

# AMOS

## Conversational Version

**1<sup>1</sup>**The Message of Amos, Shepherd from Tekoa, About Israel  
**at the Time of Uzziah, King of Judah, and Jeroboam Son of Joash, King of Israel,**  
**Two Years Before the Earthquake**

**2**He said,

*The LORD will roar from Zion;  
 he'll thunder from Jerusalem.  
 The shepherds' pastures will dry up;  
 the grass on Carmel's summit will wither away.*"

### God's Judgment on Israel's Neighbors

**3**The LORD says,

*For three sins of Damascus and for four,  
 I won't hold back its punishment:  
 they threshed the people of Gilead  
 with sledges that had iron teeth.  
 4 So I'll send down fire on the house of Hazael,  
 consume the fortresses of Benhadad,  
 5 break the bars on the gates of Damascus,  
 eliminate the people in the Valley of Aven  
 and the one that holds the scepter from Beth-eden.  
 The people of Syria will go to Kir in exile.*"

**Amos 1:1-5**

**6**The LORD says,

*For three sins of Gaza and for four,  
 I won't hold back its punishment:  
 they deported an entire population to Edom.*

*7 So I'll send down fire on the walls of Gaza  
 and consume its fortresses.*

*8 I'll eliminate the people from Ashdod  
 and the one that holds the scepter in Ashkelon.  
 I'll unleash my power on Ekron,  
 And the remnant of Philistines will perish.*"

**Amos 1:6-8**

**9**The LORD says,

*For three sins of Tyre and for four,  
 I won't hold back its punishment:*

*they delivered an entire population to Edom  
and broke the treaty between kin.*

**10 So I'll send down fire on the walls of Tyre  
and burn its fortresses."**

Amos 1:9-10

**11**The LORD says,

*"For three sins of Edom and for four,  
I won't hold back its punishment:  
they pursued their brothers with a sword  
and tossed mercy aside.  
In their anger they slashed them again and again;  
they kept up their fury without end.*

**12 So I'll send down fire on Teman  
and burn the fortresses in Bozrah."**

Amos 1:11-12

**13**The LORD says,

*"For three sins of the Ammonites and for four,  
I won't hold back their punishment:  
they ripped open pregnant women in Gilead  
when they extended their borders.*

**14 So I'll kindle a fire on the walls of Rabbah  
and burn its fortresses  
amid war cries like a storm.**

**15 Their king will go into exile with his officials."**

Amos 1:13-15

**2:1**The LORD says,

*"For three sins of Moab and for four,  
I won't hold back its punishment:  
they burned the king of Edom's bones into lime.*

**2 So I'll burn the fortresses in Kerioth;  
Moab will die amid turmoil,  
war cries, and bugle blasts.**

**3 I'll eliminate judges from him  
and slay his officials with him."**

Amos 2:1-3

## God's Judgment on Judah and Israel

**4**The LORD says,

*"For three sins of Judah and for four,  
I won't hold back its punishment:*

*he rejected the Law of the LORD  
and didn't keep his statutes.  
The same lies have led them astray  
that their ancestors followed.  
**5**So I'll send down fire on Judah  
and burn the fortresses in Jerusalem.”*

**Amos 2:4-5**

**6**The LORD says,  
*“For three sins of Israel and for four,  
I won’t hold back its punishment:  
they sell the good for money,  
the poor for a pair of shoes.*  
**7***They walk on the heads of the poor in the dust  
and abandon those who are suffering.  
A man and his father sleep with the same girl  
to profane my holy name.*  
**8***They lie down beside every altar  
on cloaks taken as pledges.  
In God’s Temple they drink the wine  
of the people they’ve fined.*

**Amos 2:6-8**

**9***“Yet I was the One that destroyed the Amorites for you,  
though they were as tall as cedars and strong as oaks.  
I destroyed their fruit above and their roots below.*  
**10***I was the One that brought you up from Egypt,  
and led you in the desert for 40 years  
to take over the land of the Amorites.*  
**11***Then I raised up some of your offspring to be prophets  
and some of your young men to be Nazirites.  
Isn’t that so, Israel?*

**Amos 2:9-11**

**12***“But you made Nazirites drink wine  
and told prophets not to prophesy!*  
**13***I’ll weigh you down like a wagon  
overloaded with bundles,*  
**14***The swift won’t be able to flee;  
the strong will lose their strength;  
the powerful won’t save their lives.*  
**15***The archers won’t stand their ground;*

*the swift won't escape;  
the cavalry won't save themselves.*

**16** *The bravest among the troops  
will drop their weapons and run  
when that time comes."*

**Amos 2:12-16**

### **Witnesses Summoned Against Israel**

**3:1** Listen to what the LORD says against you, Israel, against the entire family he brought out of Egypt:

**2** *"Of all the families in the world, only you have me;  
so I'll punish you for your sins.*

**3** *Can two men walk together unless they've agreed on their route?*

**4** *Does a lion roar in the woods before it's made a kill?*

*Does a young lion growl in his den unless he's taken something?*

**5** *Does a bird fall into a trap on the ground if there's no bait in it?*

*Does a trap snap shut if nothing trips it?*

**6** *If a bugle blows in the city, won't the people be afraid?*

*If a catastrophe falls on a city, hasn't the LORD planned it?*

**7** *For certain the LORD God doesn't do anything*

*without revealing his secret counsel to his prophets.*

**8** *A lion has roared! Who's not afraid?*

*The Lord GOD has spoken! Who can refuse to prophesy?"*

**Amos 3:1-8**

**9** Declare on the fortresses in Ashdod and Egypt:

*"Gather in the mountains around Samaria and watch the great turmoil and oppression in it. **10** They don't know how to do what's right; they store up violence and devastation in their fortresses."*

**11** So the Lord GOD says,

*"An enemy will surround the land,  
pull down your fortresses,  
and loot your strongholds.*

**12** *Like a shepherd snatches from a lion's mouth  
a couple legs or part of an ear,  
so I'll deliver the Israelites living in Samaria  
like the corner of a couch and the cover on a bed.*

**13** *Listen and testify against Jacob's house.*

**14** *When I punish Israel's sins, I'll punish Bethel's altars too.*

## **Israel Does Not Learn**

**4:** Listen to this, you cows of Bashan living in Samaria,  
*you women that oppress the poor and crush the needy,*  
*that tell their husbands, “Bring the wine so we can get drunk!”*

**2** The Lord God has sworn by his holiness,  
*“The time’s coming when they’ll take you away with meat hooks,*  
*the last of you like fish on hooks.*

**3** You’ll leave through the breaches in the walls,  
each one straight ahead.  
You’ll be thrown out into Harmon/Mt. Hermon.”   **Amos 4:1-3**

<sup>4</sup>“Go sacrifice at Bethel and sin;  
    multiply your disobedience in Gilgal!  
Bring your sacrifices every morning,  
    your tithes every three days.  
<sup>5</sup>Offer a thank offering with yeast in it;  
    declare freewill offerings and brag about it.  
That’s what you like to do, you people in Israel.

<sup>7</sup> “I kept it from raining  
when it was still three months till harvest.  
Then I’d let it rain on one city  
and not on another.  
One place would get rain;  
the place that didn’t, would dry up.

<sup>8</sup> So two or three towns would stagger to another  
but they wouldn’t get enough;  
yet you haven’t come back to me.

**9** “*I struck you with blight and mildew,*

*and laid waste your orchards and vineyards.  
The locusts ate your fig trees and olives;  
yet you haven't come back to me.”*

**Amos 4:7-9**

**10** “*I sent a plague among you like I did in Egypt;  
I killed your young men with the sword  
along with your captured horses.  
I made the stench in your camp fill your nostrils;  
yet you haven't come back to me.*

**11** “*I overthrew you like I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah;  
your survivors were like charred stakes snatched from the fire;  
yet you haven't come back to me.*

**Amos 4:10-11**

**12** “*Because I'm going to do this to you, Israel,  
prepare to meet your God.”*

**13** The One that builds mountains and creates wind,  
reveals to people what he's thinking,  
the One that turns dawn into darkness  
and walks on mountaintops—  
the LORD God of Hosts.

**Amos 4:12-13**

### A Call to Repentance

**5:1** Listen to the dirge I'm chanting for you, Israel:

**2** “*She's fallen;  
virgin Israel won't get up again.  
She's abandoned on the ground;  
no one will help get her up.*

**3** “*The city that goes out 1,000 strong  
will have 100 left;  
the one that goes out 100 strong  
will have 10.”*

**Amos 5:1-3**

**4** The LORD tells Israel,  
**“Rely on me so you can live.”**

**5** “*Don't rely on Bethel or go to Gilgal or Beersheba;  
Gilgal is headed for captivity,  
and Bethel will cease to exist.*

***6Rely on me so you can live,***  
*so I don't break out like fire, House of Joseph,  
 and burn in Bethel with no one to quench it,  
 7you that pervert justice into bitter oppression  
 and toss goodness on the ground.”*

**Amos 5:4-7**

**8The LORD is the One that made Pleiades and Orion,**  
 that changes deep darkness into morning  
 and darkens day into night,  
 that calls water out of the ocean  
 and pours it out on land.

**9He's the One that flashes destruction at the strong**  
 and demolishes their fortresses.

**Amos 5:8-9**

**10They hate the one that reproves in court;**  
 they abhor anyone that speaks with integrity.

**11So, since you impose heavy rent on the poor**  
 and exact tribute on their grain,  
 though you build houses out of well-hewn stone,  
 you won't live in them;  
 though you plant lush vineyards,  
 you won't drink their wine.

**12I know about your many, serious sins,**  
 you that distress decent people, accept bribes,  
 and deprive the poor of justice in court.

**13In such cases, prudent people keep quiet**  
 because it's an evil time.

**Amos 5:10-13**

**14Do what's good so you can live,**  
 so the LORD God of Hosts will be with you  
 like you said.

**15Hate evil, love good;**  
 establish justice in court!  
 Maybe the LORD God of Hosts  
 will show grace to the remnant in Joseph.

**Amos 5:14-15**

**16So, the LORD God of Hosts says,**  
 “*What wailing there is in all the squares!  
 What mourning in every street!*”

*They're calling on farmers to moan  
and professional mourners to lament.*

**17** *In all the vineyards there'll be wailing  
because I'll pass through your midst."*

**Amos 5:16-17**

### The Day of the LORD

**18** *What longing you have for the day of the LORD!  
But what good will it do you?  
That day will be darkness for you, not light.*

**19** *It will be like a man that runs from a lion  
and meets a bear;  
or goes home, leans his hand on the wall,  
and gets bit by a snake.*

**20** *Won't the day of the LORD be darkness instead of light,  
gloom without brightness?*

**Amos 5:18-20**

**21** *"I despise your festivals;  
I don't delight in your solemn assemblies.*

**22** *Though you offer me burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
I won't accept them.  
I won't even look at your peace offerings of grain-fed animals.*

**23** *Take away your noisy songs;  
I don't want to listen to your lyres.*

**24** *Instead, make justice run down like water  
and goodness like a constant-flowing stream.*

**Amos 5:21-24**

**25** *"Did you bring me sacrifices and grain offerings in the desert for 40 years,  
Israel? 26 Well, you also carried along Sakkuth your king god and Kaiwan your star  
god, images you made for yourselves. 27 So I'll send you into exile beyond  
Damascus,"* the LORD says, whose name is The God of Hosts.

**Amos 5:25-27**

### Woe to the Complacent

**6:1** *"Misfortune awaits those of you at ease in Zion,  
who feel secure in Samaria,  
you notable leaders of that foremost nation  
that the House of Israel comes to.*

**2** *Go over to Calneh and look at what happened there;  
go from there to Hamath the great city;*

*then go down to Gath of the Philistines.  
 Are you better than those kingdoms?  
 Is their territory bigger than yours?  
 3Are you trying to push away the time of catastrophe?  
 You're only bringing the violence nearer.*

**Amos 6:1-3**

*4“Misfortune awaits you that stretch out on ivory beds,  
 that lounge on your couches,  
 that eat lambs from the flock  
 and calves from the stall,  
 5that sing idle songs to the sound of a lyre  
 and invent musical instruments like David did,  
 6that drink wine by the bowlful  
 and anoint yourselves with the finest oils,  
 but don't grieve over Joseph's demise.  
 7You'll be at the front of the exiles;  
 your partying on couches is over with.”*

**Amos 6:4-7**

*8The Lord GOD has sworn by himself,  
 the LORD God of Hosts has declared:  
 “I abhor Jacob's pride;  
 I detest his fortresses.  
 So I'll deliver up to its enemies  
 this city and everything in it.”*

**Amos 6:8**

*9It will be that, if ten die in one house 10and the relative that comes to dispose of their bodies says, “Is anyone else here?” any survivor may start to swear, “No, . . .” But the relative will interrupt, “Don't finish your oath. Don't even mention the LORD.”*

**Amos 6:9-10**

*11The LORD is going to command  
 to smash big houses to pieces  
 and crush little ones to bits.*

*12Do horses run on rocks?  
 Do people plow the sea with oxen?  
 Yet you've turned justice into poison  
 and made the fruit of goodness bitter.*

*13To you that celebrate in Lo-debar  
 and say, “We've taken Karnaim by our own power.”*

*14the LORD God of Hosts says,*

*"I'm going to raise up a nation against you, Israel;  
they'll oppress you from Lebo-hamath to the Arabah Valley."*

**Amos 6:11-14**

### A Vision of Locusts

**7:1**The Lord GOD showed me a vision. He formed a locust swarm after the spring crop sprouted and the king had mowed his share. **2**The swarm had finished eating the vegetation, and I said,

*"Lord God, please pardon!  
How will Joseph make it?  
He's too small!"*

**3**The LORD changed his mind.

*"It won't happen."*

**Amos 7:1-3**

### A Vision of Fire

**4**The Lord GOD showed me another vision: he had called for fire to punish them. It had burned up the depths of the sea and was beginning to burn up the landscape. **5**I said,

*"Lord God, please stop!  
How can Joseph make it?  
He's too small!"*

**6**The LORD changed his mind.

*"This won't happen either."*

**Amos 7:4-6**

### A Vision of a Plumb Line

**7**He showed me that he was standing by a wall with a plumb line in his hand.

**8**He said, *"What do you see, Amos?"*

*"A plumb line."*

*"I'm about to put a plumb line on my people Israel;  
I'm not going to spare them anymore."*

**9**The high places of Isaac will be desolate,

*the sanctuaries of Israel will be laid waste;  
I'll attack Jeroboam's dynasty with a sword."*

**Amos 7:7-9**

### Amaziah Accuses Amos of Conspiracy

**10**Then Amaziah, priest at Bethel, sent a message to Jeroboam, king of Israel,

*"Amos has plotted against you in Israel. The land can't endure what he*

*keeps saying: 11 'Jeroboam will die by the sword;*

*Israel will go into exile.'"*

<sup>12</sup>So Amaziah told Amos, “Get out of here, you seer! Go to Judah and prophesy for food! <sup>13</sup>Don’t prophesy at Bethel anymore. It’s a king’s sanctuary and a national place of worship.”

<sup>14</sup>Amos answered him,

“I wasn’t a prophet or a prophet’s son. I was a shepherd that tended fig trees. <sup>15</sup>But the LORD took me from following flocks and told me to prophesy to his people. <sup>16</sup>Listen to what he says. You tell me not to prophesy against Israel or preach against Isaac. <sup>17</sup>So the LORD says, ‘Your wife will be a prostitute in the city, your children will fall by the sword, your property will be parceled up, and you’ll die in an unclean land. Israel will go into exile.’”

**Amos 7:10-17**

### A Vision of Ripe Fruit

<sup>8:1</sup>The Lord GOD showed me a basket of ripe fruit.

<sup>2</sup>“What do you see, Amos?”

“A basket of ripe fruit.”

“My people Israel are also ripe—for punishment. I won’t spare them any longer.

<sup>3</sup>The singing at the palace will turn into wailing. There’ll be lots of corpses silently thrown out everywhere.”

<sup>4</sup>Listen to this, you that run over the needy and trample on the humble, <sup>5</sup>saying,

“When’s the new moon going to be over

so we can buy grain?

When will the Sabbath be past

so we can open the wheat market—

make the bushel smaller, the shekel heavier,

and cheat with dishonest scales;

<sup>6</sup>so we can buy the helpless for money

and the poor for a pair of shoes,

and sell the chaff with the wheat?”

**Amos 8:1-6**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD has sworn by Jacob’s arrogance,

“I’ll never forget what they’ve done.

<sup>8</sup>“Because of it, won’t the land quake

and everybody in it mourn?

It will swell up like the Nile,

*flood all over, and recede.*

**9** *At that time, I'll make the sun go down at noon  
and make the earth dark in broad daylight.*

**10** *I'll turn your festivals into mourning  
and your singing into funeral chants.  
I'll put burlap around everybody's waist  
and make every head bald,  
like the mourning for an only son;  
the end will be a bitter day."*

**Amos 8:7-10**

**11** The Lord GOD says.

*"The time's coming when  
I'll send a famine on the land,  
not a famine of bread and water,  
but a famine of hearing from the LORD.*

**12** *People will stagger from sea to sea,  
from north to east,  
here to there,  
looking for a message from the LORD,  
but not finding any.*

**13** *At that time, beautiful virgins  
and strong young men will faint from thirst.*

**14** *The ones that swear by the guilt of Samaria,  
who say, 'As your god lives, Dan,'  
'As the way to Beersheba lives'—  
will fall and never get up."*

**Amos 8:11-14**

## A Vision of Locusts

**9:1** I saw the LORD standing by the altar. He said,  
*"Strike the capitals till the thresholds shake;  
shatter them on the people's heads.  
What's left, I'll slay with the sword;  
no fugitive will get away or refugee escape.*

**2** *Though they dig down to Sheol,  
I'll bring them up.  
Though they fly up to the sky,  
I'll bring them down.*

**3** *Though they hide on top of Carmel,  
I'll look for them and banish them.*

*Though they hide on the floor of the sea,  
I'll tell a sea serpent to bite them.  
⁴Even if their enemies take them into exile,  
I'll command a sword to slay them.  
I'm determined to oppose them.”*

**Amos 9:1-4**

**5**The Lord Yahveh of Hosts—  
who touches the land  
and turns it into lava that makes the people mourn,  
and the ground floods like the Nile and goes down again;  
**6**the One who builds upper rooms that reach into the sky  
and lays their foundations on the earth,  
who draws up water from the sea  
and pours it out as rain on the land—  
his name is Yahveh.

**Amos 9:5-6**

**7**“Aren't you like Nubia to me, Israel?  
Haven't I brought Israel up from Egypt,  
the Philistines from Crete,  
the Syrians from Kir?  
**8**I keep my eye on sinful kingdoms and destroy them;  
but I won't completely destroy the House of Jacob.

**9**I'll give the command  
to shake the House of Jacob among all nations  
like grain in a sieve,  
but not a kernel will fall on the ground.

**10**All the sinners among my people will die by the sword  
who say, ‘Catastrophe won't overtake us.’

### A Promise of Restoration

**11**At that time, I'll rebuild David's fallen shelter  
and fix the breaches in its walls.  
I'll raise it up from its ruins  
and restore it like it was in the old days,  
**12**so they can possess what's left of Edom  
and all the nations that wear my name.”

**Amos 9:7-12**

**13**The LORD says,  
“The time's coming,

*when reaping will last till plowing  
and grape treading will go on till sowing time,  
when new wine will drip from the mountains  
and flow from the hills.*

**14** *I'll return my people Israel from captivity.  
They'll rebuild the ruined towns and live in them,  
plant vineyards and drink their wine,  
plant gardens and eat their produce.*

**15** *I'll plant them in their own country;  
they won't be uprooted again from the land  
I've given them."*

**Amos 9:13-15**

Version by Virgil Warren: christir.org