

- <sup>15</sup> The sun and the moon will become dark.  
The stars will stop shining.
- <sup>16</sup> The LORD God will shout from Zion.\*  
He will shout from Jerusalem,  
and the sky and the earth will shake.  
But the LORD God will be a safe place  
for his people.  
He will be a place of safety  
for the people of Israel.
- <sup>17</sup> Then you will know  
that I am the LORD your God.  
I live on Zion, my holy mountain.  
Jerusalem will become holy.  
Strangers will never pass through  
that city again.

### *A New Life for Judah Promised*

- <sup>18</sup> On that day, the mountains will drip  
with sweet wine.  
The hills will flow with milk,  
and water will flow through all the

- empty rivers of Judah.  
A fountain will come from the LORD's  
Temple.\*  
It will give water to Acacia Valley.
- <sup>19</sup> Egypt will be empty.  
Edom will be an empty wilderness,  
because they were cruel to the people of  
Judah.  
They killed innocent people<sup>a</sup>  
in their country.
- <sup>20</sup> But there will always be people  
living in Judah.  
People will live in Jerusalem  
through many generations.
- <sup>21</sup> Those people killed my people,  
so I really will punish them!<sup>b</sup>  
The LORD God will live in Zion\*!

<sup>a</sup>3:19 *killed innocent people* Literally, "shed innocent blood."

# Amos

## *Introduction*

**1** <sup>1</sup>This is the message of Amos, one of the shepherds from the city Tekoa. He saw visions<sup>a</sup> about Israel during the time that Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Joash was king of Israel. This was two years before the earthquake.

## *Punishment for Aram*

- <sup>2</sup> Amos said,  
"The LORD will shout like a lion in Zion.\*  
His loud voice will roar from Jerusalem.  
The green pastures of the shepherds will  
turn brown and die.  
Even Mount Carmel<sup>b</sup> will become dry."

<sup>3</sup>This is what the LORD says: "I will definitely punish the people of Damascus for the many crimes they did.<sup>c</sup> They crushed the people of Gilead<sup>a</sup> with iron threshing<sup>a</sup> tools.  
<sup>4</sup>So I will start a fire at Hazael's<sup>d</sup> house that will destroy the great palaces of Ben-Hadad.<sup>e</sup>

<sup>b</sup>1:2 *Mount Carmel* A mountain in northern Israel. The name means "God's vineyard." This shows that it was a very fertile hill.

<sup>c</sup>1:3 *for the many crimes they did* Literally, "for three crimes ... and for four ..." This shows that these people were very sinful—and it was time to punish them. Also in verses 6, 9, 11, 13; 2:1, 4, 6.

<sup>d</sup>1:4 *Hazael* Hazael was the king of Aram (Syria). He murdered Ben-Hadad I so that he could become king. See 2 Kings 8:7.

<sup>e</sup>1:4 *Ben-Hadad* Ben-Hadad II, the son of Hazael,

<sup>5</sup>I will also break open the gates of Damascus<sup>f</sup> and remove the one who sits on the throne in the Valley of Aven.<sup>g</sup> I will remove the symbol of power from Beth Eden,<sup>h</sup> and the Arameans will be defeated and taken back to Kir.<sup>i</sup> This is what the LORD said.

## *Punishment for the Philistines*

<sup>6</sup>This is what the LORD says: "I will definitely punish the people of Gaza<sup>j</sup> for the many crimes they did. They took an entire nation of people and sent them as slaves to Edom.\* <sup>7</sup>So I will start a fire at the wall of Gaza that will destroy the high towers in Gaza. <sup>8</sup>And I will destroy the one who sits on the throne in Ashdod. I will destroy the king who holds the scepter in Ashkelon. I will punish the people of Ekron.<sup>k</sup> Then the Philistines who are still left alive will die." This is what the LORD God said.

king of Aram (Syria). See 2 Kings 13:3.

<sup>f</sup>1:5 *Damascus* The capital city of Aram (Syria).

<sup>g</sup>1:5 *the Valley of Aven* A name that can mean "Restful Valley" or "Empty Valley of Misfortune."

<sup>h</sup>1:5 *Beth Eden* The royal city of Aram (Syria) on Mount Lebanon. This name means "House of Pleasure" or "Paradise."

<sup>i</sup>1:5 *Kir* Or "Kur," an area controlled by the Assyrians. See Amos 9:7.

<sup>j</sup>1:6 *Gaza* An important city of the Philistines.

<sup>k</sup>1:8 *Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron* Important cities of the Philistines.

### **Punishment for Phoenicia**

<sup>9</sup>This is what the LORD says: “I will definitely punish the people of Tyre<sup>a</sup> for the many crimes they did. They took an entire nation and sent them as slaves to Edom.\* They did not remember the agreement they had made with their brothers (*Israel*). <sup>10</sup>So I will start a fire at the walls of Tyre that will destroy the high towers in Tyre.”

### **Punishment for the Edomites**

<sup>11</sup>This is what the LORD says: “I will definitely punish the people of Edom\* for the many crimes they did. Edom chased his brother (*Israel*) with the sword. Edom showed no mercy. Edom’s anger continued forever—he kept tearing and tearing at Israel like a wild animal. <sup>12</sup>So I will start a fire at Teman<sup>b</sup> that will destroy the high towers of Bozrah.<sup>c</sup>”

### **Punishment for the Ammonites**

<sup>13</sup>This is what the LORD says: “I will definitely punish the Ammonites<sup>d</sup> for the many crimes they did. They killed the pregnant women in Gilead.\* The Ammonites did this so that they could take that land and make their country larger. <sup>14</sup>So I will start a fire at the wall of Rabbah<sup>e</sup> that will destroy the high towers of Rabbah. Troubles will come to them like a whirlwind<sup>f</sup> into their country. <sup>15</sup>Then their kings and leaders will be captured. They will all be taken together.” This is what the LORD said.

### **Punishment for Moab**

**2** <sup>1</sup>This is what the LORD says: “I will definitely punish the people of Moab\* for the many crimes they did. Moab burned the bones of the king of Edom\* into lime. <sup>2</sup>So I will start a fire in Moab that will destroy the high towers of Kerioth.<sup>g</sup> There will be terrible shouting and the sounds of a trumpet, and Moab will die. <sup>3</sup>So I will bring an end to the kings<sup>h</sup> of Moab, and I will kill all the leaders of Moab.” This is what the LORD said.

### **Punishment for Judah**

<sup>4</sup>This is what the LORD says: “I will definitely punish Judah for the many crimes they did. They refused to obey the LORD’s teachings and they did not keep his commands. Their ancestors\* believed lies, and those same

lies caused the people of Judah to stop following God. <sup>5</sup>So I will start a fire in Judah that will destroy the high towers of Jerusalem.”

### **Punishment for Israel**

<sup>6</sup>This is what the LORD says: “I will definitely punish Israel for the many crimes they have done. They sold honest people for a little silver. They sold the poor for the price of a pair of sandals.<sup>7</sup> They pushed their faces into the ground and walked on them. They stopped listening to suffering people. Fathers and sons had sexual relations with the same woman. They ruined my holy name. <sup>8</sup>They took clothes from the poor, and then they sat on those clothes while worshiping at their altars.\* They loaned money to the poor, and then they took their clothes as a promise for payment.<sup>i</sup> They made people pay fines and used the money to buy wine for themselves to drink in the temple of their god.

<sup>9</sup>“But it was I who destroyed the Amorites<sup>j</sup> before them. They were as tall as cedar trees and as strong as oaks, but I destroyed their fruit above and their roots below.<sup>k</sup>

<sup>10</sup>“I was the one who brought you from the land of Egypt. For 40 years I led you through the desert. I helped you take the Amorites’ land. <sup>11</sup>I made some of your sons to be prophets\* and some of your young men to be Nazirites.\* People of Israel, it is true.” This is what the LORD said. <sup>12</sup>“But you made the Nazirites drink wine. You told the prophets not to prophesy.\* <sup>13</sup>You are like a heavy weight to me. I am bent low like a wagon loaded with too much straw. <sup>14</sup>No one will escape, not even the fastest runner. Strong men will not be strong enough. Soldiers will not be able to save themselves. <sup>15</sup>People with bows and arrows will not survive. Fast runners will not escape. People on horses will not escape alive. <sup>16</sup>At that time even very brave soldiers will run away. They will not take the time to put their clothes on.” This is what the LORD said.

### **Warning to Israel**

**3** <sup>1</sup>People of Israel, listen to this message! This is what the LORD said about you, Israel. This message is about all the families that I brought from the land of Egypt. <sup>2</sup>There are many families on earth, but you are the only family I chose to know in a special way. And you turned against me, so I will punish you for all your sins.”

<sup>a</sup>1:9 **Tyre** The capital city of Phoenicia.

<sup>b</sup>1:12 **Teman** A city at the northern part of the country of Edom.

<sup>c</sup>1:12 **Bozrah** A city in the southern part of Edom.

<sup>d</sup>1:13 **Ammonites** The Ammonites were the descendants of Ben-Ammi, son of Lot. Read Gen. 19:38.

<sup>e</sup>1:14 **Rabbah** The capital city of the Ammonites.

<sup>f</sup>1:14 **whirlwind** A strong wind that blows in a circle.

<sup>g</sup>2:2 **Kerioth** A city in Moab. This might be Ar, the capital city of Moab.

<sup>h</sup>2:3 **kings** Literally, “judges.”

<sup>i</sup>2:8 **as a promise for payment.** See Deut. 24:12–13 for the rules about making loans to the poor.

<sup>j</sup>2:9 **Amorites** One of the nations who lived in Canaan before the Israelites came. They were the people who scared the Israelites while Moses was leading them in the desert. See Num. 13:33.

<sup>k</sup>2:9 **fruit above ... below** This means the parents and their children.

*The Cause of Israel's Punishment*

- 3 Two people will not walk together unless they have agreed to do so.
- 4 A lion will roar in the forest only if it catches its prey.  
A young lion roaring in his cave means he has caught something to eat.
- 5 A bird doesn't fly into a trap unless there is food in it.  
If a trap closes,  
it will catch the bird.
- 6 If people hear the warning blast of a trumpet,  
they shake with fear.  
If trouble comes to a city,  
the LORD caused it to happen.

<sup>7</sup>When the Lord God decides to do something, he will first tell his servants, the prophets.\* <sup>8</sup>When a lion roars, people are frightened. When the LORD speaks, prophets prophesy.\*

<sup>9-10</sup>Go to the high towers in Ashdod<sup>a</sup> and Egypt and announce this message: "Come to the mountains of Samaria. There you will see great confusion, because the people don't know how to live right. They were cruel to other people. They took things from other people and hid those things in their high towers. Their treasuries are filled with things they took in war."

<sup>11</sup>So the LORD says, "An enemy will come to that land and take away your strength. He will take the things you hid in your high towers."

<sup>12</sup>The LORD says,

"A lion might attack a lamb,  
and a shepherd might try to save the lamb.  
But the shepherd will save  
only a part of that lamb.  
He might pull two legs  
or a part of an ear from the lion's  
mouth.  
In the same way, most of the people of  
Israel will not be saved.  
Those who live in Samaria  
will save only a corner from a bed, or a  
piece of cloth from a couch."

<sup>13</sup>This is what the Lord God All-Powerful says: "Warn the family of Jacob\* about these things. <sup>14</sup>Israel sinned, and I will punish them for their sins. And when I do, I will also destroy the altars\* at Bethel.<sup>b</sup> The horns of the altar\* will be cut off and fall to the ground. <sup>15</sup>I will destroy the winter house with the summer house. The houses of ivory will be destroyed. Many houses will be destroyed." This is what the LORD said.

<sup>a</sup>3:9-10 *Ashdod* An important city of the Philistines.  
<sup>b</sup>3:14 *Bethel* A town in Israel. This name means "God's house."

*The Women Who Love Pleasure*

4 <sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you cows of Bashan<sup>c</sup> on Samaria's mountain. You hurt the poor and crush those in need. You tell your husbands,<sup>d</sup> "Bring us something to drink!"

<sup>2</sup>The Lord God made a promise. He promised by his holiness, that troubles will come to you. People will use hooks and take you away as prisoners. They will use fishhooks to take away your children. <sup>3</sup>Your city will be destroyed. The women will rush out through cracks in the wall and throw themselves onto the pile of dead bodies.<sup>e</sup>

This is what the LORD says: <sup>4</sup>"Go to Bethel and sin. Go to Gilgal<sup>f</sup> and sin even more. Offer your sacrifices in the morning. Bring a tenth of your crops for the three-day festival. <sup>5</sup>And offer a thank offering made with yeast. Tell everyone about the freewill offerings.<sup>g</sup> Israel, you love to do those things. So go and do them." This is what the LORD said.

<sup>6</sup>"I didn't give you any food to eat.<sup>h</sup> There was no food in any of your cities, but you didn't come back to me." This is what the LORD said.

<sup>7</sup>"I also stopped the rain, and it was three months before harvest time. So no crops grew. Then I let it rain on one city, but not on another. Rain fell on one part of the country, but on the other part of the country, the land became very dry. <sup>8</sup>So the people from two or three cities staggered to another city to get water, but there was not enough water for everyone. Still you didn't come to me for help." This is what the LORD said.

<sup>9</sup>"I made your crops die from heat and disease. I destroyed your gardens and your vineyards.\* Locusts\* ate your fig trees and olive trees. But you still didn't come to me for help." This is what the LORD said.

<sup>10</sup>"I sent diseases against you, as I did to Egypt. I killed your young men with swords. I took away your horses. I made your camp smell very bad from all the dead bodies, but still you didn't come back to me for help." This is what the LORD said.

<sup>c</sup>4:1 *cows of Bashan* This means the wealthy women in Samaria. Bashan, an area east of the Jordan River, was famous for its big bulls and cows.

<sup>d</sup>4:1 *your husbands* Literally, "their masters."

<sup>e</sup>4:3 *throw ... dead bodies* Or "You will be thrown away. People will take you to Mount Hermon." The Hebrew text here is hard to understand. It is not clear if the women will be "thrown away" or if the women will be "throwing something away."

<sup>f</sup>4:4 *Bethel ... Gilgal* Places of worship for the people of Israel. God wanted the people of Israel and the people of Judah to worship him only in the Temple at Jerusalem.

<sup>g</sup>4:4-5 *Offer your sacrifices ... freewill offerings* All these things were against the Law of Moses. The leaders and false priests started these new festivals and different ways of worshipping God.

<sup>h</sup>4:6 *I didn't give you any food to eat* Literally, "I gave you clean teeth."

11 "I destroyed you as I destroyed Sodom\* and Gomorrah.\* And those cities were completely destroyed. You were like a burned stick pulled from a fire, but still you didn't come back to me for help." This is what the LORD says.

12 "So, Israel, this is what I will do to you. You people of Israel, prepare to meet your God."

13 He is the one who made the mountains.  
He created the wind.<sup>a</sup>  
He lets people know his thoughts.  
He changes the darkness into dawn.  
He walks over the mountains of the earth.  
His name is YAHWEH,\* LORD God  
All-Powerful.

### *A Sad Song for Israel*

**5** People of Israel, listen to this song. This funeral song is about you.

2 The virgin<sup>b</sup> of Israel has fallen.  
She will not get up anymore.  
She was left alone, lying in the dirt.  
There is no one to lift her up.

3 This is what the Lord God says:

"Officers leaving the city with 1000 men  
will return with only 100 men.  
Officers leaving the city with 100 men  
will return with only ten men."

### *The Lord Encourages Israel to Come Back*

4 The LORD says this to the nation<sup>c</sup> of Israel:  
"Come looking for me and live.

5 But don't look in Bethel.  
Don't go to Gilgal.  
Don't cross the border and go down to  
Beersheba.<sup>d</sup>  
The people of Gilgal will be taken away as  
prisoners,<sup>e</sup>  
and Bethel will be destroyed.<sup>f</sup>

6 Come to the LORD and live.  
If you don't go to him, a fire will start at  
Joseph's house,<sup>g</sup>

<sup>a</sup>4:13 *the wind* Or "your minds."

<sup>b</sup>5:2 *virgin* The Hebrew word can mean "a woman who has not had sexual relations with anyone," but here, it means the city of Samaria.

<sup>c</sup>5:4 *nation* Literally, "house." This might mean the royal family of that country.

<sup>d</sup>5:5 *Bethel, Gilgal, Beersheba* Ancient places of worship. Abraham and Jacob built altars in these places, but God had told the Israelites that they should go to the Temple in Jerusalem to worship him.

<sup>e</sup>5:5 *taken away as prisoners* In Hebrew this sounds like the name "Gilgal."

<sup>f</sup>5:5 *destroyed* The Hebrew word is like the name "Beth Aven." This name means "House of Wickedness." The prophets often used this name for Bethel.

<sup>g</sup>5:6 *Joseph's house* Here, this means the ten-tribe nation of Israel. Joseph was the ancestor of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh in Israel.

and no one in Bethel<sup>h</sup> can stop it.  
7-9 You should go to the Lord for help.  
He is the one who made the Pleiades  
and Orion.<sup>i</sup>  
He changes darkness into the morning  
light.  
He changes the day into the dark night.  
He calls for the waters of the sea and  
pours them out on the earth.  
His name is YAHWEH!<sup>1</sup>  
He keeps one strong city safe,  
and he lets another strong city be  
destroyed."

### *The Evil Things That the Israelites Did*

You change goodness to poison.<sup>j</sup>  
You killed justice,  
and let it fall to the ground.  
10 You hate those prophets, who go to public  
places and speak against evil,  
even though they teach good, simple  
truths.  
11 You take unfair taxes<sup>k</sup> from the poor.  
You take loads of wheat from them.  
You build fancy houses with cut stone,  
but you will not live in them.  
You plant beautiful vineyards,\*  
but you will not drink the wine from  
them.  
12 This is because I know about your many  
sins.  
You have done some very bad things:  
You hurt people who do right,  
you accept money to do wrong,  
and you keep the poor from receiving  
justice in court.  
13 At that time wise teachers will be quiet,  
because it is a bad time.  
14 You say that God is with you,  
so you should do good things, not evil.  
Then you will live,  
and the LORD God All-Powerful will be  
with you.  
15 Hate evil and love goodness.  
Bring justice back into the courts.  
Maybe then the LORD God All-Powerful  
will be kind to the survivors\* from  
Joseph's family.

### *A Time of Great Sadness Is Coming*

16 The LORD God All-Powerful says,  
"People will be crying in the public places.  
They will be crying in the streets.

<sup>h</sup>5:6 *Bethel* This name means "El's house" or "the house of God." There was a temple here where the people from the northern tribes worshipped.

<sup>i</sup>5:7-9 *Pleiades and Orion* Two well-known groups of stars (constellations).

<sup>j</sup>5:7-9 *poison* Literally, "wormwood," a type of plant with bitter leaves. It could be used as a medicine, or if strong enough, as a poison.

<sup>k</sup>5:11 *take unfair taxes* The meaning of the Hebrew word here is uncertain.

- They will hire the professional criers,<sup>a</sup>  
 17 People will be crying in the vineyards,\*  
 because I will pass through and punish  
 you.”  
 This is what the LORD said.  
 18 Some of you want to see  
 the LORD’s special day of judgment.  
 Why do you want to see that day?  
 His special day will bring darkness, not  
 light.  
 19 You will be like someone who escapes  
 from a lion  
 only to be attacked by a bear,  
 or like someone who goes into the safety  
 of his house,  
 leans against the wall,  
 and is bitten by a snake.  
 20 The LORD’s special day will be  
 a day of darkness, not light—a day of  
 gloom, without a ray of light.

### *The Lord Rejects Israel’s Worship*

- 21<sup>a</sup>“I hate your festivals;  
 I will not accept them.  
 I don’t enjoy your religious meetings.  
 22 Even if you offer me burnt offerings\* and  
 grain offerings,  
 I will not accept them.  
 I will not even look at the fat animals  
 you give as fellowship offerings.\*  
 23 Take your noisy songs away from here.  
 I will not listen to the music from your  
 harps.  
 24 But let justice flow like a river,  
 and let goodness flow like a stream that  
 never becomes dry.  
 25 Israel, you offered me sacrifices  
 and offerings in the desert for 40 years.<sup>b</sup>  
 26 But you also carried statues  
 of Sakkuth, your king, and Kaiwan.<sup>c</sup>  
 There was also that star god<sup>d</sup>  
 that you made for yourselves.  
 27 So I will send you as captives,  
 far beyond Damascus.”  
 This is what the LORD says.  
 His name is God All-Powerful.

### *Israel’s Good Times Will Be Taken Away*

- 6** <sup>1</sup>Oh, look at the people enjoying life in  
 Zion,\*

<sup>a</sup>5:16 *professional criers* People who went to funerals and cried loudly for the dead. Families and friends of the dead person often gave food or money to these people.

<sup>b</sup>5:25 Or “Israel, did you offer me sacrifices and offerings in the desert for 40 years?”

<sup>c</sup>5:26 *Sakkuth, your king, and Kaiwan* Or “Sakkuth, Moloch, and Kaiwan,” names of Assyrian gods.

<sup>d</sup>5:26 *star god* This might be to honor a special god or all the stars in the sky. Many people thought the sun, moon, stars, and planets were gods or angels. This verse might also be translated, “You carried the shelter for your king and the footstool for your idols—the star of your gods that you made for yourselves.” The ancient Greek version adds the names of these gods: Moloch and Raphan.

and those on Mount Samaria who feel  
 so safe.

They are such important leaders of a most  
 important nation.

The “House of Israel” comes to you for  
 advice.

- 2 Go look at Calneh.  
 From there, go to the large city Hamath.  
 Go to the Philistine city of Gath.<sup>e</sup>  
 Are you better than these kingdoms?  
 Their countries are larger than yours.  
 3 You people are rushing toward the day of  
 punishment.  
 You bring near the rule of violence.  
 4 But now you lie on ivory beds  
 and stretch out on your couches.  
 You eat tender young lambs from the flock  
 and young calves from the stable.  
 5 You play your harps,  
 and like David, you practice on<sup>f</sup> your  
 musical instruments.  
 6 You drink wine in fancy cups.<sup>g</sup>  
 You use the best perfumes.  
 And it doesn’t even bother you  
 that Joseph’s family is being destroyed.

<sup>7</sup>You people are stretched out on your  
 couches now, but your good times will end.  
 You will be taken away as prisoners to a for-  
 eign country, and you will be some of the first  
 people taken. <sup>8</sup>The Lord GOD used his own  
 name and made an oath.\* The LORD God All-  
 Powerful said,

“I hate what Jacob\* is proud of.  
 I hate his strong towers.  
 So I will let an enemy take the city  
 and everything in it.”

### *There Will Be Few Israelites Left Alive*

<sup>9</sup>At that time ten people in one house might  
 survive, but they too will die. <sup>10</sup>And when  
 someone dies, a relative will come to get the  
 body so that it can be taken out and burned.<sup>h</sup>  
 Relatives will come to take away the bones.  
 They will call to anyone who might be hiding  
 back in the house, “Are there any other dead  
 bodies in there with you?”

That person will answer, “No, ....”<sup>i</sup>

But the relative will interrupt and say,  
 “Hush! We must not mention the name of the  
 LORD.”

<sup>e</sup>6:2 *Calneh, Hamath, Gath* Powerful Babylonian,  
 Syrian, and Philistine cities that were all captured by  
 the Assyrians.

<sup>f</sup>6:5 *practice on* Or “invent.” The Hebrew word  
 means to “think,” “become skilled,” or “design.”

<sup>g</sup>6:6 *fancy cups* Very large bowls used in worship  
 rituals.

<sup>h</sup>6:10 *And when ... burned* The meaning of the  
 Hebrew text here is uncertain.

<sup>i</sup>6:10 *No, ...* The full answer might have been, “No,  
 praise the LORD,” but the person was interrupted.

- <sup>11</sup> Look, the LORD God will give the command,  
and the large houses will be broken to pieces,  
and the small houses will be broken to small pieces.
- <sup>12</sup> Do horses run over loose rocks?  
No, and people don't use cows for plowing.  
But you turned everything upside down.  
You changed justice and goodness to bitter poison.
- <sup>13</sup> You are so excited about defeating Lo Debar.<sup>a</sup>  
And you boast, "We have taken Karnaim<sup>b</sup> by our own strength."

<sup>14</sup>"But Israel, I will bring a nation against you that will bring troubles to your whole country from Lebo Hamath to Arabah Brook." This is what the LORD God All-Powerful said.

### The Vision of the Locusts

**7** <sup>1</sup>This is what the LORD showed me: He was making locusts.\* This was at the time the second crop began to grow, after the king's people had cut the first crop. <sup>2</sup>Before the locusts could eat all the grass in the country, I said, "Lord God, I beg you, forgive us! Jacob\* cannot survive! He is too small!"

<sup>3</sup>Then the LORD changed his mind about this. The LORD said, "It will not happen."

### The Vision of the Fire

<sup>4</sup>This is what the Lord God showed me: I saw the Lord God calling for judgment by fire. The fire destroyed the ocean and was beginning to eat up the land. <sup>5</sup>But I said, "Lord God, stop, I beg you! Jacob\* cannot survive! He is too small!"

<sup>6</sup>Then the LORD changed his mind about this. The Lord God said, "It will not happen either."

### The Vision of the Plumb Line

<sup>7</sup>This is what the Lord showed me: He stood by a wall with a plumb line<sup>c</sup> in his hand. (The wall had been marked with a plumb line.) <sup>8</sup>The LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?"

I said, "A plumb line."

Then the Lord said to me, "See, I will put a plumb line among my people Israel. I will not let their 'crooked ways' pass inspection anymore. <sup>9</sup>Isaac's high places\* will be destroyed. Israel's holy places will be made into a pile of

rocks. I will attack and kill Jeroboam's<sup>d</sup> family with swords."

### Amaziah Tries to Stop Amos

<sup>10</sup>Amaziah, a priest at Bethel,<sup>e</sup> sent this message to Jeroboam, the king of Israel: "Amos is making plans against you. He is trying to make the people of Israel fight against you. He has been speaking so much that this country cannot hold all his words. <sup>11</sup>Amos has said, 'Jeroboam will die by the sword, and the people of Israel will be taken as prisoners out of their country.'"

<sup>12</sup>Amaziah also said to Amos, "You see.\* go down to Judah and eat there.<sup>f</sup> Do your prophesying\* there. <sup>13</sup>But don't prophesy anymore here at Bethel. This is Jeroboam's holy place. This is Israel's temple."

<sup>14</sup>Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am not a professional prophet, and I am not from a prophet's family. I raise cattle and take care of sycamore trees. <sup>15</sup>I was a shepherd and the LORD took me from following the sheep. The LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' <sup>16</sup>So listen to the LORD's message. You tell me, 'Don't prophesy against Israel. Don't speak against Isaac's family.' <sup>17</sup>But the LORD says, 'Your wife will become a prostitute in the city. Your sons and daughters will be killed with swords. Other people will take your land and divide it among themselves, and you will die in a foreign<sup>g</sup> country. The people of Israel will definitely be taken from this country as prisoners.'"

### The Vision of the Ripe Fruit

**8** <sup>1</sup>This is what the LORD showed me: I saw a basket of summer fruit. <sup>2</sup>He said to me, "Amos, what do you see?"

I said, "A basket of summer fruit."

Then the LORD said to me, "The end<sup>h</sup> has come to my people Israel. I will not ignore their sins anymore. <sup>3</sup>Their temple songs will become funeral songs." This is what the Lord God said. "There will be dead bodies everywhere. In silence, people will take out the dead bodies and throw them onto the pile."

### Merchants Only Want to Make Money

<sup>4</sup> Listen to me, you who trample on helpless people.

You are trying to destroy the poor of this country.

<sup>d7:9</sup> Jeroboam The king of Israel. See verse 10.

<sup>e7:10</sup> Bethel A town in Israel. This name means "God's house."

<sup>f7:12</sup> eat there This shows that Amaziah thought that Amos was a professional prophet who prophesied to receive food or money.

<sup>g7:17</sup> foreign Literally, "unclean." See "unclean" in the Word List.

<sup>h8:2</sup> end This Hebrew word sounds like the word for "summer fruit."

<sup>i8:3</sup> In silence ... the pile Or "People will be saying, 'Hush!'" See Amos 6:10.

<sup>a6:13</sup> Lo Debar This name means "nothing."

<sup>b6:13</sup> Karnaim This name means "horns." Horns were a symbol of strength.

<sup>c7:7</sup> plumb line A string with a weight on one end used to show how straight the walls of a building were. Sometimes the line was coated with paint or chalk to mark a straight line.

- <sup>5</sup> You merchants\* say,  
 “When will the New Moon\* be over so  
 that we can sell grain?  
 When will the Sabbath be over  
 so that we can bring out more wheat to  
 sell?  
 We can raise the price  
 and make the measure smaller.<sup>a</sup>  
 We can fix the scales  
 and cheat the people.<sup>b</sup>
- <sup>6</sup> The poor cannot pay their loans,  
 so we will buy them as slaves.  
 We will buy those helpless people  
 for the price of a pair of sandals.  
 Oh, and we can sell the wheat  
 that was spilled on the floor.”

<sup>7</sup>The LORD made a promise. He used his name, “Pride of Jacob,” and made this promise:

- “I will never forget what those people did.  
<sup>8</sup> There will be an earthquake  
 that will shake the whole land because  
 of what they did.  
 Everyone living there will cry for those  
 who died.  
 The land will be tossed around.  
 The whole land will rise and fall like the  
 Nile River in Egypt.”
- <sup>9</sup> The LORD also said, “At that time  
 I will make the sun set at noon  
 and make the land dark on a clear day.  
<sup>10</sup> I will change your festivals into days of  
 crying for the dead.  
 All your songs will be songs of sadness  
 for those who are dead.  
 I will put mourning\* clothes on every  
 body  
 and baldness on every head.<sup>c</sup>  
 I will cause mourning everywhere,  
 like that for an only son who has died.  
 It will be a very bitter end.”

### **A Famine of God's Word**

<sup>11</sup>The Lord GOD says:

- “Look, the days are coming  
 when I will cause a famine\* in the land.  
 The people will not be hungry for bread.  
 They will not be thirsty for water.  
 No, they will be hungry for words from  
 the LORD.  
<sup>12</sup> The people will wander around the  
 country,  
 from the Dead Sea to the Mediterranean  
 Sea,

<sup>a</sup>8:5 *We ... smaller* Literally, “We will make the ephah small and the shekel large.”

<sup>b</sup>8:5 *We ... people* Literally, “Cheat with lying balances.”

<sup>c</sup>8:10 *baldness ... head* People shaved their heads to show that they were very sad or upset.

and from the north part of the country  
 to the east.

- They will go back and forth looking for a  
 message from the LORD,  
 but they will not find it.
- <sup>13</sup> At that time the beautiful young men and  
 women  
 will become weak from thirst.
- <sup>14</sup> They made promises by the sin of  
 Samaria,<sup>d</sup>  
 They said,  
 ‘Dan,<sup>e</sup> as surely as your god lives, we  
 promise ....’  
 And they said,  
 ‘As surely as the god of Beersheba<sup>f</sup> lives,  
 we promise ....’  
 But they will fall  
 and never get up again.”

### **Vision of the Lord Standing by the Altar**

**9**<sup>1</sup>I saw the Lord standing by the altar,\* and  
 he said,

- “Hit the top of the columns,  
 and shake them to the ground.  
 Push them and they will fall  
 on everyone’s head.  
 As for those who survive,  
 I will kill them with a sword.  
 None of them will run away.  
 None of them will escape.  
<sup>2</sup> If they dig deep into the ground,<sup>g</sup>  
 I will pull them from there.  
 If they go up into the skies,<sup>h</sup>  
 I will bring them down from there.  
<sup>3</sup> If they hide at the top of Mount Carmel,<sup>i</sup>  
 I will find them there and take them  
 from that place.  
 If they try to hide from me at the bottom  
 of the sea,  
 I will command the snake, and it will  
 bite them.  
<sup>4</sup> If they are captured and taken away by  
 their enemies,  
 I will command the sword,  
 and it will kill them there.  
 Yes, I will watch over them,  
 but I will watch for ways to give them  
 troubles,  
 not for ways to do good things.”

### **Punishment Will Destroy the People**

- <sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD All-Powerful will touch the  
 land,  
 and the land will melt.

<sup>d</sup>8:14 *sin of Samaria* The calf god in Samaria.

<sup>e</sup>8:14 *Dan* One of Israel’s holy places was in this city.

<sup>f</sup>8:14 *Beersheba* A town in Judah. This name means “well of the oath (promise).”

<sup>g</sup>9:2 *ground* Literally, “Sheol, the place of the dead.”

<sup>h</sup>9:2 *skies* Or “heaven.”

<sup>i</sup>9:3 *Mount Carmel* A mountain in northern Israel. This name means “God’s vineyard.” This shows that it was a very fertile hill.

Then all the people who live in the land  
will cry for the dead.

The land will rise and fall like the Nile  
River in Egypt.

- 6 He built his upper rooms above the skies.  
He put his skies<sup>a</sup> over the earth.  
He calls for the waters of the sea  
and pours them out as rain on the land.  
YAHWEH<sup>\*</sup> is his name.

### **The Lord Promises Destruction for Israel**

<sup>7</sup>This is what the LORD says:

“Israel, you are like the Ethiopians to me.  
I brought Israel out of the land of Egypt,  
the Philistines<sup>\*</sup> from Caphtor,<sup>b</sup>  
and the Arameans from Kir.<sup>c</sup>”

- 8 The Lord God is watching this sinful  
kingdom.  
The LORD said,  
“I will wipe Israel off the face of the earth,  
but I will never completely destroy  
Jacob’s<sup>\*</sup> family.  
9 I am giving the command  
to scatter the people of Israel among all  
nations.  
But it will be like someone sifting flour.  
A person shakes flour through a sifter.<sup>d</sup>  
The good flour falls through, but the bad  
lumps are caught.

<sup>a</sup>9:6 *skies* Literally, “dome” or “vault.”

<sup>b</sup>9:7 *Caphtor* An island west of Israel, probably  
Crete or Cyprus.

<sup>c</sup>9:7 *Kir* Where the Arameans came from and where  
the Assyrians sent them in exile. There are several  
places with this name.

<sup>d</sup>9:9 *sifter* Something like a cup with a screen on its  
bottom. A sifter is used for removing large lumps  
from the good flour.

- 10 “Sinners among my people say,  
‘Nothing bad will happen to us.’  
But all of them will be killed with  
swords.”

### **God Promises to Restore the Kingdom**

- 11 “David’s tent<sup>e</sup> has fallen,  
but at that time I will set it up again.  
I will fix its holes and repair its ruined  
parts.  
I will set it up as it was before.  
12 Then the people left alive in Edom,<sup>\*</sup>  
and all the people called by my name,  
will look to me for help.”  
This is what the LORD said,  
and he will make it happen.  
13 The LORD says, “A time of great blessing  
is coming.  
Workers will still be harvesting when it  
is time to plow the fields again.  
They will still be trampling the grapes  
when it is time for a new crop.  
Sweet wine will drip from the mountains  
and pour from the hills.  
14 I will bring my people, Israel,  
back from captivity.  
They will rebuild the ruined cities,  
and they will live in them.  
They will plant vineyards<sup>\*</sup>  
and drink the wine they produce.  
They will plant gardens  
and eat the crops they produce.  
15 I will plant my people on their land,  
and never again will they be pulled up  
out of the land that I gave them.”  
This is what the LORD your God said.

<sup>e</sup>9:11 *David’s tent* This probably means the city of  
Jerusalem or the country of Judah.

# Obadiah

## **Edom Will Be Punished**

<sup>1</sup>This is the vision<sup>\*</sup> of Obadiah. This is what  
the Lord God says about Edom:<sup>\*</sup>

We heard a report from the LORD.  
A messenger was sent to the nations.  
He said, “Let’s go fight against Edom.”

## **The Lord Speaks to Edom**

- 2 “Edom,<sup>\*</sup> I will make you the smallest  
nation.  
Everyone will hate you very much.  
3 Your pride has fooled you.

You live in those caves high on the cliff.  
Your home is high in the hills.  
So you say to yourself,  
‘No one can bring me to the ground.’”

## **Edom Will Be Brought Low**

- 4 This is what the LORD says:  
“Even though you fly high like the eagle  
and put your nest among the stars,  
I will bring you down from there.  
5 You really will be ruined!  
Thieves will come to you.  
Robbers will come in the night,



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