



During an era of prosperity, this humble sheep farmer from Judah preached judgment against the rich leaders of Israel's northern kingdom. Amos urged them to consider the poor and oppressed rather than their own self-satisfaction.

1 I am Amos. And I raised sheep near the town of Tekoa when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash[▷] was king of Israel. Two years before the earthquake, the LORD gave me several messages[▷] about Israel, ² and I said:

When the LORD roars
from Jerusalem,
pasturelands and Mount Carmel
dry up and turn brown.

Judgment on Syria

³The LORD said:

I will punish Syria[▷]
for countless crimes,
and I won't change my mind.
They dragged logs with spikes
over the people of Gilead.

⁴Now I will burn down the palaces
and fortresses of King Hazael
and of King Benhadad.

⁵I will break through
the gates of Damascus.
I will destroy the people[▷]
of Wicked Valley[▷]
and the ruler of Beth-Eden.[▷]
Then the Syrians will be dragged
as prisoners to Kir.
I, the LORD, have spoken!

Judgment on Philistia

⁶The LORD said:

I will punish Philistia[▷]
for countless crimes,
and I won't change my mind.
They dragged off my people
from town after town
to sell them as slaves
to the Edomites.

⁷That's why I will burn down
the walls and fortresses
of the city of Gaza.

⁸I will destroy the king[▷] of Ashdod
and the ruler of Ashkelon.
I will strike down Ekron,
and that will be the end
of the Philistines.
I, the LORD, have spoken!

Judgment on Phoenicia

⁹The LORD said:

I will punish Phoenicia[▷]
for countless crimes,
and I won't change my mind.
They broke their treaty
and dragged off my people
from town after town
to sell them as slaves
to the Edomites.

¹⁰ That's why I will send flames
to burn down the city of Tyre
along with its fortresses.

Judgment on Edom

¹¹ The LORD said:

I will punish Edom
for countless crimes,
and I won't change my mind.
They killed their own relatives
and were so terribly furious
that they showed no mercy.

¹² Now I will send fire to wipe out
the fortresses of Teman
and Bozrah.

Judgment on Ammon

¹³ The LORD said:

I will punish Ammon
for countless crimes,
and I won't change my mind.
In Gilead they ripped open
pregnant women,
just to take the land.

¹⁴ Now I will send fire to destroy
the walls and fortresses
of Rabbah.

Enemies will shout and attack
like a whirlwind.

¹⁵ Ammon's king and leaders
will be dragged away.
I, the LORD, have spoken!

Judgment on Moab

2 The LORD said:

I will punish Moab
for countless crimes,
and I won't change my mind.
They made lime from the bones
of the king of Edom.

² Now I will send fire to destroy
the fortresses of Kerioth.
Battle shouts and trumpet blasts
will be heard as I destroy Moab

³ with its king and leaders.
I, the LORD, have spoken!

Judgment on Judah

⁴ The LORD said:

I will punish Judah

for countless crimes,
and I won't change my mind.
They have rejected my teachings
and refused to obey me.

They were led astray
by the same false gods
their ancestors worshiped.

⁵ Now I will send fire on Judah
and destroy the fortresses
of Jerusalem.

Judgment on Israel

⁶ The LORD said:

I will punish Israel
for countless crimes,
and I won't change my mind.
They sell honest people for money,
and the needy are sold
for the price of sandals.

⁷ They smear the poor in the dirt
and push aside
those who are helpless.

My holy name is dishonored,
because fathers and sons sleep
with the same young women.

⁸ They lie down beside altars
on clothes taken
as security for loans.
And they drink wine in my temple,
wine bought with the money
they received from fines.

⁹ Israel, the Amorites were there
when you entered Canaan.

They were tall as cedars
and strong as oaks.
But I wiped them out—
I destroyed their branches
and their roots.

¹⁰ I had rescued you from Egypt,
and for forty years I had led you
through the desert.

Then I gave you the land
of the Amorites.

¹¹ I chose some of you
to be prophets
and others to be Nazirites.
People of Israel,
you know this is true.
I, the LORD, have spoken!

- 12 But you commanded the prophets
not to speak their message,
and you pressured the Nazirites
into drinking wine.
- 13 'And so I will crush you,
just as a wagon full of grain
crushes the ground.'
- 14 No matter how fast you run,
you won't escape.
No matter how strong you are,
you will lose your strength
and your life.
- 15 Even if you are an expert
with a bow and arrow,
you will retreat.
And you won't get away alive,
not even if you run fast
or ride a horse.
- 16 You may be brave and strong,
but you will run away,
stripped naked.
I, the LORD, have spoken!

3 People of Israel,
I rescued you from Egypt.
Now listen to my judgment
against you.

2 Of all nations on earth,
you are the only one
I have chosen.
That's why I will punish you
because of your sins.

The Work of a Prophet

- 3 Can two people walk together
without agreeing to meet?
- 4 Does a lion roar in the forest
unless it has caught
a victim?
Does it growl in its den
unless it is eating?
- 5 How can anyone catch a bird
without using a net?
Does a trap spring shut
unless something is caught?
- 6 Isn't the whole city frightened
when the trumpet
signals an attack?
Isn't it the LORD who brings
disaster on a city?
- 7 Whatever the LORD God
plans to do,

he tells his servants,
the prophets.

- 8 Everyone is terrified
when a lion roars—
and ordinary people
become prophets
when the LORD God speaks.

Samaria Is Doomed

- 9 Here is a message
for the leaders
of Philistia[>] and Egypt—
tell everyone to come together
on the hills of Samaria.
Let them see the injustice
and the lawlessness
in that city.
- 10 The LORD has said
that they don't even know how
to do right.
They have become rich
from violence and robbery.
- 11 And so the LORD God has sworn
that they will be surrounded.
Enemies will break through
their defenses
and steal their treasures.
- 12 The LORD has promised
that only a few from Samaria
will escape with their lives
and with 'some broken pieces
of their beds and couches.'
It will be like when a shepherd
rescues two leg bones
and part of a sheep's ear
from the jaws of a lion.

The Altars at Bethel

- 13 The LORD God All-Powerful
told me to speak this message
against Jacob's descendants:
- 14 When I, the LORD, punish Israel
for their sins,
I will destroy the altars
at Bethel.
Even the corners of the altar
will be left in the dirt.
- 15 I will tear down winter homes
and summer homes.
Houses decorated with ivory
and all other mansions
will be gone forever.
I, the LORD, have spoken!

The Women of Samaria

The LORD said:

- 4** You women of Samaria
are fat cows![▷]
You mistreat and abuse
the poor and needy,
then you say to your husbands,
“Bring us more drinks!”
2 I, the LORD God, have sworn
by my own name
that your time is coming.
Not one of you will be left—
you will be “taken away
by sharp hooks.”
3 You will be dragged through holes
in your city walls,
and you will be thrown
toward Harmon.[▷]
I, the LORD, have spoken!

Israel Refuses To Obey

The LORD said:

- 4** Come to Bethel and Gilgal.
Sin all you want!
Offer sacrifices the next morning
and bring a tenth of your crops
on the third day.[▷]
5 Bring offerings to show me
how thankful you are.
Gladly bring more offerings
than I have demanded.
You really love to do this.
I, the LORD God, have spoken!

How the LORD Warned Israel

- 6** I, the LORD, took away the food
from every town and village,
but still you rejected me.
7 Three months before harvest,
I kept back the rain.
Sometimes I would let it fall
on one town or field
but not on another,
and pastures dried up.
8 People from two or three towns
would go to a town
that still had water,
but it wasn't enough.
Even then you rejected me.
I, the LORD, have spoken!
9 I dried up your grain fields;

your gardens and vineyards
turned brown.
Locusts ate your fig trees
and olive orchards,
but even then you rejected me.
I, the LORD, have spoken!

10 I did terrible things to you,
just as I did to Egypt—
I killed your young men in war;
I let your horses be stolen,
and I made your camp stink
with dead bodies.
Even then you rejected me.
I, the LORD, have spoken!

11 I destroyed many of you,
just as I did the cities
of Sodom and Gomorrah.
You were a burning stick
I rescued from the fire.
Even then you rejected me.
I, the LORD, have spoken!

12 Now, Israel, I myself
will deal with you.
Get ready to face your God!

13 I created the mountains
and the wind.
I let humans know
what I am thinking.[▷]
I bring darkness at dawn
and step over hills.
I am the LORD God All-Powerful!

Turn Back to the LORD

- 5** Listen, nation of Israel,
to my mournful message:
2 You, dearest Israel, have fallen,
never to rise again—
you lie deserted in your own land,
with no one to help you up.
3 The LORD God has warned,
“From every ten soldiers
only one will be left;
from a thousand troops,
only a hundred will survive.”
4 The LORD keeps saying,
“Israel, turn back to me
and you will live!
5 Don't go to Gilgal or Bethel
or even to Beersheba.

Gilgal will be dragged away,
and Bethel will end up
as nothing.”

- 6 Turn back to the LORD,
you descendants of Joseph,
and you will live.
If you don't, the LORD
will attack like fire.
Bethel will burn to the ground,
and no one can save it.
- 7 You people are doomed!
You twist the truth
and trample on justice.
- 8 But the LORD created the stars
and put them in place.▷
He turns darkness to dawn
and daylight to darkness;
he scoops up the ocean
and empties it on the earth.
- 9 God destroys mighty soldiers
and strong fortresses.

Choose Good Instead of Evil!

The LORD said:

- 10 You people hate judges
and honest witnesses;
11 you abuse the poor and demand
heavy taxes from them.
You have built expensive homes,
but you won't enjoy them;
you have planted vineyards,
but you will get no wine.
- 12 I am the LORD, and I know
your terrible sins.
You cheat honest people
and take bribes;
you rob the poor of justice.
- 13 Times are so evil
that anyone with good sense
will keep quiet.
- 14 If you really want to live,
you must stop doing wrong
and start doing right.
I, the LORD God All-Powerful,
will then be on your side,
just as you claim I am.
- 15 Choose good instead of evil!
See that justice is done.
Maybe I, the LORD All-Powerful,
will be kind to what's left
of your people.▷

Judgment Is Coming

16 This is what the LORD has sworn:

- Noisy crying will be heard
in every town and street.
Even farmers will be told
to mourn for the dead,
together with those
who are paid to mourn.
- 17 Your vineyards will be filled
with crying and weeping,
because I will punish you.
I, the LORD, have spoken!

When the LORD Judges

- 18 You look forward to the day
when the LORD comes to judge.
But you are in for trouble!
It won't be a time of sunshine;
all will be darkness.
- 19 You will run from a lion,
only to meet a bear.
You will escape to your house,
rest your hand on the wall,
and be bitten by a snake.
- 20 The day when the LORD judges
will be dark, very dark,
without a ray of light.

What the LORD Demands

- 21 I, the LORD, hate and despise
your religious celebrations
and your times of worship.
- 22 I won't accept your offerings
or animal sacrifices—
not even your very best.
- 23 No more of your noisy songs!
I won't listen
when you play your harps.
- 24 But let justice and fairness
flow like a river
that never runs dry.
- 25 Israel, for forty years
you wandered in the desert,
without bringing offerings
or sacrifices to me.
- 26 Now you will have to carry
the two idols you made—
Sakkuth, the one you call king,
and Kaiwan, the one you built
in the shape of a star.¹

27 I will force you to march
as captives beyond Damascus.
I, the LORD God All-Powerful,
have spoken!

Israel Will Be Punished

6 Do you rulers in Jerusalem
and in the city of Samaria
feel safe and at ease?
Everyone bows down to you,
and you think you are better
than any other nation.
But you are in for trouble!

2 Look what happened
to the cities of Calneh,
powerful Hamath,
and Gath in Philistia.
Are you greater than any
of those kingdoms?

3 You are cruel, and you forget
the coming day of judgment.

4 You rich people lounge around
on beds with ivory posts,
while dining on the meat
of your lambs and calves.

5 You sing foolish songs
to the music of harps,
and you make up new tunes,
just as David used to do.

6 You drink all the wine you want
and wear expensive perfume,
but you don't care about
the ruin of your nation.▷

7 So you will be the first
to be dragged off as captives;
your good times will end.

8 The LORD God All-Powerful
has sworn by his own name:
"You descendants of Jacob
make me angry by your pride,
and I hate your fortresses.
And so I will surrender your city
and possessions
to your enemies."

9 If only ten of you survive
by hiding in a house
you will still die.

10 As you carry out a corpse
to prepare it for burial,▷
your relative in the house

will ask, "Are there others?"
You will answer, "No!"
Then your relative will reply,
"Be quiet! Don't dare mention
the name of the LORD."

11 At the LORD's command,
houses great and small
will be smashed to pieces.

12 Horses can't gallop on rocks;
oceans▷ can't be plowed.
But you have turned justice
and fairness
into bitter poison.

13 You celebrate the defeat
of Lo-Debar and Karnaim,
and you boast by saying,
"We did it on our own."

14 But the LORD God All-Powerful
will send a nation to attack
you people of Israel.
They will capture Lebo-Hamath
in the north,
Arabah Creek in the south,
and everything in between.

A Vision of Locusts

7 The LORD God showed me that he is going to
send locusts to attack your crops. It will happen
after the king has already been given his share
of the grain and before the rest of the grain has
been harvested. 2 In my vision the locusts ate every
crop in the land, and I said to the LORD, "Forgive me
for asking, but how can the nation survive? It's so
weak."

3 Then the LORD felt sorry and answered, "I
won't let it be destroyed."

A Vision of Fire

4 The LORD showed me that he is going to send
a ball of fire to burn up everything on earth, includ-
ing the ocean. 5 Then I said, "Won't you please
stop? How can our weak nation survive?"

6 Again the LORD felt sorry and answered, "I
won't let it be destroyed."

A Vision of a Measuring Line

7 The LORD showed me a vision of himself
standing beside a wall and holding a string with a
weight tied to the end of it. The string and weight
had been used to measure the straightness of the
wall. 8 Then he asked, "Amos, what do you see?"

"A measuring line," I answered.

The LORD said, "I'm using this measuring line to show that my people Israel don't measure up, and I won't forgive them any more. ⁹ Their sacred places will be destroyed, and I will send war against the nation of King Jeroboam."

Amos and Amaziah

¹⁰ Amaziah the priest at Bethel sent this message to King Jeroboam of Israel, "Amos is plotting against you in the very heart of Israel. Our nation cannot put up with his message for very long. ¹¹ Here is what he is saying:

' Jeroboam will be put to death,
and the people will be taken
to a foreign country. "

¹² Then Amaziah told me, "Amos, take your visions and get out! Go back to Judah and earn your living there as a prophet. ¹³ Don't do any more preaching at Bethel. The king worships here at our national temple."

¹⁴ I answered:

I'm not a prophet! And I wasn't trained to be a prophet. I am a shepherd, and I take care of fig trees. ¹⁵ But the LORD told me to leave my herds and preach to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ And here you are, telling me not to preach! ¹⁷ Now, listen to what the LORD says about you:

Your wife will become
a prostitute in the city,
your sons and daughters
will be killed in war,
and your land will be divided
among others.

You will die in a country
of foreigners,
and the people of Israel
will be dragged
from their homeland.

A Basket of Fruit

8 The LORD God showed me a basket of ripe fruit ² and asked, "Amos, what do you see?"

"A basket of ripe fruit," I replied.
Then he said,

"This is the end
for my people Israel.
I won't forgive them again.

³ Instead of singing

in the temple,
they will cry and weep.
Dead bodies will be everywhere.
So keep silent!
I, the LORD, have spoken!"

Israel Is Doomed

The LORD said:

- ⁴ You people crush those in need
and wipe out the poor.
⁵ You say to yourselves,
"How much longer before the end
of the New Moon Festival?
When will the Sabbath be over?
Our wheat is ready,
and we want to sell it now.
We can't wait to cheat
and charge high prices
for the grain we sell.
We will use dishonest scales
⁶ and mix dust in the grain.
Those who are needy and poor
don't have any money.
We will make them our slaves
for the price
of a pair of sandals."
⁷ I, the LORD, won't forget
any of this,
though you take great pride
in your ancestor Jacob.▷
⁸ Your country will tremble,
and you will mourn.
It will be like the Nile River
that rises and overflows,
then sinks back down.
⁹ On that day, I, the LORD God,
will make the sun
go down at noon,
and I will turn daylight
into darkness.
¹⁰ Your festivals and joyful singing
will turn into sorrow.
You will wear sackcloth
and shave your heads,
as you would at the death
of your only son.
It will be a horrible day.
¹¹ I, the LORD, also promise you
a terrible shortage,
but not of food and water.

- You will hunger and thirst
to hear my message.
- 12 You will search everywhere—
from north to south,
from east to west.
You will go all over the earth,
seeking a message
from me, the LORD.
But you won't find one.
- 13 Your beautiful young women
and your young men
will faint from thirst.
- 14 You made promises
in the name of Ashimah,
the goddess of Samaria.
And you made vows in my name
at the shrines
of Dan and Beersheba.▷
But you will fall
and never get up.

Judgment on Israel

- S** I saw a vision of the LORD
standing by the temple altar,
and he said,
‘Shake the columns
until the tops fall loose,
and the doorposts crumble.
Then make the pieces fall
on the people below.
I will take a sword and kill
anyone who escapes.
- 2 ‘If they dig deep into the earth
or climb to the sky,
I’ll reach out and get them.
- 3 If they escape to the peaks
of Mount Carmel,
I’ll search and find them.
And if they hide from me
at the bottom of the ocean,
I’ll command a sea monster
to bite them.
- 4 I’ll send a sword to kill them,
wherever their enemies
drag them off as captives.
I’m determined to hurt them,
not to help them.”

His Name Is the LORD

- 5 When the LORD God All-Powerful
touches the earth, it melts,
and its people mourn.

- God makes the earth rise
and then fall,
just like the Nile River.
- 6 ‘He built his palace in the heavens
and let its foundations
rest on the earth.’
He scoops up the ocean
and empties it on the earth.
His name is the LORD.

The LORD Is God

- 7 Israel, I am the LORD God,
and the Ethiopians▷
are no less important to me
than you are.
I brought you out of Egypt,
but I also brought
the Philistines from Crete▷
and the Arameans from Kir.
- 8 My eyes have seen
what a sinful nation you are,
and I’ll wipe you out.
But I will leave a few
of Jacob’s descendants.
I, the LORD, have spoken!
- 9 At my command, all of you
will be sifted like grain.
Israelites who remain faithful
will be scattered
among the nations.
And the others will be trapped
like trash in a sifter.
- 10 Some of you are evil,
and you deny
that you will ever get caught.
But you will be killed.

The LORD’s Promise to Israel

- 11 In the future, I will rebuild
David’s fallen kingdom.
I will build it from its ruins
and set it up again,
just as it used to be.
- 12 Then you will capture Edom
and the other nations
that are mine.
I, the LORD, have spoken,
and my words will come true.
- 13 You will have such a harvest
that you won’t be able