



THE BOOK OF

AMOS

...a verse by verse study

The History of the Kings Judah

Rehoboam 17y

Abijam 3y

Asa 41y

Jehoshaphat 25y

Jehoram 8y

Ahaziah 1y

Q. Athaliah 6y

Jehoash 40y

Amaziah 29y

Isaiah (Uzziah) Azariah 52y
Hosea
Amos

Micah
Hosea
Isaiah

Jotham 16y

Ahaz 16y

Hezekiah 29y
(722 B.C.) Israel go into captivity

Manasseh 55y

Amon 2y

Zephaniah

Josiah 31y

Jehoahaz 3mts

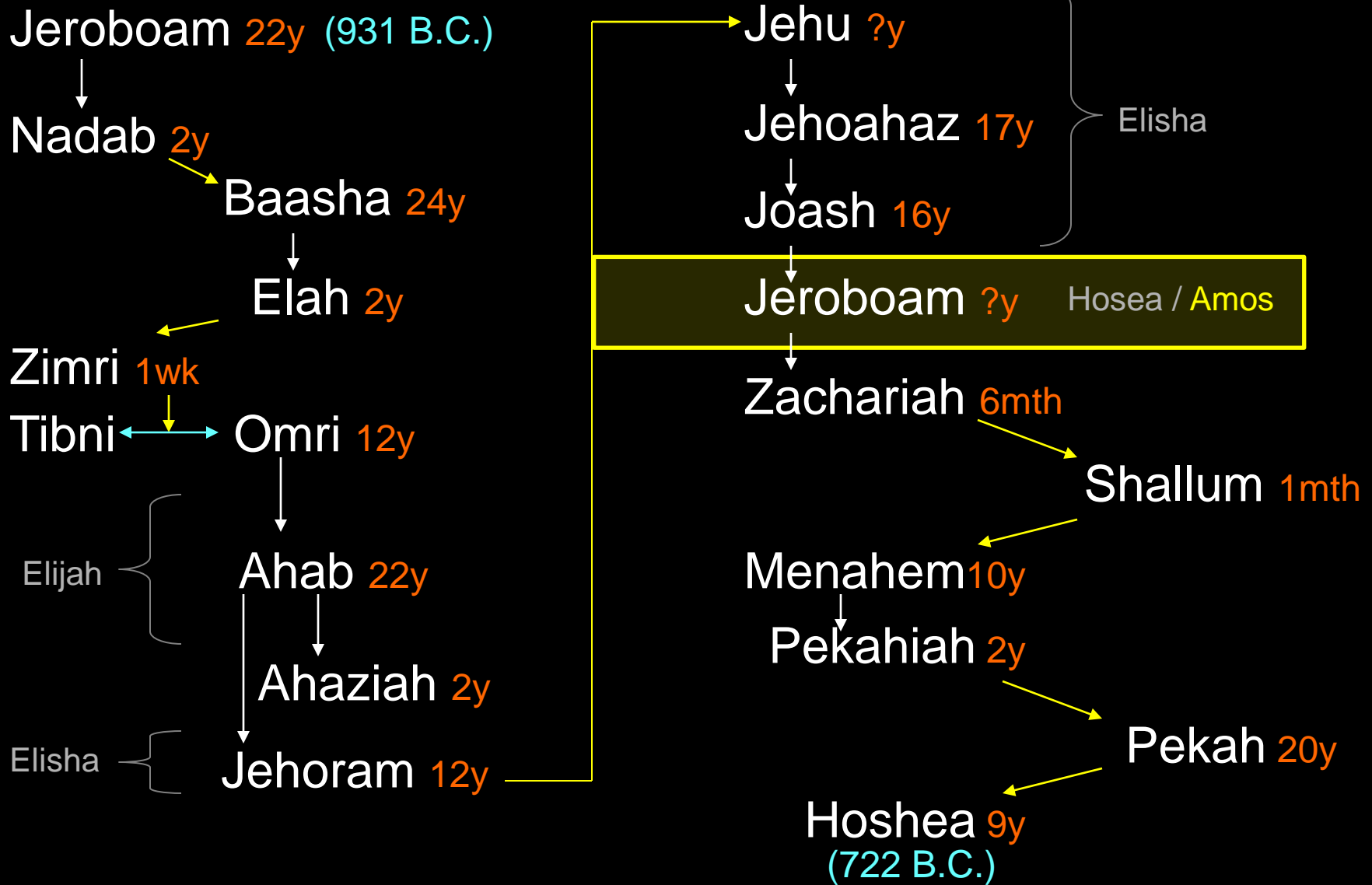
Jeremiah

(Eliakim) Jehoiakim 11y

Jehoiachin 3mts (606 B.C.)

Zedekiah 11y (587 B.C.)

The History of the Kings of Israel



The Call of Amos

- His mission:
 - Go to Bethel, the religious center of the north, and proclaim the doom of the nation.
 - Viz. Israel will be destroyed; nothing can avert it.
- Amos' predictions came true within 30 years.

Background of the Times

- Bethel was a small town 10 miles north of Jerusalem.
- It was a chief national religious shrine where Jeroboam had placed a golden calf.
- It was especially sacred because Jacob had his dream about the ladder into heaven there. (Ref I Kings 12:28-31).

Reason for Writing

- 1. To announce coming judgment upon Israel because of their idolatry and sin.
- 2. To make plain to the people of Israel what the demands of God's service truly are.
- 3. To remind Israel that God cares for all nations and exercises sovereignty over them.
- 4. To show that all nations are expected to respect such basic rules of human conduct as integrity, honesty, purity, and fairness.
- 5. To show that cruel, inhumane treatment of one's neighbor will negate all worship, no matter how elaborate.
- 6. To remind Israel of Jehovah's faithfulness to his covenant and law and their accountability to a practical observance thereof.

- John Waddey

Amos' Message

- The promised judgments of eight nations
 - Chapters 1–2
- The guilt and punishment of Israel
 - Chapters 3–6
- The symbols of approaching judgment
 - Chapters 7:1 – 9:10
- The future restoration of Israel
 - Chapters 9:11–15

Introduction to Ch 1&2

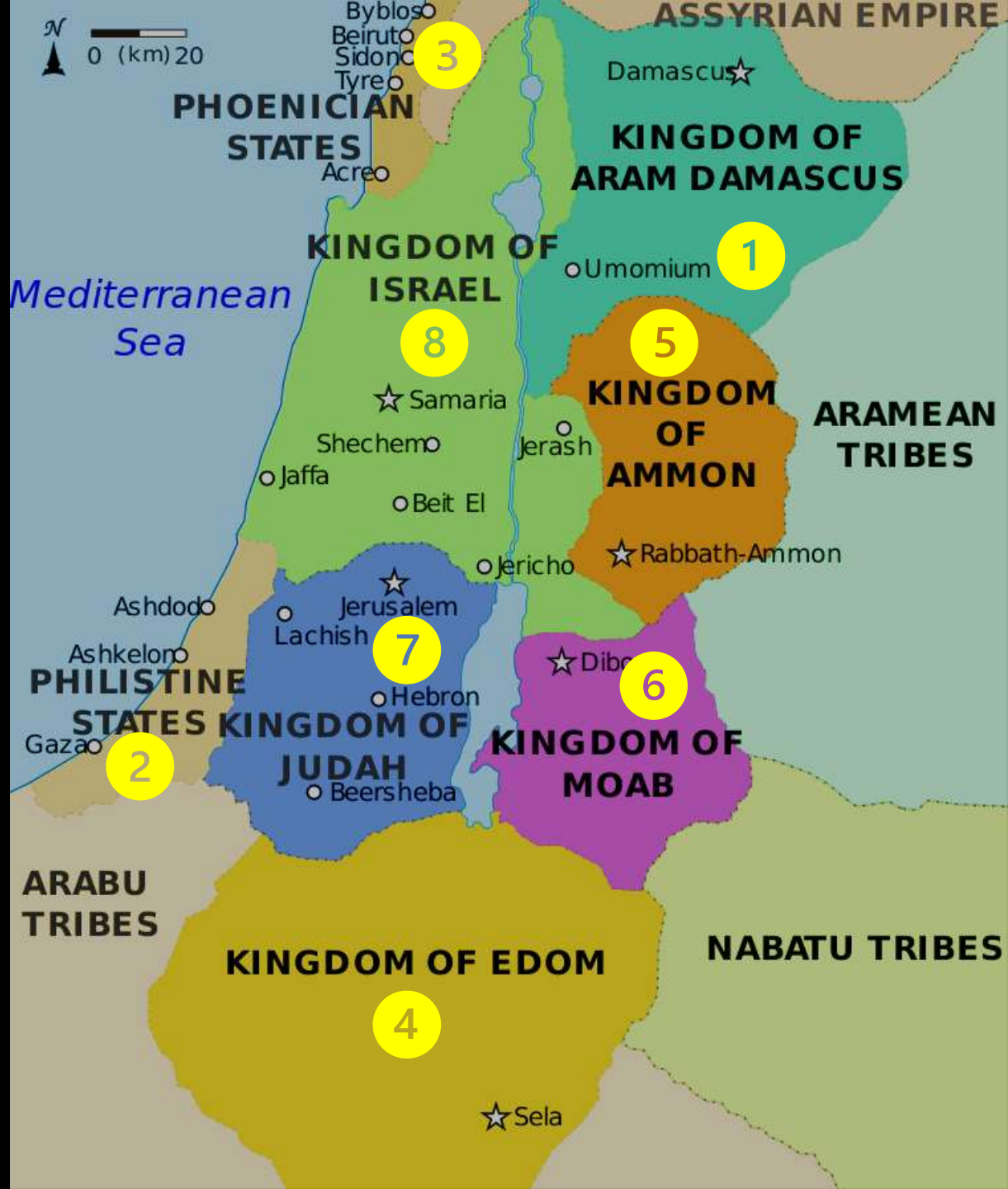
- Amos prophesies God's judgment on:
 - Damascus 1:3
 - Gaza 1:6
 - Tyre (Phoenicia) 1:9
 - Edom 1:11
 - Ammon 1:13
 - Moab 2:1
- And then Amos speaks of judgment on..
 - Judah! 2:4
 - Israel 2:6



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Chapter 1





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Chapter 2

JUDGMENT ON JUDAH

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:

Amos 2:4

- *“It hurts to see the same judgment formula applied against Judah - the people of God - as was applied against the previous six Gentile nations. It shows that Judah piled “sin upon sin upon sin” just like the other nations”. – David Guzik*

Reasons For Judgment

- Damascus:
 - *“because they have threshed Gilead with threshing instruments of iron”*
 - Cruelty
- Gaza:
 - *“because they carried away captive the whole captivity, to deliver them up to Edom”*
 - Merciless profiteering
- Tyre (Phoenicia):
 - *“because they delivered up the whole captivity to Edom, and remembered not the brotherly covenant”*
 - Betrayal

Reasons For Judgment

- Edom:
 - *“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:”*
 - Hatred
- Ammon:
 - *“because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border”*
 - Murder

Reasons For Judgment

- Moab:
 - *“because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime”*
 - *In 2 Kings 3:26, when the kings of Judah, Israel, and Idumea, joined together to destroy Moab. The king of it, despairing to save his city, took seven hundred men, and made a desperate sortie on the quarter where the king of Edom was; and, though not successful, took prisoner the son of the king of Edom; and, on their return into the city, offered him as a burnt-offering upon the wall, so as to terrify the besieging armies, and cause them to raise the siege. Others understand the son that was sacrificed to be the king of Moab's own son. - Adam Clarke*
 - *Idolatry / Cruelty / Murder /*

JUDGMENT ON JUDAH

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Amos 2:4

- Note the reason for the judgment on Judah:

A Just Judge

12 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law

Romans 2:12

A Just Judge

- *““Those other nations, Damascus and the rest, he upbraids not for having cast away the law of God, and despised His commandments, for they had not the written law, but that of nature only. So then of them he says, that “they corrupted all their compassions” - and the like. But Judah, who, at that time, had the worship of God and the temple and its rites, and had received the law and commandments and judgments and precepts and testimonies, is rebuked and convicted by the Lord, for that it had “cast aside His law and not kept His commandments;” wherefore it should be punished as it deserved.”*

- Jerome

A Just Judge

48 For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Luke 12:48

- God expects a standard from His own people He does not require from the unbelieving world.
- We have been given knowledge, heavenly wisdom and a light we are to walk in

A Just Judge

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10:28-31

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Amos 2:4

Consequence of the Walk

- *“Since they rejected and despised these, then, in course, “their lies deceived them,” that is, their idols; “lies” on their part who made them and worshiped them for the true God, and “lies” and lying to them, as deceiving their hopes. “For an idol is nothing in the world” 1 Corinthians 8:4, as neither are all the vanities in the world whereof people make idols, but they deceive by a vain show, as though they were something”.*

- Albert Barnes

Consequence of the Walk

- *“They would not have been deceived by their idols, unless they had first rejected the law of the Lord and not done His commandments.” They had sinned with a high hand: “despising” and so rejecting the law of God; and so He despised and rejected them, leaving them to be deceived by the lies which they themselves had chosen. So it ever is with man. Man must either “love God’s law and hate and abhor lies” Psalms 119:163, or he will despise God’s law and cleave to lies.” - Jerome*

JUDGMENT ON JUDAH

5 But I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem.

Amos 2:5

- This is one of the 1st prophetic warnings to the nation that Jerusalem itself will be destroyed.

The Coming Fire

- *“All know now, how Jerusalem, its temple, and its palaces perished by fire, first by Nebuchadnezzar, then by the Romans. Yet some two centuries passed, before that first destruction came. The ungodly Jews flattered themselves that it would never come. So we know that a “fiery stream” Daniel 7:10 will issue and come forth from Him; “a fire” that “consumeth to destruction” Job 31:12, all who, whether or no they are in the body of the Church, are not of the heavenly Jerusalem; dead members in the body which belongs to the Living Head.*

The Coming Fire

- *“And it will not the less come, because it is not regarded. Rather, the very condition of all God’s judgments is, to be disregarded and to come, and then most to come, when they are most disregarded.”.*

- Albert Barnes

History Repeating

- The historic > prophetic pattern continues:
- Israel's enemies will be judged - Ezekiel 38-39
- Then Israel itself, including Jerusalem will be subject to God's judgment

- We are witnessing a prophetic re-run of the book of Amos today!

⁹ The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

JUDGMENT ON ISRAEL

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;

Amos 2:6

- Israel's iniquity was also full to overflowing
- They were given over to materialism

JUDGMENT ON ISRAEL

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.

Amos 2:7-8

- They were given over to injustice
- They were given over to immorality & idolatry
- *“the garments or beds which the poor had pledged they retained contrary to the law, Ex 22:7-26, which required that such things should be restored before the setting of the sun”.*

- God now gives reasons why the necessity of judgment upon Israel is unfathomable:

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.

Amos 2:9-10

- The 'Giant' issue is not just confined to Genesis 6!
- It reverberates through the whole of the Old Testament

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, Prophecy not.

Amos 2:11-12

- It is a sure sign of a departure from God when we try to silence His voice in our lives

20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil;
that put darkness for light, and light for darkness;
that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

21 Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes,
and prudent in their own sight!

22 Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine,
and men of strength to mingle strong drink:

23 Which justify the wicked for reward,
and take away the righteousness of the righteous from
him!

¹³ Behold, I am pressed under you, as a cart is pressed that is full of sheaves.

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.

Amos 2:13-16

- We can become more vulnerable in our perceived strengths than in our acknowledged weaknesses.

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Chapter 3

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.

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?

Amos 3:1-4

The Roaring Lion

- *“By this verse he intimates that God does not cry out for nothing by his Prophets; for ungodly men supposed that the air was only made to reverberate by an empty sound, when the Prophets threatened, “These,” they said, “are mere words;” as though indeed they could not find that the necessity of crying arose from themselves, because they had provoked God by their vices.*

The Roaring Lion

- *Hence the Prophet, meeting their objection, says, “If lions roar not, except when they have obtained a prey, shall God cry from heaven and send forth his voice as far as the earth, when there is no prey?” The meaning is, that the word of God was very shamefully despised by the Israelites, as though there was no reason for crying, as though God was trifling with them.*

The Roaring Lion

- *His word is indeed precious, and is not thrown heedlessly into the air, as if it were a mere refuse; but it is an invaluable seed. Since the Lord cries, it is not, says Amos, without a lawful cause. How so? The lions do not indeed roar without prey; God then does not cry by his Prophets, except for the best reason.* — John Calvin

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?

Amos 3:5

- Gin = *mo-kasha* יִקְוֶה
– meaning: bait, lure, snare, trap
- *Shall one take up a snare - and have taken nothing — Will the snare be removed before it has caught the expected prey? - shall I remove my judgments till they are fully accomplished? — Adam Clarke*

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?

Amos 3:5

- *Will then the jaws of such a trap suddenly spring up from the ground, on which before they were lying flat, and catch nothing? Shall they let the prey that was within them escape? Certainly not. So my trap is laid for these offenders; and when it springs up, (and they themselves will soon by their transgressions free the key,) shall not the whole family of Israel be inclosed in it? Most certainly they shall.*
— Adam Clarke

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?

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

8 The lion hath roared, who will not fear?
the Lord God hath spoken, who can but prophesy?

Amos 3:6-8

- God has committed to reveal His plans through His prophets
- This verse should provoke diligent study!

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.

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.

Amos 3:12

- “When God brings His judgment, there will be little left to identify you!”
- Nebuchadnezzar only left a tiny remnant in the land

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.

Amos 3:13-15

The Roaring Lion

- *Those remarkable for their magnificence and their ornaments, not built of ivory, but in which ivory vessels, ornaments, and inlaying abounded. Thus, then, the winter houses and the summer houses, the great houses and the houses of uncommon splendour, shall all perish. There should be a total desolation in the land. No kind of house should be a refuge, and no kind of habitation should be spared. – Adam Clarke*



THE BOOK OF

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Chapter 4

- 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.

Amos 4:1-3

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.

Amos 4:4-5

- This is spoken with a note of sarcasm!
- This is what they had done!

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.

Amos 4:6-7

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.

Amos 4:8-9

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 4:10-11

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.

Amos 4:12-13

- Is there any clearer prophecy than this!
- Is there any more frightening?!



THE BOOK OF

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To be continued...