



JUDGMENT, SALVATION, AND HOPE

The Message of the Minor Prophets

Amos: *“The Lion Has Roared”*

Amos 1:1-2

The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa—the vision he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel. ² He said: “The Lord roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds dry up, and the top of Carmel withers.”

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Amos 3:7-8

Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets. ⁸ The lion has roared—who will not fear? The Sovereign Lord has spoken—who can but prophesy?

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Outline

1. Sin: Syncretism, Indifference, and Injustice
2. Judgment: The Covenant Curses and the “Day of Yahweh”
3. Hope: Repentance, Restoration, and Renewal

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1. Sin: Syncretism, Indifference, and Injustice

Amos 1–6

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1. Sin: Syncretism, Indifference, and Injustice

a. "For three sins, even for four": Yahweh, the Nations, and Israel (1:3–2:16)

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The Prophecy of Amos begins with the “rhetoric of entrapment” as he first denounces the surrounding only to denounce Judah, then Israel.

- **Damascus (1:3-5)**
- **Gaza (1:6-8)**
- **Tyre (1:9-10)**
- **Edom (1:11-12)**
- **Ammon (1:13-15)**
- **Moab (2:1-3)**
- **Judah (2:4-5)**



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- **Judah (2:4-5)**
- **Israel (2:6-16)**

Amos 2:6-8, 13

This is what the Lord says: “For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not relent. They sell the innocent for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals.⁷ They trample on the heads of the poor as on the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed. Father and son use the same girl and so profane my holy name.⁸ They lie down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge. In the house of their god they drink wine taken as fines . . .¹³ Now then, I will crush you as a cart crushes when loaded with grain.

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1. Sin: Syncretism, Indifference, and Injustice

a. “For three sins, even for four”: Yahweh, the Nations, and Israel (1:3–2:16)

b. The sins of Israel:

- Religious syncretism
- Wealthy indifference
- Social injustice

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Amos 3:13–4:5

“Hear this and testify against the descendants of Jacob,” declares the Lord, the Lord God Almighty. ¹⁴ “On the day I punish Israel for her sins, I will destroy the altars of Bethel; the horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground. ¹⁵ I will tear down the winter house along with the summer house; the houses adorned with ivory will be destroyed and the mansions will be demolished,” declares the Lord.

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Amos 3:13–4:5

Hear this word, you cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria, you women who oppress the poor and crush the needy and say to your husbands, “Bring us some drinks!”² The Sovereign Lord has sworn by his holiness: “The time will surely come when you will be taken away with hooks, the last of you with fishhooks . . .

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Amos 3:13–4:5

“Go to Bethel and sin; go to Gilgal and sin yet more. Bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes every three years. ⁵ Burn leavened bread as a thank offering and brag about your freewill offerings—boast about them, you Israelites, for this is what you love to do,” declares the Sovereign Lord.

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Amos 5:21-24

“I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. ²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. ²³ Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. ²⁴ But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”

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Amos 6:1, 4-7

Woe to you who are complacent in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, you notable men of the foremost nation, to whom the people of Israel come! . . . ⁴ You lie on beds adorned with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. ⁵ You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. ⁶ You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. ⁷ Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end.

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1. Sin: Syncretism, Indifference, and Injustice

a. “For three sins, even for four”: Yahweh, the Nations, and Israel (1:3–2:16)

b. The sins of Israel:

- Religious syncretism
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The concern for justice in Amos

- 2:7: They trample on the heads of the poor as on the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed.
- 5:7: There are those who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground.
- 5:10: There are those who hate the one who upholds justice in court and detest the one who tells the truth.
- 5:12: For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts.
- 5:15: Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.
- 5:24: But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!
- 6:12: you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into bitterness—

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James 1:27

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

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2. Judgment: The Covenant Curses and the “Day of Yahweh”

Amos 3–9

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Amos 3:1-2

Hear this word, people of Israel, the word the Lord has spoken against you—against the whole family I brought up out of Egypt: ² “You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins.”

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2. Judgment: The Covenant Curses & the “Day of Yahweh”

a. The Covenant Curses (4:6-12; 5:11-17, 27)

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Amos 4

4:6: I gave you empty stomachs in every city and lack of bread in every town

4:7: I also withheld **rain** from you

4:9: Many times I struck your gardens and vineyards, destroying them with blight and mildew

4:9: Locusts devoured your fig and olive trees

4:10: I sent plagues among you as I did to **Egypt**

4:11: I overthrew some of you as I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah

Deuteronomy 28-29

28:48: in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, you will serve the enemies the Lord sends against you.

28:24: The Lord will turn the rain of your country into dust and powder

28:39: You will plant vineyards and cultivate them but you will not drink the wine or gather the grapes, because worms will eat them.

28:38: You will sow much seed in the field but you will harvest little, because locusts will devour it.

28:59-60: the Lord will send fearful plagues on you and your descendants, harsh and prolonged disasters, and severe and lingering illnesses. He will bring on you all the diseases of Egypt that you dreaded, and they will cling to you.

29:23: The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulfur—nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it. It will be like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah . . . which the Lord overthrew in fierce anger.

Amos 5:16-17

Therefore this is what the Lord, the Lord God Almighty, says: “There will be wailing in all the streets and cries of anguish in every public square. The farmers will be summoned to weep and the mourners to wail. ¹⁷ There will be wailing in all the vineyards, for I will pass through your midst,” says the Lord.

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Hearing the Voice of the Minor Prophets

THE
MESSAGE
OF THE
TWELVE



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[The] significant point is the allusion back to the Exodus Passover. When Yahweh passed *through* the land of Egypt on that night, death fell upon the firstborn of the land (Exod. 12:12). Yet for Israel, Yahweh instead passed *over* them, and thus spared their firstborn sons from death. These prophetic words must have been especially chilling; in effect, the God who once passed *over* them would now pass *through* them in judgment.

Amos 5:27

“Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Damascus,” says the Lord, whose name is God Almighty.

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2. Judgment: The Covenant Curses & the “Day of Yahweh”

- a. The Covenant Curses (4:6-12; 5:11-17, 27)
- b. The Day of the Lord (5:18-20)

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Amos 5:18-20

Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord! Why do you long for the day of the Lord? That day will be darkness, not light. ¹⁹ It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. ²⁰ Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light—pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?

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2. Judgment: The Covenant Curses & the “Day of Yahweh”

- a. The Covenant Curses (4:6-12; 5:11-17, 27)
- b. The Day of the Lord (5:18-20)
- c. Visions of Judgment (7:1-9:6)

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Acts 17:30-31

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

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3. Hope: Repentance, Restoration & Renewal

Amos 5:4-6,14-15; 9:11-15

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3. Hope: Repentance, Restoration & Renewal

a. Repentance: The Call to Return (5:4-6, 14-15)

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Amos 5:4-6

⁴ This is what the Lord says to Israel: “Seek me and live; ⁵do not seek Bethel, do not go to Gilgal, do not journey to Beersheba. For Gilgal will surely go into exile, and Bethel will be reduced to nothing.” ⁶ Seek the Lord and live, or he will sweep through the tribes of Joseph like a fire; it will devour them, and Bethel will have no one to quench it . . .”

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Amos 5:14-15

¹⁴ Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. ¹⁵ Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.

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3. Hope: Repentance, Restoration & Renewal

- a. Repentance: The Call to Return (5:4-6, 14-15)
- b. Restoration: The Coming Kingdom (9:11-12)

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Amos 9:11-12

¹¹ In that day “I will restore David’s fallen shelter [booth, tent]—I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins— and will rebuild it as it used to be, ¹² so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name,” declares the Lord, who will do these things.

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Acts 15:12-18

The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. ¹³ When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me. ¹⁴ Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. ¹⁵ The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

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Acts 15:12-18

¹⁶ 'After this I will return and rebuild David's fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, ¹⁷ that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things'— ¹⁸ things known from long ago."

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3. Hope: Repentance, Restoration & Renewal

- a. Repentance: The Call to Return (5:4-6, 14-15)
- b. Restoration: The Coming Kingdom (9:11-12)
- c. Renewal: The New Creation (9:13-15)

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Amos 9:13-15

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills,¹⁴ and I will bring my people Israel back from exile. They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit.¹⁵ I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,” says the Lord your God.

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The
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