhabitants of the land that once belonged to the Canaanites. God displaced and dispossessed the Canaanites for their wicked perversions in the land.

   The tribe of Joseph was given this land as their inheritance when it was captured by Joshua and the children of Israel. Joseph, if you remember was sold into slavery by his brothers for twenty pieces of silver.

   It was made the capital city by Jeroboam who caused Israel to sin, and the tribe of Joseph was made subservient to the national needs of Jeroboam and the northern kingdom. It was an area that was rich in goods because it was the capital, but it was depraved because of the compromises that the king led them into.

   One king after another did wickedly in the sight of the LORD because when you set up your own religion to control the people that is contrary to the one the LORD commanded in Jerusalem you can’t help but produce wickedness in your nation. Not one king in the Northern Kingdom of Israel was considered a good King.

**7 Therefore now shall they go captive with the first that go captive, and the banquet of them that stretched themselves shall be removed. 8 The Lord GOD hath sworn by himself, saith the LORD the God of hosts, I abhor the excellency of Jacob, and hate his palaces: therefore will I deliver up the city with all that is therein.**

   All the comforts that they enjoyed they enjoyed at the expense of God’s perfect plan for his people. And because he could swear by none greater, he swore by himself that he would destroy that city and take them first into captivity. See also Hebrews 6:13

**9 And it shall come to pass, if there remain ten men in one house, that they shall die. 10 And a man's uncle shall take him up, and he that burneth him, to bring out the bones out of the house, and shall say unto him that is by the sides of the house, Is there yet any with thee? and he shall say, No. Then shall he say, Hold thy tongue: for we may not make mention of the name of the LORD. 11 For, behold, the LORD commandeth, and he will smite the great house with breaches, and the little house with clefts.**

   The army will come against Samaria harder than it will come against other areas as it was the capital of the Northern Kingdom, and it will be too late for them to cry out unto the LORD for deliverance because that time came and went a long time ago. This was a prophecy of judgment, not repentance, as in the story of Jonah.

**12 Shall horses run upon the rock? will one plow there with oxen? for ye have turned judgment into gall, and the fruit of righteousness into hemlock: 13 Ye which rejoice in a thing of nought, which say, Have we not taken to us horns by our own strength? 14 But, behold, I will raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel, saith the LORD the God of hosts; and they shall afflict you from the entering in of Hemath unto the river of the wilderness.**

   If you visit the area of Samaria today it is still withered, and the mountains covered in rocks with very little soil for growing things. It is not a place for horses to run unto this day nor would it make sense to plow these places even today over 2ooo years later as it looks like rock farms.

The taking of horns by their own strength is a reference to defeating other kings (often referred to as horns prophetically in the Bible) and their kingdoms. They boasted of their military victories.

   God gave Israel victories not because they were in obedience to him but because he had made a covenant with them, and God always kept his word but when Israel would get so far away then the LORD would have to punish Israel by bringing them into captivity.

**Chapter Seven**

**The LORD Repented?**

**1 Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me; and, behold, he formed grasshoppers in the beginning of the shooting up of the latter growth; and, lo, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings. 2 And it came to pass, that when they had made an end of eating the grass of the land, then I said, O Lord GOD, forgive, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small. 3 The LORD repented for this: It shall not be, saith the LORD.**

**Numbers 23:19, and 1 Samuel 26:9,**we read that**God is not a man that he should repent.**

    But,

**Jeremiah 26:3 says that God would repent of the evil that he purposed to do unto Israel if they repented.**

   This has caused some to think that there are contradictions in the Bible but that stems from a misunderstanding of what the word repent means.

   It means to change one’s mind. When someone changes their mind about sin and agrees with God about sin’s wickedness, they then will change their actions and not continue in that sin. God simply changed his mind here based on the prayers of the prophet from Tekoa who made intercession for the people.

   You may also think "Wait a minute, God was indeed a man in the person of Jesus Christ. True, but he became a man at the incarnation long after Numbers 23:19 and 1st Samuel 26:9 were written, God was not always a man, only for the past two thousand years.

**4 Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me: and, behold, the Lord GOD called to contend by fire, and it devoured the great deep, and did eat up a part. 5 Then said I, O Lord GOD, cease, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small. 6 The LORD repented for this: This also shall not be, saith the Lord GOD.**

   This was the second of two visions Amos received and as he did for the first vision of grasshoppers, so he did for this vision, he pleaded to God on Israel’s behalf even though Israel did not deserve Amos’ prayers.

   Notice Amos mentions Jacob here in chapter seven instead of Joseph like he did in chapter six and that is because he was not dealing with the main city of the Northern Kingdom exclusively this time but the whole Northern Kingdom.

   Jacob’s name was changed to Israel in Genesis 32:28 and so God often referred to the children of Israel as Jacob.

   Amos twice asked God, “By whom shall Jacob arise? For he is small.” And God changed his mind about how he would proceed to punish Jacob, but he would still punish them because he warned them that if they went so far there would be no turning back from God’s wrath.

**The Plumbline**

**7 Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand. 8 And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more: 9 And the high places of Isaac shall be desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste; and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.**

   The plumbline was used to draw a straight line with for the purpose of building a building square, and if it were square it would be strong and be able to withstand what this world would throw at it. Israel had the plumbline of the law laid next to them and it revealed that they were crooked and crumbling on the wrong foundation.

**10 Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words. 11 For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land.**

   Amaziah, it says here, was the priest of Bethel. Bethel was one of the two false houses of worship set up by Jeroboam, so the Northern Kingdom would not go back to Jerusalem where they were commanded to go by the LORD.

   Jeroboam knew that if his people continually went to the Southern Kingdom for worship that they would eventually side with the Southern Kingdom against their own Kingdom in the North, and the hireling Amaziah would then be out of a job. Amaziah wanted Amos dead or out of his way.

**12 Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there: 13 But prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court.**

   Bethel was state approved and everything. As long as you did not preach against the king and his governmental policies you were okay with Amaziah, but Amos was not a hireling in it for the money.

   In fact, Amos didn’t ask, nor was he born a prophet, it was thrust upon him by God. God often called prophets under Israel’s program but today Paul tells us “If a man desire the office of a Bishop, he desireth a good work.” 1st Timothy 3:1

**14 Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit: 15 And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel. 16 Now therefore hear thou the word of the LORD: Thou sayest, Prophesy not against Israel, and drop not thy word against the house of Isaac. 17 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Thy wife shall be an harlot in the city, and thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the sword, and thy land shall be divided by line; and thou shalt die in a polluted land: and Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of his land.**

   Amaziah, like many liberals throughout the ages, tried to stop the word of the LORD from going out into the ears and minds of God’s people to get them to follow the LORD and Amaziah was punished for his compromising concerning God’s word.

**Chapter Eight**

**A famine of hearing the word of the LORD**

**1 Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me: and behold a basket of summer fruit. 2 And he said, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A basket of summer fruit. Then said the LORD unto me, The end is come upon my people of Israel; I will not again pass by them any more. 3 And the songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord GOD: there shall be many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast them forth with silence. 4 Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail, 5 Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit? 6 That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the wheat?**

Israel was so far away from the covenant they made with the LORD at Mount Sinai that they swallowed up the needy to make the poor fail or cease to be, they literally worked the poor to death.

   They couldn’t wait for the Sabbath to be over, so they could make more money. When they were selling, they shrunk the measuring ephah’s to give the buyer less wheat and corn and as they took money from the people it was at an inflated rate to rob from them even more.

    They had one set of scales for people selling them crops and another for selling it to their customers to make sure they made even more money off the unknowing.

**7 The LORD hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works. 8 Shall not the land tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein? and it shall rise up wholly as a flood; and it shall be cast out and drowned, as by the flood of Egypt. 9 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day: 10 And I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; and I will bring up sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day. 11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: 12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it. 13 In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst. 14 They that swear by the sin of Samaria, and say, Thy god, O Dan, liveth; and, The manner of Beersheba liveth; even they shall fall, and never rise up again.**

   There was a famine of hearing the word of the LORD for more than four hundred years until Zacharias, John the Baptist’s father heard from an angel and then God later broke the famine with his first word’s from the mouth of John that was central to message of all the prophets: Repent! Matthew 3:1-2

**Chapter Nine**

**Sifting the House of Israel**

**1 I saw the Lord standing upon the altar: and he said, Smite the lintel of the door, that the posts may shake: and cut them in the head, all of them; and I will slay the last of them with the sword: he that fleeth of them shall not flee away, and he that escapeth of them shall not be delivered. 2 Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down: 3 And though they hide themselves in the top of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from my sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent, and he shall bite them: 4 And though they go into captivity before their enemies, thence will I command the sword, and it shall slay them: and I will set mine eyes upon them for evil, and not for good.**

   Amos sees the Lord standing on the altar that in itself should tell you that he is upset with Israel and Judah. This is not the first time in the book of Amos that we see the Lord is spelled without using all capital letters. God's word does that to denote something important.

   When you see the word spelled with only the first letter capitalized (Lord) it is the Hebrew word Adonai (Master), and LORD is used when the letters for the name of God are found which are YHVH. YHVH literally means, "I am".

   LORD was used by Israel's scribes so as not to pronounce the sacred name of God incorrectly because the original Hebrew didn't have any vowels just consonants. It is often called the Tetragrammaton, meaning the four letters. God is striking the “house of Israel” prophetically by having Amos smite the lintel of the door.

**5 And the Lord GOD of hosts is he that toucheth the land, and it shall melt, and all that dwell therein shall mourn: and it shall rise up wholly like a flood; and shall be drowned, as by the flood of Egypt. 6 It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name. 7 Are ye not as children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel? saith the LORD. Have not I brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt? and the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir?**

   The LORD is his name, he is the one and only one that did all these things!

**8 Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from off the face of the earth; saving that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, saith the LORD. 9 For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth. 10 All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, which say, The evil shall not overtake nor prevent us.**

   The Lord God cannot utterly destroy Israel from off the face of the earth because of his promise unto them to give them a kingdom. We are only talking about a generation here, and he is not destroying all of them.

Any who repent and believe will be resurrected and have eternal life in their long awaited Kingdom. God always keeps his word to Israel even though Israel rarely kept their word to him.

**11 In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: 12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this.**

   Verse eleven is quoted by James the Lord’s half-brother in the book of Acts:

**Acts 15:16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: 17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.**

**13 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. 14 And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. 15 And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.**

   What a way to end the book of Amos. Gloom and doom for eight chapters and four-fifths of another chapter and then telling them the good news that in Israel’s future kingdom all will be restored to those who died in faith, and they will be resurrected and will rule and reign with the Messiah for a thousand years.

**The End**

   To submit your tests simply copy and paste the questions **along with your answers typed in bold font** and paste them into the body of an email and send it to:

**tests@dofgbi.org**

**Amos Tests 2.25 credit hours**

**Chapter One**

1. Who does verse one say the words of the book of Amos belong to? A. The words of Amos B. The words of the LORD.

2. Who were the kings of Israel and Judah at the time of Amos’ prophecy?

3. What major event does Amos tell us about to help mark the book's dating?

4. When was Amos written?

5. What was Amos’ profession before prophesying?

6. Where was he from? Be specific

7. Is God causing earthquakes today to get our attention? Why?

8. What prophet prophesied the earthquake would happen and where is it recorded in his writings?

9. What other prophet mentions the great earthquake? And where is it recorded in his writings?

10. How did Jeroboam cause Israel to sin?

11. What verse tells us about Jeroboams sin?

12. Who is the LORD roaring from Zion for?

13. How does Amos start out prophesying against eight different places? With what words does he repeat eight times?

14. Why did he say it that way?

15. Give two other examples of other people in the bible speaking in similar fashion:

16. Who gets the first pronouncement of pending punishment and why?

17. What was the place of Aven known for?

18. Where were the people of Damascus carried away to?

19. Who is the second place that God prophecies punishment for?

20. Do we read about the Philistines in the new testament anywhere?

21. Who is the third place that God prophecies punishment for?

22. What two things did they do against God’s people?

23. Who was the fourth place that God prophesied punishment for?

24. What did they do against God’s people in verse eleven?

25. Where is this recorded in the books of Moses?

26. Who was the fifth place that God prophesies punishment for and why?

27. What modern day city is Ammon today?

28. Who are they descendants from?

29. What king of the Ammonites would not allow Israel to pass through their land peaceably?

30. Where in scripture do we find the story of Israel as they acquired the land from the Ammonites?

31. Why did God give Israel their land?

**Chapter Two**

1. Who are the three nations that Amos prophesies against in this chapter?

2. What was the sin leveled against Judah that Amos told them of?

3. Why did Israel and Judah make it on this list?

4. What are the two main sins laid against Israel by Amos?

5. What was the reason that God removed the Canaanite from the land?

6. Why did the LORD send Amos and all the other prophets to bring Israel back to faith?

7. Who will be able to deliver themselves from the LORD’s wrath?

8. What prophet also prophesied concerning the judgment that was to come upon these different nations and peoples, and where is his prophecy found?

**Chapter Three**

1. Who was the LORD speaking about when he said, Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

2. Why did the Lord choose Israel above all the people that are upon the face of the earth? What were they chosen for?

3. Who will the LORD God do nothing until he reveals it to?

4.What lead to Israel not knowing how to do right any longer?

**Chapter Four**

1. Why did the LORD call Israel the kine of Bashan?

2. What were the two major sins committed at Bethel and Gilgal?

3. How many courses of judgment did the LORD use to chasten Israel to get them to return unto him?

4. What did it mean when Amos said, Prepare to meet thy God?

**Chapter Five**

1. Who is the virgin of Israel?

2.Who will come to rescue Jerusalem?

3. What could the house of Israel do to live?

4. What do the seven stars in the constellation of Orion make it appear as?

5. Why does the LORD say he took away Israel’s possessions and make them poor?

6. Who would the LORD God of hosts be gracious with if they repented?

7. What is The day of the LORD called here that is different from what Paul tells us about the body of Christ in 1 Thes 5:1-4?

8. What is possibly the star of Remphan?

**Chapter Six**

1. What is Mt. Zion?

2.What stood on the Mountain of Samaria in Amos’ day?

3. What does the word Zion mean literally in Hebrew?

4. What was the affliction of Joseph?

5. Who did the LORD say he would allow to first go into captivity?

**Chapter Seven**

1. How did the LORD repent?

2. What did Amos do on Israel’s behalf?

3. What did the LORD say he would set in the midst of his people Israel?

4. Who was the priest that turned Jeroboam against Amos?

5. What was Bethel known for notoriously?

6.Was Amos born in a priestly family or the son of a prophet?

**Chapter Eight**

1. What did the LORD say was one of the reasons for his taking Israel into captivity?

2. How long was there a famine for hearing the word of the LORD?

**Chapter Nine**

1. What is the theme of chapter nine?

2.Why does the LORD tell Amos to smite the lintel of the door?

3. Why could not the LORD utterly destroy Israel?

4.What does the LORD say he will do with the house of Israel? V:9 

5. What will the LORD raise up in “that day”?

6.Who quotes this in the book of Acts and what important event was taking place at the time?