

Outline of Amos

Introduction: 1:1-2

I. Amos Pronounced Eight Oracles of Judgment Against the Nations (1:3-2:16)

A. Damascus (= Syria) will be burned for war crimes (1:3-5)

Note the formula: "For three transgressions and four"

Probable meaning "Enough wickedness and more than enough for . . ."

1. Reason: Cruelty in war against Gilead

--in the days of Jehu (2 Kings 10:32-33; cf. 13:7)

2. Judgment: Fire will burn palaces; Captivity of rulers and people

B. Gaza (= Philistines) will be burned for slave traffic (1:6-8)

1. Reason: they carried captives, delivered them to Edom (as slaves)

--happened in the days of Joram (2 Chr. 21:16 ?)

2. Judgment: Fire will burn walls and palaces; Captivity for rulers, people

C. Tyrus (= Phoenicians) will be burned for slave traffic (9-10)

1. Reason: they delivered whole captivity to Edom (as slaves)

--They did not remember the covenant with David and Solomon
(2 Sam. 5:11; 1 Kings 5:15-16)

2. Judgment: Fire will burn walls and palace

D. Edom will be burned for hatred of brothers (1:11-12)

--Esau was the brother of Jacob

1. Reason: they pursued their brother (Israel)

2. Judgment: Fire will burn the palaces

E. Ammon will be burned for war crimes against Gilead (1:13-15)

--Ammonites were descendants of Lot, Abraham's nephew

1. Reason: they committed cruel war crimes against Gilead

2. Judgment: fire will burn their walls and palaces

F. Moab will be burned for taking vengeance against the dead king of Edom

(2:1-3)

--Moabites were descendants of Lot, Abraham's nephew

1. Reason: they committed war crimes against Edom

--burned king's bones in lime;

--no reference in history

--see war in 2 Kings 3

2. Judgment: fire will burn palaces; judges, princes, people will be killed

G. Judah will be burned for apostasy (2:4-5)

1. Reason: they committed crimes against God's Law

2. Judgment: fire will burn their palaces

H. Israel will be judged for multiple crimes (2:6-16)

1. Reasons:

a. They committed crimes against:

--the righteous (sold into slavery) (6)

--the poor (sold into slavery) (6-7)

--the meek (7)

b. They committed idolatry (7-10)

c. They committed crimes against the prophets and Nazarites
(11-12)

2. Judgment: none shall escape (13-16)

3. This oracle is theme of the book. The rest of the book elaborates this theme.

II. Amos Proclaimed Three Messages against Israel's Sin (chs. 3-6)

(Key words: "Hear ye this word! [3:1; 4:1; 5:1])

A. Amos proclaimed Israel's certain doom (ch. 3)

1. Israel's unique relationship with the LORD demands judgment of their sin (3:1-2)

2. The law of cause and effect demands judgment of Israel's sin (3:3-6)

Illustrated by five similes

a. Travelers and fellowship (3)

b. Lions and prey (4)

c. Snares and birds (5)

d. Alarms and fear (6a)

e. God and judgment (6b)

3. God is the source of the prophet's message (3:7-8)

4. Amos outlined five aspects of the judgment (3:9-15)
 - a. The Philistines and Egypt will witness it (9)
 - b. Israel's judgment is ripe (10)
 - They have stored up wrath (cf., Rom 2:4-5)
 - "Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness . . ."
 - c. The adversary will destroy the palaces (11)
 - d. A remnant will be spared (12)
 - e. The altars and palaces will be destroyed (13-15)

B. Amos rebuked Israel's foolish women (cows of Bashan) (ch. 4)

1. Amos listed three reasons for the judgment (4:1-5)
 - a. They oppressed the poor (1)
 - b. God swore by His Holiness (2-3)
 - (cf., Psa 89:35; 104:4; Amos 6:8; 8:9)
 - c. They engaged in idolatrous worship (4-5)
2. Amos reminded Israel of five past judgments (4:6-11)
 - (note: 5 times repeated statement--"yet ye have not returned.")
 - a. Famine (6)
 - b. Drought (7-8)
 - c. Plagues (9)
 - d. Pestilence (10)
 - e. Destruction (11)
 - As Sodom and Gomorrah
 - a remnant will survive (cf., firebrand plucked Zech 3:2)
3. Amos declared the certainty of the judgment (4:12-13)
 - a. He warned Israel to "prepare to meet thy God" (12)
 - "thus will I do" is not defined
 - perhaps it refers to 4:11
 - perhaps it refers to 3:11
 - b. The judge is the Sovereign Judge (13)

C. Amos rebuked Israel's false worship (chs. 5-6)

1. Israel's fall will be permanent (5:1-3)
 - (note the remnant--vs. 3)

2. Amos pleaded 5 times for Israel's repentance (5:4-15)
 - a. Seek the LORD and live! (5:4)
 - b. Seek not Bethel or Gilgal (5:5)
 - c. Seek the LORD and live! (5:6-7)
 - d. Seek the Sovereign Creator (5:8-13)
 - e. Seek good and not evil (5:14-15)

3. Amos warned of the Day of the Lord (5:16-20)
 - a. It will be a day of mourning 16-17)
 - b. It will be an undesirable day (18-20)
 Note Woe # 1: Woe to those desiring the Day of the Lord (18)
 (cf. 6:3)

4. Amos described Israel's false worship (5:21-27)
 - a. God despised their worship (21-23)
 - their holidays (21)
 - their sacrifices (22)
 - their music (23)

 - b. God desired justice and righteousness (5:24)

 - c. God denounced their false worship (5:25-26)
 - their false worship in the wilderness (25)
 - their idolatry from that time (26)

5. Amos rebuked Israel's false security (ch. 6)
 - a. Israel trusted in false sources of security (6:1-6)
 - the mountain of Samaria (1-2)
 - the delay of God's judgment (3)
 - (Note Woe # 2 on those who delay the Day of the Lord)
 - their own prosperity (4-6)
 - b. Israel's captivity is certain (6:7-14)
 - Note God's oath (6:8; cf., 4:2)

III. Amos Received Five Visions of Israel's Judgment (chs. 7-9)

- A. He saw a vision of a grasshopper plague (7:1-3)
 - the Lord relented
- B. He saw a vision of judgment by fire (7:4-6)
 - the Lord relented
- C. He saw a vision of a plumbline (7:7-9)
 - the Lord did not relent
- D. Parenthesis: the priest Amaziah rebuked Amos (7:10-17)
 1. Amaziah told Amos to go home (10-13)
 2. Amos refused to turn back from his mission (14-17)
 - (Note: the doctrine of inspiration)
- E. He saw a vision of summer fruits (8:1-14)
 1. The end is come (1-2)
 2. The Lord has sworn an oath (8:7; cf., 6:8; 4:2)
 3. There will be signs in heaven (9)
 - (eclipse of the nation symbolized ??)
 4. There will be a famine of God's Word (11-12)
- F. He saw a vision of the altar, smitten due to sin (9:1-10)
- G. Amos announced a Messianic promise (9:11-15)