

## ~AMOS, BOOK OF (520)

### .. Highlights of Amos

- The prophecy of this Hebrew book of the Bible was directed primarily to the northern kingdom of Israel. Apparently it was first delivered orally during the reigns of Jeroboam II and Uzziah, kings of Israel and of Judah respectively, whose periods of kingship overlapped between **829 B.C.E.** and about **804 B.C.E.**
- The words of **Amos**, who happened to be among the sheep raisers from Tekoa, which he visioned concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah the king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, the king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. (**Amos 1:1**)
- By about **804 B.C.E.** it was committed to writing, presumably after the prophet returned to Judah. For details about the prophet himself;

### See Also AMOS 1

- The canonicity of this book, or its claim to a rightful place in the Bible, has never been questioned. From early times it has been accepted by the Jews, and it appears in the earliest Christian catalogs. Justin Martyr of the **Second Century C.E.** quoted from **Amos** in his **Dialogue With Trypho, a Jew [Chapter XXII]**. The book itself is in complete agreement with the rest of the Bible, as is shown by the writers many references to Bible history and the Laws of Moses.
- This is what Yehowah has said; On account of three revolts of Edom, and on account of four, I shall not turn it back, on account of his pursuing his own brother with the sword, and because he ruined his own merciful qualities, and his anger keeps tearing away forever, and his fury, he has kept it perpetually. (**Amos 1:11**)
- And on garments seized as a pledge they stretch themselves out beside every altar, and the wine of those who have been fined they drink at the house of their gods. (**Amos 2:8**)
- But as for me, I had annihilated the Amorite on account of them, whose height was like the height of cedars, and who was

vigorous like the massive trees, and I went annihilating his fruitage above and his roots below. (**Amos 2:9**)

- And I myself brought you people up out of the land of Egypt, and I kept making you walk through the wilderness forty years, in order to take possession of the land of the Amorite. (**Amos 2:10**)
- I caused an overthrow among you people, like God's overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah. And you came to be like a log snatched out of the burning, but you did not come back to me, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Amos 4:11**)
- But if you people offer up to me whole burnt offerings, even in your gift offerings I shall find no pleasure, and on your communion sacrifices of fatlings I shall not look. (**Amos 5:22**)
- Was it sacrifices and gift offerings that you people brought near to me in the wilderness for forty years, O house of Israel? (**Amos 5:25**)
- Saying; How long will it be before the new moon passes and we may sell cereals? Also, the Sabbath, and we may offer grain for sale, in order to make the ephah small and to make the shekel great and to falsify the scales of deception. (**Amos 8:5**)
- Christians of the **First Century** accepted the writings of **Amos** as inspired Scripture. For example, the martyr Stephen.
- So God turned and handed them over to render sacred service to the army of heaven, just as it is written in the book of the prophets: **It was not to me that you offered victims and sacrifices for forty years in the wilderness, was it, O house of Israel?** (**Acts of Apostles 7:42**)
- But it was the tent of Moloch and the star of the god Rephan that you took up, the figures which you made to worship them. Consequently I will deport you beyond Babylon. (**Acts of Apostles 7:43**)
- Was it sacrifices and gift offerings that you people brought near to me in the wilderness for forty years, O house of Israel? (**Amos 5:25**)
- And you will certainly carry Sakkuth your king and Kaiwan, your

images, the star of your god, whom you made for yourselves.  
([Amos 5:26](#))

- And I will cause you to go into exile beyond Damascus, he whose name is Yehowah the God of armies has said. ([Amos 5:27](#))
- And James the half brother of Jesus,
- After they quit speaking, James answered, saying; Men, brothers, hear me. ([Acts of Apostles 15:13](#))
- Symeon has related thoroughly how God for the first time turned his attention to the nations to take out of them a people for his name. ([Acts of Apostles 15:14](#))
- And with this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written. ([Acts of Apostles 15:15](#))
- After these things I shall return and rebuild the booth of David that is fallen down, and I shall rebuild its ruins and erect it again. ([Acts of Apostles 15:16](#))
- In order, that those who remain of the men may earnestly seek Yehowah, together with people of all the nations, people who are called by my name, says Yehowah, who is doing these things. ([Acts of Apostles 15:17](#))
- Known from of old. ([Acts of Apostles 15:18](#))
- Hence my decision is not to trouble those from the nations who are turning to God. ([Acts of Apostles 15:19](#))
- In that day I shall raise up the booth of David that is fallen, and I shall certainly repair their breaches. And its ruins I shall raise up, and I shall certainly build it up as in the days of long ago. ([Amos 9:11](#))
- To the end that they may take possession of what is left remaining of Edom, and all the nations upon whom my name has been called, is the utterance of Yehowah, who is doing this. ([Amos 9:12](#))
- Noted the fulfillment of some of the prophecies.

- Other historical events likewise attest to the truthfulness of the prophet. It is a matter of history that all the nations condemned by Amos were in due time devoured by the fire of destruction. The highly fortified city of Samaria itself was besieged and captured in 740 B.C.E, and the Assyrian army took the inhabitants into exile beyond Damascus, as foretold by **Amos**.
- And I will cause you to go into exile beyond Damascus, he whose name is Yehowah the God of armies has said. (**Amos 5:27**)
- And the king of Assyria proceeded to come up against all the land and to come up to Samaria and lay siege against it for three years. (**2 Kings 17:5**)
- In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and then led Israel into exile in Assyria and kept them dwelling in Halah and in Habor at the river Gozan and in the cities of the Medes. (**2 Kings 17:6**)
- Judah to the south likewise received her due punishment when she was destroyed in 607 B.C.E.
- And I will send a fire into Judah, and it must devour the dwelling towers of Jerusalem. (**Amos 2:5**)
- And true to Yehowah's word through **Amos**, captive descendants of both Israel and Judah returned in 537 B.C.E. to rebuild their homeland.
- And I will gather back the captive one's of my people Israel, and they will actually build the desolated cities and inhabit them, and plant vineyards and drink the wine of them, and make gardens and eat the fruit of them. (**Amos 9:14**)
- When the seventh month arrived the sons of Israel were in their cities. And the people began to gather themselves as one man to Jerusalem. (**Ezra 3:1**)
- Biblical archaeology also confirms that **Amos** was a truthful historian of his time, when, in describing the ostentatious luxury of the rich, he referred to their houses of ivory and couches of ivory.
- And I will strike down the winter house in addition to the summer house. And the houses of ivory will have to perish, and

many houses will have to come to their finish, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Amos 3:15**)

- You men that are lying down on couches of ivory and are sprawling on their divans, and are eating the rams out of a flock and the young bulls from among fattened calves. (**Amos 6:4**)
- Commenting on some of these findings, **Jack Finegan** states: **It is of much interest that numerous ivories were found in the excavation of Samaria. These are mostly in the form of plaques or small panels in relief and presumably were once attached to furniture and inlaid in wall paneling. [Light From the Ancient Past, 1959, pp. 187,188]**
- Yehowah's spirit moved **Amos** to employ simple, direct, picturesque language in a dignified manner befitting a prophet of God. Simple words, powerful words, words full of meaning, were chosen so both the high and the low could understand and get the sense of what he said. He used a variety of illustrations, some with rural flavor, to give vitality and force to his message.
- Here I am making what is under you sway, just as the wagon sways that is full up with a row of newly cut grain. (**Amos 2:13**)
- The Sovereign Lord Yehowah has sworn by his holiness, Look! There are days coming upon you, and he will certainly lift you up with butcher hooks and the last part of you with fishhooks. (**Amos 4:2**)
- For, look! I am commanding, and I will jiggle the house of Israel among all the nations, just as one jiggles the sieve, so that not a pebble falls to the earth. (**Amos 9:9**)
- Historical events are accurately recalled.
- This is what Yehowah has said; On account of three revolts of Tyre, and on account of four, I shall not turn it back, on account of their handing over a complete body of exiles to Edom, and because they did not remember the covenant of brothers. (**Amos 1:9**)
- This is what Yehowah has said; On account of three revolts of Edom, and on account of four, I shall not turn it back, on account of his pursuing his own brother with the sword, and because he ruined his own merciful qualities, and his anger keeps tearing

away forever, and his fury, he has kept it perpetually. (**Amos 1:11**)

- This is what Yehowah has said; On account of three revolts of the sons of Ammon, and on account of four, I shall not turn it back, on account of their slitting open the pregnant women of Gilead, for the purpose of widening out their own territory. (**Amos 1:13**)
- I caused an overthrow among you people, like God's overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah. And you came to be like a log snatched out of the burning, but you did not come back to me, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Amos 4:11**)
- Allusions are made to familiar practices and customs of the people.
- And on garments seized as a pledge they stretch themselves out beside every altar, and the wine of those who have been fined they drink at the house of their gods. (**Amos 2:8**)
- You men that are lying down on couches of ivory and are sprawling on their divans, and are eating the rams out of a flock and the young bulls from among fattened calves. (**Amos 6:4**)
- That are improvising according to the sound of the stringed instrument, that, like David, have devised for themselves instruments for song. (**Amos 6:5**)
- That are drinking out of bowls of wine, and that with the choicest oils do their anointing, and that have not been made sick at the catastrophe of Joseph. (**Amos 6:6**)
- The whole is a well-ordered composition with definite form and purpose.
- As one of Yehowah's servants, **Amos** magnified the word and name, the righteousness, and the sovereignty of the Almighty. He describes how the Sovereign Lord, Yehowah of the armies, is infinitely great, that nothing is beyond His reach or power.
- If they dig down into Sheol, from there my own hand will take them, and if they go up to the heavens, from there I shall bring them down. (**Amos 9:2**)

- **And if they hide themselves on the top of Carmel, from there I shall carefully search and be certain to take them. And if they conceal themselves from in front of my eyes on the floor of the sea, down there I shall command the serpent, and it must bite them. (Amos 9:3)**
- **And if they go into captivity before their enemies, from there I shall command the sword, and it must kill them, and I will set my eyes upon them for bad, and not for good. (Amos 9:4)**
- **And the Sovereign Lord, Yehowah of the armies, is the One touching the land, so that it melts, and all the inhabitants in it will have to mourn, and it will certainly come up like the Nile, all of it, and sink down like the Nile of Egypt. (Amos 9:5)**
- **Even the sun, moon, constellations, and the elements are subject to Yehowah's commands.**
- **The Maker of the Kimah constellation and the Kesil constellation, and the One turning deep shadow into the morning itself, and the One who has made day itself dark as night, the One calling for the waters of the sea, that he may pour them out upon the surface of the earth, Yehowah is his name. (Amos 5:8)**
- **And it must occur in that day, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah, that I will make the sun go down at high noon, and I will cause darkness for the land on a bright day. (Amos 8:9)**
- **It is, therefore, a small matter for God to demonstrate his supremacy over the nations.**
- **This is what Yehowah has said; On account of three revolts of Damascus, and on account of four, I shall not turn it back, on account of their threshing Gilead even with iron threshing instruments. (Amos 1:3)**
- **And I will send a fire onto the house of Hazael, and it must devour the dwelling towers of Ben-hadad. (Amos 1:4)**
- **And I will break the bar of Damascus and cut off the inhabitant from Bikath-aven, and the holder of the scepter from Beth-eden, and the people of Syria will have to go as exiles to Kir, Yehowah has said. (Amos 1:5)**

- This is what Yehowah has said; On account of three revolts of Moab, and on account of four, I shall not turn it back, on account of his burning the bones of the king of Edom for lime. (**Amos 2:1**)
- And I will send a fire into Moab, and it must devour the dwelling towers of Kerioth, and with noise Moab must die, with an alarm signal, with the sound of a horn. (**Amos 2:2**)
- And I will cut off the judge from the midst of her, and all her princes I shall kill with him, Yehowah has said. (**Amos 2:3**)
- Are you not like the sons of the Cushites to me, O sons of Israel, is the utterance of Yehowah? Did I not bring Israel itself up out of the land of Egypt, and the Philistines out of Crete, and Syria out of Kir? (**Amos 9:7**)
- In keeping with the meaning of his name, **Amos** bore a weighty message laden with woe and denunciation against the pagan nations as well as against Judah and Israel. He also carried a comforting message of restoration in which those faithful to Yehowah could put their hope.

#### ·· Highlights of Amos

- Prophecy directed especially to Israel, the northern ten-tribe kingdom, with its centers for calf worship at Dan and at Bethel
- Written about **804 B.C.E.**, while Jeroboam II was king in Israel  
Execution of Yehowah's judgment is certain not only against surrounding nations but especially against Israel.
- Are you not like the sons of the Cushites to me, O sons of Israel? is the utterance of Yehowah. Did I not bring Israel itself up out of the land of Egypt, and the Philistines out of Crete, and Syria out of Kir? (**Amos 9:7**)
- Syria, Philistia, and Tyre for cruel treatment to Israel, Edom, related through Esau, and Ammon, related through Lot, for hatred and mistreatment of their brother Israelites, Moab for burning the bones of the king of Edom for lime.
- Judah for rejecting the Law of Yehowah, Israel for oppressing the poor, for immorality, also for treating disrespectfully prophets and



**Nazirites raised up by God, no escape from divine punishment.  
Yehowah's message of judgment against Israel.**

- **Hear this word that Yehowah has spoken concerning you, O sons of Israel, concerning the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt, saying;**
- **Hear this word that Yehowah has spoken concerning you, O sons of Israel, concerning the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt, saying; (Amos 3:1)**
- **Look! I am raising up against you, O house of Israel, is the utterance of Yehowah the God of the armies, a nation, and they must oppress you people from the entering in of Hamath down to the torrent valley of the Arabah. (Amos 6:14)**
- **Israel has been specially favored by God, this results in special accountability.**
- **When Yehowah reveals his purpose to his servants, they prophesy; thus Amos warns that Yehowah will hold an accounting for false religious practices at Bethel and defrauding by luxury lovers in Samaria**
- **Therefore that is what I shall do to you, O Israel. As a consequence of the fact that I shall do this very thing to you, get ready to meet your God, O Israel. (Amos 4:12)**
- **Israel has not returned to Yehowah despite punishments already meted out, now warned,**
- **Even while warning of woes to come, Yehowah urges;**
- **Hate what is bad, and love what is good, and give justice a place in the gate. It may be that Yehowah the God of armies will show favor to the remaining one's of Joseph. (Amos 5:15)**

**Visions and prophecies show Israel's end is near.**

- **This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah caused me to see, and, look! he was forming a locust swarm at the start of the coming up of the later sowing. And, look! It was the later sowing after the mown grass of the king. (Amos 7:1)**

- Those who are swearing by the guiltiness of Samaria, and who actually say; As your god is alive, O Dan! And; As the way of Beer-sheba is alive! And they will certainly fall, and they will rise up no more. ([Amos 8:14](#))
- Vision of desolation by locusts, prophet intercedes.
- Vision of destructive fire, Amos again intercedes.
- Yehowah with a plummet to test Israel, no further excusing of Israel.
- Priest of Bethel commands Amos to stop prophesying there, Amos prophesies calamity for him.
- Basket of perishable summer fruit, signifying Israel's end near.
- Famine for hearing the words of Yehowah.
- Punishment and restoration.
- I saw Yehowah stationed above the altar, and he proceeded to say; Strike the pillar head, so that the thresholds will rock. And cut them off at the head, all of them. And the last part of them I shall kill with the sword itself. No one fleeing of them will make good his flight, and no one escaping of them will make his getaway. ([Amos 9:1](#))
- If they dig down into Sheol, from there my own hand will take them, and if they go up to the heavens, from there I shall bring them down.
- If they dig down into Sheol, from there my own hand will take them, and if they go up to the heavens, from there I shall bring them down. ([Amos 9:2](#))
- And if they hide themselves on the top of Carmel, from there I shall carefully search and be certain to take them. And if they conceal themselves from in front of my eyes on the floor of the sea, down there I shall command the serpent, and it must bite them.
- And if they hide themselves on the top of Carmel, from there I shall carefully search and be certain to take them. And if they conceal themselves from in front of my eyes on the floor of the

sea, down there I shall command the serpent, and it must bite them. (**Amos 9:3**)

- And if they go into captivity before their enemies, from there I shall command the sword, and it must kill them, and I will set my eyes upon them for bad, and not for good. (**Amos 9:4**)
- And the Sovereign Lord, Yehowah of the armies, is the One touching the land, so that it melts, and all the inhabitants in it will have to mourn, and it will certainly come up like the Nile, all of it, and sink down like the Nile of Egypt. (**Amos 9:5**)
- He who is building in the heavens his stairs, and his structure over the earth that he founded, he who is calling for the waters of the sea, that he may pour them out upon the surface of the earth, Yehowah is his name. (**Amos 9:6**)
- Are you not like the sons of the Cushites to me, O sons of Israel? is the utterance of Yehowah. Did I not bring Israel itself up out of the land of Egypt, and the Philistines out of Crete, and Syria out of Kir? (**Amos 9:7**)
- Look! The eyes of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah are upon the sinful kingdom, and he will certainly annihilate it from upon the surface of the ground. Nevertheless, I shall not completely annihilate the house of Jacob, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Amos 9:8**)
- For, look! I am commanding, and I will jiggle the house of Israel among all the nations, just as one jiggles the sieve, so that not a pebble falls to the earth. (**Amos 9:9**)
- By the sword they will die, all the sinners of my people, those who are saying; The calamity will not come near or reach as far as us. (**Amos 9:10**)
- In that day I shall raise up the booth of David that is fallen, and I shall certainly repair their breaches. And its ruins I shall raise up, and I shall certainly build it up as in the days of long ago. (**Amos 9:11**)
- To the end that they may take possession of what is left remaining of Edom, and all the nations upon whom my name has been called, is the utterance of Yehowah, who is doing this.

**(Amos 9:12)**

- **Look! There are days coming, is the utterance of Yehowah, and the plowman will actually overtake the harvester, and the treader of grapes, the carrier of the seed, and the mountains must drip with sweet wine, and the very hills will all find themselves melting. (Amos 9:13)**
- **And I will gather back the captive one's of my people Israel, and they will actually build the desolated cities and inhabit them, and plant vineyards and drink the wine of them, and make gardens and eat the fruit of them. (Amos 9:14)**
- **And I shall certainly plant them upon their ground, and they will no more be uprooted from their ground that I have given them, Yehowah your God has said. (Amos 9:15)**
- **No place that they can go to escape, nothing is beyond the reach of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah**
- **The booth or royal house of David to be rebuilt, regathered captives to enjoy lasting security.**