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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Amos 1.

(2014)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Amos 1.

Topics.

- The indictment of foreign nations including Judah and Israel.
- The LORD roars from Zion.
- Four transgressions of Damascus.
- Four transgressions of Gaza.
- Four transgressions of Tyre.
- Four transgressions of Edom.
- Four transgressions of the Ammonites.

INTRODUCTION: Amos, the first of the writing prophets, was a shepherd and farmer called to prophesy during the reigns of Uzziah (792–740 B.C.) in the Southern Kingdom (the 10 Tribes in the land of Samaria) and Jeroboam II (793–753) in the Northern Kingdom (the 2 Tribes at Jerusalem). During this time both kingdoms enjoyed political stability which in turn brought prosperity, but it was also a time of idolatry, extravagance, and corruption with the rich and powerful oppressing the poor. Amos denounced the people of Israel for their apostasy and social injustice and warned them that disaster would fall upon them for breaking the covenant. He urged them to leave the hypocrisy of their “solemn assemblies” (5:21) and instead to “let justice roll down like waters” (v. 24). Nevertheless, Amos said, God would remember his covenant with Israel and restore a faithful remnant. The land of Israel is in mourning and the LORD is going to Judge Israel, Judah and their neighbours.

NOTE: for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

The indictment of Foreign Nations including Judah and Israel.

Amos 1:1 ----- ¹The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

Amos; means Burden Bearer. The prophetic ministry of Amos occurred during a time of great prosperity for the Northern Kingdom (the 10 Tribes in the land of Samaria), approaching in character the “Golden Age” of David and Solomon. With the threat of war removed, a cultural, social and economic revival took place, but prosperity was accompanied by an almost unprecedented degree of social corruption (Amos 2:6-8) (Amos 5:11-12).

Sins of Israel: Israel’s religious rituals and observances embraced idolatrous Baal worship, drunkenness, violence and gross sensuality. The rich corrupted justice and showed no sense of responsibility towards the poor, and instead of relieving their economic distress seemed bent upon devising new means of depriving them of their property. This indiscriminate, indulgent and excessive luxurious living resulted in the division and decay of social unity.

Amos Message: Amos brought a message of stern denunciation. Although he was not an inhabitant of the Northern Kingdom he was painfully aware of its moral, social and religious short-comings. Amos stated flatly that ritual could never form an acceptable substitute for righteousness and that unless they repented of their idolatry, turned to God and commenced to redress social inequalities, they would fall victim to the invader from the East. (Assyria).

Tekoa; a city of Judah or an inhabitant thereof, it was fortified by Rehoboam.

Uzziah; means Jehovah is strength. He was the tenth King of Judah and ruled 52 years. He won battles against the Edomites, Philistines, Arabians, and the Me hunims, but pride filled his heart, and going into the temple he determined to burn incense unto the LORD, a duty to be performed only by the priest. The chief priest, Azariah, with eighty priests went into the temple to reason with him, but because of his self-will he would not listen and God struck him with leprosy which stayed with him until his death.

Jeroboam 1: means, the people contend, or the people become numerous. He became the head of Israel (the ten tribes in the land of Samaria). As soon as Solomon died and the people met to proclaim Solomon's son Rehoboam king they asked Jeroboam to urge Rehoboam 1 to alleviate their extreme work burdens, but the request was rejected so the ten tribes revolted from the house of David and made Jeroboam their king. Jeroboam 1 afraid that if his people went annually to Jerusalem to worship, they would be won back to the house of David, so he established worship centers at two extremities of his kingdom, one at Dan in the North and another at Bethel in the South. This was at variance with the Law of Moses, which stated there was to be only one altar of burnt-offering and one place of meeting God.

Jeroboam's disobedience became much greater when, in defiance of the commandment forbidding the worship of God by means of images, he set up a golden calf in each of the new sanctuaries and quoted to the people the words of Aaron, "Behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt" (1 Kings 12:28). The mass of people conformed to Jeroboam's new religious ways.

This was the sin of Jeroboam 1 the son of Nebat, wherewith he made Israel to sin. The introduction of the golden bulls led to the baalization of the religion of Jehovah. In about two-hundred years the moral and religious corruption of the people had gone so far that there was no more hope for them, and God brought in a heathen power (Assyria) to lead them into captivity. For the people of Israel the reign of Jeroboam 1 was a supreme political and religious calamity. The constant warfare between Jeroboam 1 and Rehoboam inevitably brought weakness to both, leaving them open to outside attack.

Jeroboam 2: means the people contend or the people become numerous. He became king in Samaria and reigned forty-one years. He followed the example of Jeroboam 1 in keeping up the idolatrous worship of the golden calves. Many successful wars brought great riches and wealth to Jeroboam 2 and his nobles, but the prophet Amos, contemporary with Jeroboam 2 in his later years, twice stated that the needy were sold for a pair of shoes, thus side by side the luxury there was also great poverty. Sadly no-one, was grieved for the afflictions of the poor or was distressed for the drunkenness, licentiousness, and oppression that prevailed in the land, corruption went unrebuked by the religious hierarchy.

Amos states that a person who prostrates themselves before altars clothed in religious garments to pray and perform religious duties because they have dedicated their life to religious service is no substitute for doing the right thing and treating people with respect and decency. The prophets Hosea, Joel, Jonah, and Amos lived during the reign of Jeroboam 2.

Joash: means, Jehovah has given it is a shorter form of Jehoash). He reigned sixteen years and worshiped the two calves at Bethel and Dan. When he died, he was succeeded by his son Jeroboam 11.

The LORD Roars from Zion.

Amos 1:2 -----²And he (Amos) said: "The LORD roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers."

The LORD roars from Zion refers to the prophetic message Amos is about to speak, it is like saying, "listen to what I am about to say because I am extremely serious and mean what I say."

Carmel: (means Garden). Carmel and is often used as an illustration of a beautiful and fruitful place.

Four Transgressions of Damascus.

Amos 1:3-5 ----- ³Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not revoke (cancel) the punishment, because they have threshed Gilead with threshing sledges of iron. ⁴So I will send a fire upon the house of Hazael, and it shall devour the strongholds of Ben-hadad. ⁵I will break the gate-bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitants from the Valley of Aven, and him who holds the scepter from Beth-eden; and the people of Syria shall go into exile to Kir," says the LORD.

Sin of Damascus: they cruelly oppressed the people of Gilead.

The punishment of Damascus: will be on the inhabitants of Hazael, Behadad, Damascus, the Valley of Aven, Beth-eden and Syria.

Damascus: was a major city in Samaria, for more than four thousand years Damascus was a prize for which nation after nation went to war, a city whose boast for centuries has been, "The world began at damascus, and the world will end at Damascus."

Gilead: (means rugged) Gilead's is on the East Side of the River Jordan whereas the LORD'S land was on the West-Side, Gilead is Jordan today. The name was used to indicate Israel's possession of the Jordan River. Gilead was divided by a scenic gorge that ran into the Jordan River. The land was lush with goodly forests rich grazing, lands, and abundant moisture, sadly the Gileadites finally fell into gross idolatry and was led into captivity by Tiglath-pileser (King of Assyria).

Hazael: means God sees, Hazael suffocated Benhadad, and seized the throne for himself, he continually raided and greatly punished Israel. Hazel he oppressed the people and threatened Jerusalem.

Ben-hadad: rulers of Syria bore the name Behadad, "son of (the god) Hadad." The Syrians believed their rulers were lineal descendants of the Syrian god Hadad, the deity of storm and thunder. There are three individuals in the Old Testament called Benhadad: Benhadad 1, Behadad 11, Behadad 111.

Aven (Valley of): Aven means, vanity it is a valley in Syria, dedicated to heathen worship (Amos 1:5) and thought by some to be Baalbek.

Beth-eden: top of the Nile River and Samaria.

Syria; (Syrians) Syria is an abbreviation of Assyria and Syria. Iraq and Syria are generally the one nation called Assyria.

Kir: means an enclosure (wall) it is thought to be Mesopotamia and a place to which the Assyrians carried the inhabitants of Damascus captive.

Four Transgressions of Gaza.

Amos 1:6-8 ----- ⁶Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not revoke (cancel) the punishment, because they carried into exile a whole people to deliver them up to Edom. ⁷So I will send a fire upon the wall of Gaza, and it shall devour her strongholds. ⁸I will cut off the inhabitants from Ashdod, and him who holds the scepter from Ashkelon; I will turn my hand against Ekron, and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish," says the Lord GOD.

Sin of Gaza: they delivered up Israel to Edom.

The punishment of Gaza: will be on the inhabitants of Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron, and the Philistines.

Gaza: in the land of the Philistines (Palestines) near the coast in Israel, the town was to Judah, the Philistines settled there, but it was almost always under non-Israelite control.

Esau (Edom): Esau is the father of Edom, (the people are called Edomites) the LORD promised Rebekah two Nations, later Isaac and Rebekah gave birth to Esau and Jacob his brother who became the two promised nations. Esau (Edom) land was in the land of Canaan the hill country of Seir.

Ashdod: (Philistines) was a major Philistine city in the Philistine plain.

Ashkelon: (Philistines) major Philistine city in Philistine plain.

Ekron: important Philistine centre west of Jerusalem near the coast.

Philistia: the people are called Philistines (today they are the Palestinians). They had five cities, Ashod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron.

The Philistines worshiped the Semitic gods Dagon, Astarte and Baalzebub and were a major contender against the Hebrews for possession of Palestine.

Four Transgressions of Tyre.

Amos 1:9-10 ----- ⁹Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Tyre, and for four, I will not revoke (Cancel) the punishment, because they delivered up a whole people to Edom, and did not remember the covenant of brotherhood. ¹⁰So I will send a fire upon the wall of Tyre, and it shall devour her strongholds."

Sin of Tyre: they delivered up Israel to Edom.

The Punishment of Tyre: will be on the inhabitants of Tyre.

Tyre: situated on the shore of the Mediterranean.

- It was a rich city north of Israel on the coast in Palestine.
- It was famous for maritime activities, commerce and trade.
- It was eventually besieged by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.

Edom (Esau) (See Amos 1:6-8).

Four Transgressions of Edom.

Amos 1:11-12 ----- ¹¹Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not revoke (cancel) the punishment, because he pursued his brother with the sword and cast off all pity, and his anger tore perpetually, and he kept his wrath forever. ¹²So I will send a fire upon Teman, and it shall devour the strongholds of Bozrah."

Sin of Edom: they pursued their brother (Israel) with a sword and he kept their wrath forever.

The punishment of Edom: will be on the inhabitants of Teman and Bozrah.

Teman: an Edomite Town famous for wisdom South of the Dead Sea on the Seir Mountains below Bozrah and Edom.

Bozrah: means sheepfold, an important city of Edom city in north of Edom South of the Dead Sea.

Four Transgressions of the Ammonites.

Amos 1:13-15 ----- ¹³Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of the Ammonites, and for four, I will not revoke (cancel) the punishment, because they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead, that they might enlarge their border. ¹⁴So I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour her strongholds, with shouting on the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind; ¹⁵and their king shall go into exile, he and his princes together," says the LORD.

Sin of Ammonites; they ripped open a pregnant woman in Gilead.

The Punishment of the Ammonites; will be on the inhabitants of Rabbah.

Ammon/Ammonites: are not the same people as the Amorites. The child that the younger daughter had to her father Lot was called Ben-ammi he is the father of the Ammonites. They were fierce in nature, rebellious against Israel, idolatrous in their religious practices, they threatened to thrust out the right eye of all in Jabesh Gilead were given to brutish murder and their chief idol was Molech, to whom they were guilty of offering human sacrifices.

Gilead: (see v3-5).

Rabbah: is the capital of the Ammonites in Samaria.

For further information see the title: -

- Molech.

In Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End.