

The Book of Amos

I. EIGHT NATIONS DENOUNCED (AMOS 1-6).

- A. Syria--capital city, Damascus (1:3-5). They would be punished for their cruelty to those Israelites living on the eastern bank of Jordan.
- B. Philistia--capital city, Gaza (1:6-8). Their crime was selling Israelites into slavery to Edom.
- C. Phoenicia--capital city, Tyre (1:9-10). They had broken the treaty made with Israel during David's time, attacking Israel and selling its citizens as slaves to Edom.
- D. Edom--capital cities, Teman and Bozrah (1:11-12).
- E. Ammon--capital city, Rabbah (1:13-15). They had committed cruel crimes, ripping open pregnant Israelite women with their swords during their expansion wars in Gilead.
- F. Moab--capital city, Kirioth (2:1-3). This nation had committed blasphemous acts.
- G. Judah--capital city, Jerusalem (2:4-5). Judah had rejected the Word of God, and disobeyed the God of the Word.
- H. Israel--capital city, Samaria (2:6-16). They had become immoral, unthankful, and totally materialistic. They had even caused Nazirites to sin by tempting them to drink wine.
- I. The whole house of Jacob (both Israel and Judah) (3:1--6:14).
 - 1. Jacob's punishment must equal her past privileges (3:1-3).
 - 2. God was issuing them one final warning through his prophets (3:7).
 - 3. Jacob's enemies are called upon to attest to her wickedness (3:9--6:6).
 - a. Her princes (women) had become cruel and demanding (4:1-3).
 - b. Her formal and empty religious ceremonies had become an insult to divine holiness (4:4-5; 5:21-26).
 - c. They had surrounded themselves with gross luxury, with ivory beds to lie upon, and the choicest food to eat (6:4).
 - d. They thought more of worldly music than their own Messiah (6:5).
 - e. They had drunk wine by the bucketful, perfumed themselves with sweet ointments, and totally neglected the poor and needy (6:6).
 - 4. God had tried everything to bring his people to their senses (4:6-13). But they had refused.
 - 5. One final invitation is extended by God (5:4-15).
 - 6. This invitation was rejected and judgment would fall.
 - a. Jacob would be consumed as a lion devours a sheep (3:12).
 - b. There would be crying in the streets and every road (5:16).
 - c. In that day they would be like a man who escaped from a lion, only to meet a bear. They would be as one who leans against a wall in a dark room and puts his hand upon a snake (5:19).
 - d. Ninety percent of their soldiers would fall in battle (5:3).

II. FIVE VISIONS ANNOUNCED (AMOS 7-9).

- A. The locust plague (7:1-3).
 - 1. In a vision God revealed to Amos his intentions to destroy all the main crops that sprang up after the first mowing.
 - 2. Amos interceded for Israel and a merciful God changed his course of action.
- B. The vision of the great fire (7:4-6).
 - 1. Amos saw a destructive fire, the heat from which was so fierce that it consumed the very waters of Palestine. This was to fall upon the land to punish sin.
 - 2. Again the prophet pled for mercy, and again God set aside this deserved judgment.
- C. The vision of the plumb line (7:7-16).
 - 1. Amos viewed the Lord as he stood beside a wall built with a plumb line to see if it was straight (7:7-9).
 - 2. God informed Amos:
 - a. That he would continue testing Israel with the plumb line of heavenly justice.
 - b. That he would no longer turn away from punishing.
 - 3. At this point in his preaching ministry, Amos was confronted by Amaziah, a false religious leader. Amos responded by pronouncing judgment upon him and his ungodly family (7:10-17).
- D. The vision of the basket of summer fruit (8:1-14).
 - 1. The meaning of this vision: God showed Amos a basket filled with ripe fruit, explaining that it symbolized Israel, which was now ripe for judgment (8:1-2).
 - 2. The results of this judgment vision:
 - a. The riotous sound of singing in the Temple would be turned to weeping (8:3).
 - b. Dead bodies would be scattered everywhere (8:3).
 - c. Fearful heavenly signs would occur (8:9). This frightening punishment will have its ultimate fulfillment during the coming great tribulation. (See Mt. 24:22, 29.)
 - d. There would be no comforting words from God (8:11-12).
- E. The vision of the Lord at the altar (9:1-15).

1. The condemnation of Israel's transgressors (9:1-10).
2. The restoration of David's Tabernacle (9:11-15).
 - a. The Davidic monarchy was in a degraded condition with ten out of the twelve tribes refusing to give homage to it. But during the glorious millennium all this would change (9:11-12).
 - b. The blessings of this restored monarchy (under Christ, the rightful seed of David) would be manifold (9:13):
 - (1) The harvest time will scarcely end before the farmer starts again to sow another crop.
 - (2) The terraces of grapes upon the hills of Israel will drip sweet wine.
 - (3) Israel's faithful will have their fortunes restored and be permanently regathered in the glorious land (9:14-15).