

AMOS

THE PROPHECY

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AMOS ~ The PROPHECY

Chapter One

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Amos 1** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking, i.e. thus says the LORD. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Amos 1** and mark every reference to the LORD by marking it with a red triangle.

Read through **Amos 1** and mark every reference to Zion or Jerusalem with a blue capital "Z".

Read through **Amos 1** and mark every reference, including pronouns, to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Amos 1** and mark every reference, including pronouns, to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Amos 1** and mark the phrase, "For three transgression of _____ and for four" by highlighting it in orange.

Read through **Amos 1** and mark the phrase, "I will not revoke its punishment" with a purple box.

Read through **Amos 1** and mark the phrase, "So I will send fire upon _____" with a red box.

Read through **Amos 1** and mark the phrase, "And it will consume the citadels of _____" with a green box.

Read through **Amos 1** and mark every reference to a geographical place with orange brackets.

Read through **Amos 1** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Amos 1** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. The LORD roars from Zion
2. For the transgressions of Damascus
3. For the transgressions of Gaza
4. For the transgressions of Tyre
5. For the transgressions of Edom
6. For the transgressions of Ammon

READ AND ANSWER

Amos 1:1-2

Whose words are in the book of Amos?

Who was Amos?

How did Amos receive the words he was to speak?

Did he receive them all in one vision?

Does it tell us how many visions he saw?

When did Amos see the visions?

1.

2.

3.

Whose words did Amos receive?

Who did the words concern?

Who was Uzziah?

Who was Jeroboam?

What happened two years after Amos spoke these words?

Uzziah was the king of Judah, the Southern Kingdom of Israel; Jeroboam son of Joash was the king of Israel, the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Which kingdom did these words concern?

What were the first words that Amos spoke?

Where was the LORD?

What did the LORD do from Zion?

What did the LORD do from Jerusalem?

Are Zion and Jerusalem two different places or are they the same?

How do you know?

What do the shepherds' pasture grounds do?

What does the summit of Carmel do?

Why?

POINT OF DEPTH

The Lord roars from Zion!
The Lord roars because He is angry;
angry because the nations surrounding Israel have transgressed His will.
His punishment on them will be irrevocable.

Did the nations know they were disobeying God?
Oh yes, they knew...

Isaiah 24:4-6

*The earth mourns and withers, the world fades and withers, the exalted of the
people of the earth fade away.
The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated
statutes, broke the everlasting covenant.
Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty.
Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.*

Romans 2:14-15

*For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law,
these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves,
in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts,
their conscience bearing witness
and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them.*

Amos 1:3-5

POINT OF DEPTH

Read the following verses and notice the similarity of number patterns;
not the numbers themselves, but their pattern—
a number is stated and then a progression to the next larger number in sequence.
These are called graduated numerical sayings.

Job 5:19

*From six troubles He will deliver you,
Even in seven evil will not touch you.*

Psalm 62:11

*Once God has spoken;
Twice I have heard this:
That power belongs to God*

Proverbs 30:15

***There are three things that will not be satisfied,
four that will not say, "Enough"***

Proverbs 30:18

***There are three things which are too wonderful for me,
four which I do not understand***

Proverbs 30:21

***Under three things the earth quakes,
and under four, it cannot bear up***

Ecclesiastes 11:2

***Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight,
for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth.***

**The first number can represent "more than enough."
The second, larger number can represent "over and beyond doubt."**

To apply this pattern to the first two chapters of Amos, we can see that the transgressions numbered as three represent the fullness of sin. Each nation has committed sufficient crimes against the moral standard of God so as to be fully qualified for the judgment He is sending on them. The transgression numbered as four signifies the "straw that broke the camel's back" so to speak.

The atrocities were so large in scope and number that God's judgment was guaranteed. He was sending His sentence upon them and He would not call it back under any condition.

In other words, the pattern is an idiom that represents the volume of their sin, not necessarily a deliberate count of the number of times they transgressed.

Each nation listed is abundantly and over-abundantly guilty.

POINT OF DEPTH

Aram was north and northwest of Ammon, east of Phoenicia (and extending to the Euphrates), and north and northeast of Israel.

**Syria was essentially the same as Aram.
Damascus was its capital.**

**Valley of Aven means valley of wickedness and may refer to the house of Hazael.
Hazael took the throne through murdering the king, Ben-hadad.**

Beth-eden means house of pleasure and possibly refers to the palace of the king.

Kir was the ancient home of the people and the place to which they were condemned to return.

Aram frequently attacked the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

What does the LORD say Damascus has committed?

What does God say is determined?

In multiplicity of their transgressions, what particular atrocity does God recall? What had Damascus done to Gilead?

Why will God act?

What will God do?

To where will God send His fire?

What is meant by the house of Hazael?

What are the citadels of Ben-hadad?

What will happen to the citadels of Ben-hadad?

What will consume them?

What else will God do?

1.

2.

3.

How would breaking the gate bar of Damascus affect Damascus?

Who will be cut off from the valley of Aven?

Who will be cut off from Beth-eden?

In due course, what would God do to the people of Aram?

Who says this will happen?

Who are the Arameans? Look up the places mentioned in **verses 3-5** on a Bible map. How are all these places related?

Where is Gilead from Aram?

Where is Kir?

Who will be exiled to Kir?

Where was the ancient home of the Arameans? (**Amos 9:7**)

Who brought the Arameans from Kir?

Who will send the Arameans, in exile, back to Kir?

Amos 1:6-8

POINT OF DEPTH

The five main Philistine cities of Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron and Gath, were situated along the Mediterranean coast southward of Israel. Its width extended inland as far as the foothills of Judea.

The fierce Philistines regularly attacked the Hebrews, the consequence of which was incessant conflict between them.

Who is speaking?

What is irrevocable?

Why is punishment being sent to Gaza?

Who is sending the punishment?

Out of all of Gaza atrocities, what one particular event does God recall?

To whom did Gaza deport an entire population?

Do we know who the population was?

Nevertheless, what would God do to the wall of Gaza?

What would God's fire consume?

What else would God do?

1.

2.

3.

What is the difference between an inhabitant and the one who holds the scepter?

What would be unleashed upon Ekron?

Would anyone escape?

How do you know?

What would happen to the remnant of the Philistines?

Who says this will happen?

Who are the Philistines? Look up the places mentioned in **verses 6-8** on a Bible map. How are all these places related?

Where is Edom in relation to Gaza?

Amos 1:9-10

POINT OF DEPTH

Tyre, meaning rock, the leading city, was located in the southern part of Phoenicia along the Mediterranean seacoast, although much further north than Gaza (located in the southern region of Philistine.) Tyre was considered almost a nation in and of itself because of its commercial and physical greatness.

Who is speaking?

What does the LORD say He has determined?

Who determined the punishment for Tyre?

Who determined not to revoke Tyre's punishment?

Why will the LORD not revoke Tyre's punishment? (Remember what the phrase "for three transgressions and for four" communicates.)

Out of Tyre's great sins, what does the LORD recall?

1.

2.

Do you think these are related? In other words, do you think that the entire population that Tyre delivered up to Edom was one to which should have been shown brotherliness? Or, do you think they are completely unrelated?

How is Tyre's transgression the same as Gaza's?

How is Tyre's transgression different than Gaza's? (There are two things, so look carefully.)

1.

2.

Did you notice the difference between deport and deliver (Gaza and Tyre)?

What is the difference between deporting and delivering?

To whom did Tyre deliver an entire population?

What will God do to Tyre because of it?

What will God's fire do?

Amos 1:11-12

POINT OF DEPTH

The land of Edom was mountainous and sometimes referred to as the mountain of Seir. Situated on the east side of the Arabah, it was bordered by Ammon on the north, and the Dead Sea on the west. Teman, a city or region in Edom, sometimes refers to the nation of Edom itself. The fortified city of Bozrah, was its old capital.

Whose decree is spoken?

What will the LORD not revoke?

Why not? (Remember what the phrase "for three transgressions and for four" communicates.)

Who has sent the punishment?

Out of all of Edom's sins, what does God recall as evidence?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Is this a list of four different sins, or one sin?

Who was Edom?

POINT OF DEPTH

Genesis 36:1

Now these are the records of the generations of Esau (that is, Edom).

If Edom was Esau, then who was Edom's brother?

POINT OF DEPTH

Genesis 25:21-26

***Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was barren;
and the Lord answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived.***

***But the children struggled together within her;
and she said, "If it is so, why then am I this way?"***

So she went to inquire of the Lord.

The Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb;

And two peoples will be separated from your body;

And one people shall be stronger than the other;

And the older shall serve the younger."

When her days to be delivered were fulfilled,

behold, there were twins in her womb.

Now the first came forth red, all over like a hairy garment;

and they named him Esau.

Afterward his brother came forth with his hand holding on to Esau's heel,

so his name was called Jacob;

and Isaac was sixty years old when she gave birth to them.

So then, who did Edom pursue?

The word for pursue means to persecute and harass. What did Edom pursue Israel with?

Edom not only pursued Israel, but did so during times of Israel's deep humiliation. Edom should have felt compassion for his brother during Israel's troubles. Instead, what did Edom do?

Against whom was Edom's anger?

How often was Edom angry with Israel?

Against whom was Edom's fury?

What did Edom do with his fury?

What did God promise He would do to Edom?

Where does God say He will send His fire?

What will God's fire do to the citadels of Bozrah?

Teman and Bozrah are both in Edom. Look on a Bible map and see exactly where they are located. If God's fire was sent to Teman, yet it burned Bozrah, as well, what can you know about God's fire?

Amos 1:13-15

POINT OF DEPTH

**Ammon was southeast of Aram, north of Moab, and east of Israel.
Its capital city was Rabbah.**

The Ammonites were descendants of Lot.

Once again, God pronounces determined punishment upon a nation; this time, Ammon.

What did God say He would by no means revoke?

What atrocity does God cite for the reason He will not revoke Ammon's punishment (aside from the fact that Ammon was already abundantly guilty—"three transgressions".)

Whose pregnant women were ripped open?

Why? Why did the Ammonites do such a horrendous thing?

Therefore what will God do?

Where will God kindle His fire of wrath?

What will God's fire consume?

What will happen to Ammon's king?

What will happen to Ammon's princes?

When will Ammon's king go into exile in relation to when Ammon's princes go into exile?

What will be going on at the time Ammon's king and princes go into exile?

1.

2.

Who are the Ammonites? Look up the places mentioned in **verses 13-15** on a Bible map. How are all these places related?

READ AND REASON

The Arameans, the Philistines, the Tyrians, the Edomites, and the Ammonites are all sentenced to God's fire of punishment, which will not be revoked. In Amos 2, we will also hear declarations of doom for the transgressions of Moab, Judah, and Israel.

Find a Bible map and note each nation's location. Then, number Aram, Philistine, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, and Moab in order. What do you see?

Now read Amos 1:1 again. Who did Amos' words concern?

Do you see that the nations literally surround Israel?

Now, add Judah to your list and mark it number seven. Does it seem like the accusing finger of God began with the neighbors of Israel and is now drawing ever closer to Israel itself; the next in line being Judah?

Aram, Philistine, and Tyre were all physical neighbors of Israel. Edom, Ammon, and Moab, not only are neighbors, but relatives, as well. Next came Judah, the closest of both—neighbor and kinsman.

Do you suppose the people of Israel noticed this as Amos was preaching his fiery message to them? Do you suppose they were glad to hear of God's fury against their neighbors and relatives; even Judah? Were they thinking that all the nations, including Judah, deserved every single judgment God was handing out? Were they clapping with approval as Amos preached?

Or do you think they saw an ever tightening circle, like a noose, gathering around their neck realizing they too might be the target of God's blistering rage? Do you think they were convicted, even fearful? Were they bowing their knees in surrender to the God of Israel as Amos preached?

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Chapter Two

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Amos 2** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking, i.e. thus says the LORD. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Amos 2** and mark every reference to the LORD by marking it with a red triangle.

Read through **Amos 2** and mark every reference, including pronouns, to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Amos 2** and mark every reference, including pronouns, to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Amos 2** and mark the phrase, "For three transgression of _____ and for four" by highlighting it in orange.

Read through **Amos 2** and mark the phrase, "I will not revoke its punishment" with a purple box.

Read through **Amos 2** and mark the phrase, "So I will send fire upon _____" with a red box.

Read through **Amos 2** and mark the phrase, "And it will consume the citadels of _____" with a green box.

Read through **Amos 2** and mark every reference to a geographical place with orange brackets.

Read through **Amos 2** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Amos 2** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. For the transgressions of Moab
2. For the transgressions of Judah
3. For the transgressions of Israel
4. It was God Who brought Israel into the land
5. It is God Who will take Israel out of the land

READ AND ANSWER

Amos 2:1-3

God is roaring against the nations, the neighbors of Israel. He utters His awesome voice first against the countries of Aram, Philistia, and Tyre, foreigners and not relatives. He then roars against Edom, Ammon, and Moab, neighbors who are more closely related to Israel because they are kinsmen, as well. Targeting in ever closer to Israel, God addresses Judah, Israel's closest neighbor and kinsman, in fact, her sister state and former realm. Read **Amos 1:1** once again. To whom is Amos' message addressed?

Who is speaking?

As far as transgressions are concerned, how does Moab stand before the Lord?

What is irrevocable?

Who decreed Moab's punishment?

Of Moab's overflowing transgressions, which does the Lord use to indict?

Where is Edom from Moab?

Why would God care what Moab had done?

What would God do to Moab?

What would God's fire do?

Moab would die from God's fire—how?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What else would God cut off from the midst of Moab?

Who would be slain with the judge of Moab?

Who has made this decree?

Amos 2:4-5

Who is speaking once again?

Turning from Israel's foreign neighbors and relatives, against whom does the LORD make a pronouncement of punishment?

How is Judah related to Israel?

Has Judah committed one unforgivable crime against God or has she multiplied her sins until God's long-suffering gave way to His wrath? (**Numbers 14:18**)

Will Judah's punishment be rescinded?

Out of Judah's enormous degree of sin, what in particular does God charge them with?

1.

2.

3.

4.

What did Judah reject?

What did Judah not keep?

What else led them astray?

According to the marginal footnote in the New American Standard Bible, lies can be rendered false gods. Besides the Jews in Amos' time, who else was led astray by false gods?

Who taught the Jews in Amos' time to follow the false gods?

Has God listed four different crimes of Judah, or does He take four lines to describe Judah's sin?

Looking at what God has charged Judah with; can you summarize it into one word, or just a few words?

Because Israel has rejected God and His ways, what will He do to them?

What will God's fire do?

How is Jerusalem connected to Judah?

Amos 2:6-8

For Whom does Amos speak?

What familiar (by now) phrase does the LORD use?

Read **Amos 1:1** and note whom the book of Amos concerns. Who is God directly addressing?

Why do you think God addresses Israel's neighbors, if the book concerns Israel?

Is Israel guilty of any fewer transgressions than the other nations?

Is Israel guilty of any fewer transgressions than Judah?

How do you know?

Because of Israel's transgressions, God will not revoke its punishment. Of what does God say Israel is guilty?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Do you see a change in God's charge against Israel in contrast with the other nations?

What do you see?

What has Israel done for financial advantage?

Does Israel value the needy or respect them?

How do you know?

What worth have they put on the head of a needy person?

What did they do on the head of the helpless?

Whether we know what that phrase means for sure or not, what does it tell us about the relationship between some in Israel and the helpless in Israel?

What have men done?

What have fathers done?

Who has resorted to the same girl?

1.

2.

Why?

What have they done to God's Name?

What is different about God's Name?

What do they do with garments?

Where are they doing this?

Where are these altars?

Where did they get these garments?

What are they doing in the house of their God?

With what do they buy the wine?

Amos 2:9-12

With what word does **verse 9** begin?

Why does it begin with "yet"?

What had God done for Israel?

POINT OF DEPTH

God told Abram, while in Canaan, (read all of Genesis 15) that he would have a great many descendants and that they would inherit the land of Canaan, but He also told Abram that his descendants would be taken out of the land for 400 years.

God was going to give the Amorite time to fill up the measure of his sin; then God would judge the Amorites, as well as all the nations living in Canaan. During that time Israel would be enslaved in Egypt.

Genesis 15:16-21

***Then in the fourth generation they will return here,
for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.
It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark,
and behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch
which passed between these pieces.
On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying,
“To your descendants I have given this land,
From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:
the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite
and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim
and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite.”***

After God delivered Abraham’s descendants from Egypt, He brought them up to enter the land. Sadly, the people did not trust the Lord and were afraid to enter the land because of its inhabitants. They did not remember and believe the promise God had given them—Israel would live in the land, not the Amorites and the other nations!

Numbers 13:28-33

***Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there.
Amalek is living in the land of the Negev
and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites are living in the hill country,
and the Canaanites are living by the sea and by the side of the Jordan.***

***Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said,
“We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it.”***

***But the men who had gone up with him said,
“We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us.”***

***So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land
which they had spied out, saying,
“The land through which we have gone, in spying it out,
is a land that devours its inhabitants;
and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size.
There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim);
and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight,
and so we were in their sight.”***

The people, having just been delivered by God’s strong arm from Egypt, began to grumble and speak against Him. They turned His words around and actually accused God of bringing them out of the land of Egypt in order to let the Amorites

destroy them! God, Whose great lovingkindness had been wholly extended to Israel, was accused of hating them!

Deuteronomy 1:26-28

***Yet you were not willing to go up,
but rebelled against the command of the Lord your God;
and you grumbled in your tents and said,
“Because the Lord hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt
to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites to destroy us.
Where can we go up? Our brethren have made our hearts melt, saying,
‘The people are bigger and taller than we;
the cities are large and fortified to heaven.
And besides, we saw the sons of the Anakim there.’”***

God, because of the people’s rebellion against Him to enter the land, then sent them to the wilderness for forty years. The disobedient would die, but their children would survive and God would give them the land of Canaan.

Numbers 14:22-23

***Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs
which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness,
yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice,
shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers,
nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it.***

Numbers 14:26-33

***The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,
“How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who are grumbling against Me?
I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel,
which they are making against Me.
Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing,
so I will surely do to you;
your corpses will fall in this wilderness, even all your numbered men,
according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward,
who have grumbled against Me.
Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you,
except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.
Your children, however, whom you said would become a prey—
I will bring them in, and they will know the land which you have rejected.
But as for you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness.
Your sons shall be shepherds for forty years in the wilderness,
and they will suffer for your unfaithfulness,
until your corpses lie in the wilderness.’”***

God cared for His people in the wilderness for forty years—none of them would have survived otherwise. But they still did not trust the Lord their God!

Deuteronomy 1:31-33

*...and in the wilderness where you saw how the Lord your God carried you,
just as a man carries his son,
in all the way which you have walked until you came to this place.
But for all this, you did not trust the Lord your God,
Who goes before you on your way, to seek out a place for you to encamp,
in fire by night and cloud by day, to show you the way in which you should go.*

After forty years, God brought His people, Abraham's descendants, into the land He had promised them. God gave the Amorites and the other inhabitants of the land into their hand—they could not have defeated them otherwise. They were commanded to fear and serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:8-15a

*Then I brought you into the land of the Amorites who lived beyond the Jordan,
and they fought with you; and I gave them into your hand,
and you took possession of their land when I destroyed them before you.
Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel,
and he sent and summoned Balaam the son of Beor to curse you.
But I was not willing to listen to Balaam.
So he had to bless you, and I delivered you from his hand.
You crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho;
and the citizens of Jericho fought against you, and the Amorite and the Perizzite
and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Girgashite, the Hivite and the Jebusite.
Thus I gave them into your hand.
Then I sent the hornet before you
and it drove out the two kings of the Amorites from before you,
but not by your sword or your bow.
I gave you a land on which you had not labored,
and cities which you had not built, and you have lived in them;
you are eating of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.
Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth;
and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt,
and serve the Lord.
If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord,
choose for yourselves today whom you will serve:
whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River,
or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living.*

Now, in the book of Amos, it is hundreds of years later...
And God's people have chosen to serve other gods...

How is the Amorite described?

1.

2.

How completely did God destroy the Amorite?

1.

2.

What else had God done for the Israelites?

1.

2.

Why did God bring the Israelites up from the land of Egypt and lead them in the wilderness for forty years?

Who lived in Israel during the time they were in Egypt?

To whom did God give possession of the land?

Who needed to leave the land?

Who took care of removing the Amorites from the land?

Who should have realized what God had done for them?

Who should have realized that God could do the same to them?

God removed the Amorite from the land, and gave it to Israel; what else did He do?

1.

2.

Did the sons of Israel know what God had done?

Amos 2:12-16

Instead of seeing the Nazirites as an exemplary model of holiness to the Lord and following their example, what did Israel do?

Instead of listening to the Lord through His prophets (and then obeying), what did Israel do?

POINT OF DEPTH

**They would not listen to God's prophets.
They would not commit themselves to live as God's children.
They would not acknowledge themselves privileged to live in God's land.
They would soon see the result of their rebellion against God—their ruin.**

Verse 13 is a bit difficult to understand. It can seem to mean that God is full to the brim with their sin and will not tolerate it any more. Or it can mean that because God is full to the brim with their sin and will not tolerate it any more, He is going to crush them like a wagon that collapses under the weight of its contents. Either way, what is certain is that God is full to the brim with their sin and will not tolerate it any more! Judgment is on the way!

When God's judgment hits Israel, will the swift have anywhere to flee from it?

Will the strong, stalwart man be strong enough to escape from it?

Will the mighty man be able to save his life?

What will happen to the Bowman as he grasps his bow and arrow to fight off the attack?

Will the swift of foot be able to escape from it?

What about the one who rides a horse, can even he flee fast enough to escape God's judgment?

What will happen to even the bravest warriors among Israel in that day?

Will anyone at all escape?

Who declares this to be true?

Who sends the judgment potent enough to do just what He declares?

READ AND REASON

Consider all that you have seen in the first two chapters of Amos:

You have seen God's irrevocable judgment of punishment declared against the nations surrounding Israel, the Northern Kingdom. Starting with those less intimate with Israel and progressing to those who were actually relatives, God's roar moves ever closer to its target, finishing the lineup of seven nations with Israel's closest neighbor and relative of all—her sister state, Judah, the Southern Kingdom of Israel.

Israel, the Northern Kingdom, will be the eighth nation in God's diatribe of retribution. She will receive the closest examination of her sins, as well as the most detailed account of her coming punishment—most of the rest of the book, to be precise!

Consider that Amos 2:6-16 plays a double role:

**It is the completion of the listing of the nations – Amos 1:1 – 2:16.
It is the beginning of the denunciation of Israel – Amos 2:6 – 9:10.**

AMOS ~ The PROPHECY

Chapter Three

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Amos 3** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking, i.e. thus says the LORD. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Amos 3** and mark every reference to the LORD by marking it with a red triangle.

Read through **Amos 3** and mark every reference, including pronouns, to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Amos 3** and mark every reference, including pronouns, to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read **Amos 3:1; 4:1; 5:1** and mark the phrase "Hear this word."

Read through **Amos 3** and mark every reference to a geographical place with orange brackets.

Read through **Amos 3** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Amos 3** and mark any lists you find; i.e. 1...2...3...

Read through **Amos 3** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through **Amos 3** and mark every reference to punish with an orange "X".

Read through **Amos 3** and mark every reference to citadels with a purple box.

Read through **Amos 3** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. The LORD has revealed He will punish Israel
2. Great tumults and oppression in Israel's citadels
3. LORD will punish Israel through an enemy; Israel will not be delivered

READ AND ANSWER

Amos 3:1-8

What command is given?

Who has spoken the Word?

Is the Word welcome news or dreadful news?

Against whom has the LORD spoken?

- 1.
- 2.

What extraordinary privilege has been afforded to Israel?

What exceptional responsibility does Israel have in regards to obeying the LORD?

POINT OF DEPTH

**The word for chosen in Hebrew is *yada*.
It has the idea of being known or knowing.
It is an intimate acquaintance in contrast to a mere knowledge of information.
There is a relationship or association of friendship or involvement.
It means to be familiar, rather than unfamiliar.**

**For example, you probably know who the President of the United States is,
but you do not *know* him.**

In the same manner, the President of the United States knows his citizenry,
but he does not *know* you.

God chose Israel.
He *knew* them.
He was *familiar* with them
They became His *family*.

Yet they did not behave as His *family* should—they treated Him as a stranger...
He was *unfamiliar* to them...
They *knew* Him not...
Yet God has always and will eternally *chose* Israel.

POINT OF DEPTH

The Hebrew word for punish is *pawkad*.
It means to visit, to attend to with care, to take note of.
It often is used of a superior “visiting” a subordinate and making
or effecting a great change in the subordinate’s situation or circumstance.
This visit can be either for better or for worse.

God is definitely Israel’s superior and He means to effect a great change in her
behavior—a change from disobedience to obedience.
To Israel, it will feel like it is for the worse,
but in reality it will be part of what will change her for the better.
He will take note of what needs to be done to her.
He will attend to her with great and meticulous care.

Why will the LORD punish Israel for all her iniquities?

Do two men walk together unless they have made an appointment?

What can you know if two men walk together?

Does a lion roar in the forest when he has no prey?

What can you know if a lion roars in the forest?

Does a young lion growl from his den unless he has captured something?

What can you know if a lion growls from his den?

Does a bird fall into a trap in the ground when there is no bait in it?

What can you know if a bird falls into a trap?

Does a trap spring up from the earth when it captures nothing at all?

What can you know if a trap springs up from the earth?

If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people tremble?

What can you know if a trumpet is blown in a city?

If a calamity occurs in a city has not the LORD done it?

What can you know if a calamity occurs in a city?

What was the last thing God said before He started asking His questions?

Who did God say He would punish?

Is a calamity punishment?

Is a calamity in a city punishment on the city?

What else is true and reliable?

What does the Lord GOD do?

What does the Lord GOD reveal to His servants?

What are the LORD'S prophets called?

Who has roared?

Who has spoken?

Who does the lion represent? See **Amos 1:2**.

If a lion roars, will everyone fear?

If the Lord GOD has spoken, who will prophesy?

Who has heard the Lord GOD'S secret counsel?

What is Amos doing?

What has Amos heard? See especially **Amos, chapters 7-9**.

Amos 3:9-10

Who is told to go to Ashdod and Egypt?

Where is the imaginary envoy to go once he is in Ashdod and Egypt?

What are they to say on the citadels of Ashdod and Egypt?

Who is invited to assemble on the mountains of Samaria?

What will Ashdod and Egypt be able to see from the mountains of Samaria?

- 1.
- 2.

How appalling has Israel's sin become? What does the LORD declare about Israel?

What does the LORD say Israel does in her citadels?

POINT OF DEPTH

Ashdod and Egypt are seen as imaginary jurors looking at the evidence against Israel from highly elevated fortresses (citadels).

Ashdod and Egypt were guilty of the same oppression as Israel and would therefore be ideal witnesses of the enormity of Israel's guilt.

God intimates that Israel's sin was so hideous she had passed beyond the level of the atrocious sins of Ashdod and Egypt.

God pictures Israel's sin as being measured by vast piles of booty seen within her borders—the booty having been taken through oppression and, along with His two witnesses, pronounces her guilty as charged!

Amos 3:11-15

What does the Lord God say will happen to Israel?

- 1.
- 2.

Why will this happen to Israel?

Who will God use to punish Israel for the great destruction and oppression she has created in her midst?

How will this enemy enter Israel to defeat her?

What picture does God use to describe any deliverance Israel can expect?

What would a shepherd be able to deliver from the lion's mouth?

1.

2.

Would the animal be saved?

What is the comparison God is making?

How much of Israel would be saved when God brought in the enemy against her?

What else will be destroyed by the "lion"?

1.

2.

Read **Amos 6:4**. What do you think God is showing us?

Before we leave this horrific picture, let me ask one more question. Does the lion represent someone? Who?

How can you know? (**Amos 1:2; 3:8**)

Who is to hear and testify against the house of Jacob? Before you make up your mind, consider **verse 1** and then consider **verse 9**. Now consider **Ezekiel 2:7**.

State your reasoning for your answer.

When will God punish Israel?

Is this the same punishment God had declared against Israel in **Amos 2:6** and **Amos 3:2**?

What will God do on the day He punishes Israel's transgressions?

- 1.
- 2.

What will God do to the counterfeit altars upon which His people had falsely worshiped Him?

- 1.
- 2.

Which types of houses are listed?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What is a winter house?

What is a summer house?

What is a house of ivory?

What is a great house?

What will God do to the great luxurious houses of wealth in Israel?

What is wrong about these houses? Use the context of **Amos** to answer.

READ AND REASON

Consider what great truth God gives us in this chapter of Amos.

Have you ever wondered why certain things happen; especially hard, difficult, and painful things?

God asks rhetorical questions of His audience.

His audience is you.

What do you hear Him say?

Check out verse 2 and verses 11-15 once more for the context—it's punishment.

Now read verses 3-8 over several times until they become familiar and comfortable to you. What is God saying?

The rhetorical questions are plain and simple—if certain things happen, you can absolutely know why!

God uses example after example, building toward His climax.

- **First—two men walking together, or acting in one accord is innocuous; there is no fear or danger involved.**
- **Second—examples of animals being destroyed by other animals; definite danger for the animals being eaten.**
- **Third—examples of animals being destroyed by men; the stakes seem to be rising.**

- **Fourth**—an example of men being destroyed by men; a definite progression.
- **Fifth**—an example of men being destroyed by God; God has progressed to the pinnacle.

There is a cause and an effect involved; if two men walk together (effect), it is because they made an agreement to do so (cause).

Answer the following:

If a lion roars in the forest (effect), what is the cause?

If a young lion growls from his den (effect), what is the cause?

If a bird falls into a trap on the ground (effect), what is the cause?

If a trap springs up from the earth (effect), what is the cause?

If a trumpet is blown in a city (cause), what is the effect?

If a calamity occurs in a city (effect), Who is the cause?

Now, understanding about the animals may not seem too important to us personally, but God asks the questions He does in order to underscore the point He is making. Do you see His point?

If a trap springs up from the earth, what is to be your normal and first supposition? That an animal has been caught.

If a lion roars in a forest, what are you to assume? That it is after its prey.

Why will the people in the city tremble when a trumpet is blown? Because they know what the meaning of the trumpet is.

We generally have no trouble or problem with the previous principals. We do not resist the ideas or fight them. We accept the statements as true—and they are. Then why, oh why do we struggle against the idea that God is responsible for calamities in cities? Why do we ignore the obvious? Why do we fight against the thought of the Lord destroying a city, or a people, or a person, or an event, or anything, no matter how significant or insignificant?

Why? Because we have formed a false god in our minds and we stubbornly and blindly hold on to that idol rather than listen to the Lord, the True God, the Living God, the Everlasting King, tell us what is true about Himself!

People say:

“God (our false god) fits nicely and neatly into our society and *our* lives. We don’t have to fit into *His* life!”

“God (our false god) is love and *niceness* and *giving* and does what is pleasing to us!”

“God (our false god) overlooks all our faults—he “knows our heart” when we do something wrong!”

“God (our false god) would never hurt anyone—*never!*”

I say, “Oh, reaaally!”

Listen to the True God speak for Himself—about Himself:

- Amos 3:6
Hear this word which the Lord has spoken: If a calamity occurs in a city—the Lord has done it!

Listen to Jehovah, the Everlasting King tell His people about Himself in one of His ten commandments to them:

- Exodus 20:5
You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me

Listen to the Lord Jehovah tell Moses about Himself:

- Exodus 34:6-8
Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; Who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; Yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”
(And take special note of Moses’ response to Who God is.)
Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.

Listen to what the prophet Daniel said about the Lord, our God:

- Daniel 9:13-14

As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come on us; yet we have not sought the favor of the Lord our God by turning from our iniquity and giving attention to Your truth. Therefore the Lord has kept the calamity in store and brought it on us; for the Lord our God is righteous with respect to all His deeds which He has done, but we have not obeyed His voice.

How about one more? Listen to what Jesus, Himself said:

- Luke 13:1-9

Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.

And Jesus said to them,

“Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate?

I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them

were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem?

I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

And He began telling this parable:

“A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any.

And he said to the vineyard-keeper,

‘Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?’

And he answered and said to him,

‘Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; and if it bears fruit next year, fine; but if not, cut it down.’ ”

While we are at it, let me ask you a few other questions that seem to cause dismay and fret if they aren't answered the way we think they should be. Let's look at God, Who He is, without our own preconceived notions. This will be a small, but potent list. Don't bristle at any of the questions, just let God answer. Accept Him for Who He is—don't be ashamed of any of His attributes or ways. He is to be thanked, and praised and worshiped!

Do you believe that you own the property your home sits on?

Do you believe that you own the car you drive?

Do you believe that you own things on this earth?

Genesis 14:18-22

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine;

*now he was a priest of God Most High.
He blessed him and said,
“Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;
And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.”
He gave him a tenth of all.
The king of Sodom said to Abram,
“Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself.”
Abram said to the king of Sodom,
“I have sworn to the Lord God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth,*

Do you believe God never does things that are unpleasant to us,
or even downright awful to us?
Do you believe that God does not send famines?
Do you believe that it was Joseph’s brothers who were in control of Joseph’s
kidnapping and bondage?
Do you believe that it was Joseph’s brothers who sent him to Egypt?
Do you believe that what happened to Joseph was just a story that happened one
time and God would never do anything like that again?
Do you believe Joseph became powerful in Egypt because Pharaoh was pleased
with him?

Genesis 45:5-9

*Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here,
for God sent me before you to preserve life.
For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years
in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.
God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth,
and to keep you alive by a great deliverance.
Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here,
but God;
and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household
and ruler over all the land of Egypt.
Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph,
‘God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.’”*

Do you believe that when people commit evil, God is not involved in any way?

Genesis 50:19-20

*But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place?
As for you, you meant evil against me,
but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result,
to preserve many people alive.”*

Do you think your inheritance is chosen by your *parents*?
Do you believe you live where *you* want to live?

Deuteronomy 32:8

*When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance,
when He separated the sons of man,
He set the boundaries of the peoples
according to the number of the sons of Israel.*

Do you believe it is God Who heals, but God would never wound anyone?
Do you believe it is God Who gives life, but not God Who puts to death?

Deuteronomy 32:39

*See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me;
It is I who put to death and give life.
I have wounded and it is I who heal,
And there is no one who can deliver from My hand.*

Do you believe that God would open a woman's womb to have a baby, but would never close a woman's womb to deny her a baby?

1 Samuel 1:5-6

*but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah,
but the Lord had closed her womb.
Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her,
because the Lord had closed her womb.*

Do you believe it is God Who gives life, but not God Who kills?
Would it be hard for you to tell someone that your God kills?
Do you think *man* exalts himself?
Do you think *man* lowers another man?
Do you think *man* makes himself rich?
Do you think *man* makes himself poor?
Do you approve of God silencing a wicked man forever,
Or would you be more comfortable if He gave him another chance?
Do you think you or anyone or anything can thwart even one plan of God?
Do you think those who contend with the Lord will get away with it?
Is it alright with you if God shatters someone who resists Him,
Or would you be more comfortable if God was more patient with him?
Do you believe that the earth is held in orbit by something called physics?

1 Samuel 2:6-10

The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up.

***The Lord makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts.
He raises the poor from the dust,
He lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with nobles,
And inherit a seat of honor;
For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,
And He set the world on them.
He keeps the feet of His godly ones,
But the wicked ones are silenced in darkness;
For not by might shall a man prevail.
Those who contend with the Lord will be shattered;
Against them He will thunder in the heavens,
The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;
And He will give strength to His king,
And will exalt the horn of His anointed.***

**Do you think you have rights that *belong* to you—as a person, as a woman or man, or as a citizen?
Do you think anybody has any *true* power over anything?
Do you believe *you* have accomplished what you have accomplished on earth during your lifetime?
Do you believe *you* have done well in *your* career?
Do you believe *you* have done well in *your* marriage?
Do you believe *you* have done well in *your* family?
Do you believe it would be wrong for God to take away *your* career?
Do you believe it would be wrong for God to take away *your* marriage?
Do you believe it would be wrong for God to take away *your* family?**

1 Chronicles 29:11-12

***Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the victory and the majesty,
indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth;
Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.
Both riches and honor come from You,
and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might;
and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.***

Do you believe Satan is God's equal in any way at all?

Job 1:6-12

***Now there was a day when the sons of God
came to present themselves before the Lord,
and Satan also came among them.
The Lord said to Satan,
“From where do you come?”***

***Then Satan answered the Lord and said,
"From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."
The Lord said to Satan,
"Have you considered My servant Job?
For there is no one like him on the earth,
a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."
Then Satan answered the Lord,
"Does Job fear God for nothing?
Have You not made a hedge about him and his house
and all that he has, on every side?
You have blessed the work of his hands,
and his possessions have increased in the land.
But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has;
he will surely curse You to Your face."
Then the Lord said to Satan,
"Behold, all that he has is in your power,
only do not put forth your hand on him."
So Satan departed from the presence of the Lord.***

Do you think you can take your next breath *without* His direct permission?

**Job 12:10
*In whose hand is the life of every living thing,
And the breath of all mankind?***

Do you call God Almighty and yet expect Him not to use His power without your approval?

**Job 40:2
*Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty?
Let him who reproves God answer it.***

**Do you think Israel runs itself?
Do you think America rules itself?
Do you think the Arabs rule themselves?**

**Psalm 22:28-31
*For the kingdom is the Lord's and He rules over the nations.
All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship,
all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him,
even he who cannot keep his soul alive.
Posterity will serve Him;***

***It will be told of the Lord to the coming generation.
They will come and will declare His righteousness
To a people who will be born, that He has performed it.***

Do you think the Lord is not fearful or dreadful?

Psalm 47:2-3

***For the Lord Most High is to be feared,
A great King over all the earth.
He subdues peoples under us
And nations under our feet.***

Do you think God is just the King of Israel?

Psalm 47:7-9

***For God is the King of all the earth;
Sing praises with a skillful psalm.
God reigns over the nations,
God sits on His holy throne.
The princes of the people have assembled themselves
as the people of the God of Abraham,
for the shields of the earth belong to God;
He is highly exalted.***

Do you think people elect a king?

Psalm 75:2-8

***When I select an appointed time,
It is I who judge with equity.
The earth and all who dwell in it melt;
It is I who have firmly set its pillars. Selah.
I said to the boastful, "Do not boast,"
And to the wicked, "Do not lift up the horn;
Do not lift up your horn on high, Do not speak with insolent pride."
For not from the east, nor from the west,
Nor from the desert comes exaltation;
But God is the Judge; He puts down one and exalts another.
For a cup is in the hand of the Lord, and the wine foams;
It is well mixed, and He pours out of this;
Surely all the wicked of the earth must drain and drink down its dregs.***

Do you believe knowledge comes from study?

Psalm 94:9-10

***He who planted the ear, does He not hear?
He who formed the eye, does He not see?
He who chastens the nations, will He not rebuke,
Even He who teaches man knowledge?***

Do you think genetics determine who you are?

Psalm 139:13

***For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.***

Do you think that the kings and presidents and prime ministers of the earth make their own decisions?

Proverbs 21:1

***The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord;
He turns it wherever He wishes.***

**Do you think the country with the best military is the one who will win a war?
Do you think America can defend itself?**

Proverbs 21:31

***The horse is prepared for the day of battle,
But victory belongs to the Lord.***

Do you believe light originates with the sun?

Do you believe that God causes well-being and gives peace, but He does not create calamity?

Do you believe it is God Who gives you all blessings and someone else sends you adversity?

Isaiah 45:7

***The One forming light and creating darkness,
Causing well-being and creating calamity;
I am the Lord who does all these.***

Do you think that God watches over us, but does not act to punish us?

Ezekiel 7:9

***My eye will show no pity nor will I spare.
I will repay you according to your ways,
while your abominations are in your midst;
then you will know that I, the Lord, do the smiting.***

Do you believe wisdom comes with age?

Daniel 2:20

***Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever,
For wisdom and power belong to Him.***

**Do you believe politics and powerful men can change the times and the epochs?
Do you think God does the will of man on earth?
Do you believe you can question God about His acts?**

Daniel 4:35-37

***All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
But He does according to His will in the host of heaven
And among the inhabitants of earth;
And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"
At that time my reason returned to me.
And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom,
and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out;
so I was reestablished in my sovereignty,
and surpassing greatness was added to me.
Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven,
for all His works are true and His ways just,
and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.***

Do you call God the Most High God and yet expect Him to bow to your wishes?

Daniel 5:21

***He was also driven away from mankind,
and his heart was made like that of beasts,
and his dwelling place was with the wild donkeys.
He was given grass to eat like cattle,
and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized
that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind
and that He sets over it whomever He wishes.***

Do you believe that the money you “earn” is *yours*?
Do you believe that what you “own” is *yours*?
Do you believe *you* own your car?
Do you believe *you* own your house?
Do you believe *you* own your clothes?
Do you believe *you* own what you pay for?

Haggai 2:8

*“The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,”
declares the Lord of hosts.*

Do you think you have authority over someone, anyone, or anyone at all?

John 19:11

*Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me,
unless it had been given you from above;
for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”*

Do you think the Lord *needs* you?
Do you think the Lord *needed* mankind to keep Him company?
Do you believe you are living right now because your *parents* decided to have a baby?

Acts 17:24-26

*The God who made the world and all things in it,
since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;
nor is He served by human hands,
as though He needed anything,
since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;
and He made from one man every nation of mankind
to live on all the face of the earth,
having determined their appointed times
and the boundaries of their habitation,*

Do you believe you can be righteous?

Romans 5:17

*For if by the transgression of the one,
death reigned through the one,
much more those who receive the abundance of grace
and of the gift of righteousness
will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*

Do you believe you decided to be saved?

Romans 8:28-30

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

John 1:12-13

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Do you believe you are on your own whenever you are tempted?

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, Who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

If you believe differently than what God says in His Word, take note that it is God, Himself, Who says differently!

God is Who God is!

God is God!

The LORD, He is God!

Do not be ashamed of Who God is!

He never changes!

He is the same yesterday, today and forever!

He will still be the same in Eternity!

He is to be praised and He will be praised for all of Eternity!

Everything about Him is to be praised and worshiped!

Now...

and forevermore...

AMOS ~ The PROPHECY

Chapter Four

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Amos 4** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking, i.e. declares the LORD. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Amos 4** and mark every reference to the LORD by marking it with a red triangle.

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Read **Amos 3:1**; **4:1**; **5:1** and mark the phrase “Hear this word” (if you haven’t done so already.)

Read through **Amos 4** and mark every reference to a geographical place with orange brackets.

Read through **Amos 4** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Amos 4** and mark every reference to the phrase “yet you have not returned to Me” with a green arrow.

Read through **Amos 4** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through **Amos 4** and mark every reference to what God did to them with an orange “X”.

Read through **Amos 4** and underline in purple everything God will do to them.

Read through **Amos 4** and highlight in purple all that describes God or His glory. Then outline the entire section with a yellow box.

Read through **Amos 4** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. The cows of Bashan will be taken away
2. Israel loves to sin and act like she is righteous
3. God sent punishment to cause repentance, but she would not
4. The LORD God of hosts is His Name

READ AND ANSWER

Amos 4:1-3

What phrase is used to begin this segment?

Who is to hear this Word?

Where are the cows of Bashan?

Look up the mountain of Bashan on a Bible map. Where is it? Is it anywhere close to the mountains of Samaria?

What do the cows of Bashan do?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Are the cows of Bashan cows? Or are they people?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Whether the cows of Bashan were wives of rich men,
or effeminate princes of the people,
what we can know is that they used their position
to oppress the poor and crush the needy
by demanding that their lords continue to ply them with luxuries.
Their lords did the dirty work of oppression,
but the cows of Bashan were just as guilty
in their greed and extravagant indulgence.**

By what had the Lord GOD sworn?

What had the Lord GOD sworn?

What was coming?

Upon whom would the days come?

What would happen to them in the days that were coming?

Evidently running out of meat hooks, what would the last of the cows be taken away with?

What is a breach in a wall?

Whose walls would be breached?

Why would Israel's walls be breached?

Evidently the breaches in the walls would be so large that the cows of Bashan would be taken from wherever they were in the city directly to one of the walls surrounding it; they would not need to go through a gate. Once they were taken out of the city, what would happen to them?

How certain was this to happen?

Amos 4:4-5

In righteous indignation, sarcasm is leveled against the ungodly in Israel. They are mockingly urged to go ahead and rebel all they wanted; in fact multiply sin upon sin. Where were they urged to do their rebelling?

1.

2.

POINT OF DEPTH

Bethel is the vantage point of the reader in the book of Amos, and therefore it is mentioned first.

Amos 3:14

***For on the day that I punish Israel's transgressions,
I will also punish the altars of Bethel;
The horns of the altar will be cut off
And they will fall to the ground.***

Bethel is where Jeroboam first set up a golden calf to lead the people of the Northern Kingdom into false worship.

1 Kings 12:26-29

***Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will return to the house of David.
If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem,
then the heart of this people will return to their lord,
even to Rehoboam king of Judah;
and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah."
So the king consulted, and made two golden calves,
and he said to them, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem;
behold your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt."
He set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.***

Hosea, a prophet to the Northern Kingdom who prophesied during and beyond the time Amos prophesied had this to say about Gilgal.

Hosea 4:15

***Though you, Israel, play the harlot,
Do not let Judah become guilty;
Also do not go to Gilgal,
Or go up to Beth-aven
And take the oath: "As the Lord lives!"***

Hosea 9:15

***All their evil is at Gilgal;
Indeed, I came to hate them there!
Because of the wickedness of their deeds
I will drive them out of My house!
I will love them no more;
All their princes are rebels.***

Hosea 12:11

***Is there iniquity in Gilead?
Surely they are worthless.
In Gilgal they sacrifice bulls,
Yes, their altars are like the stone heaps
Beside the furrows of the field.***

What were they mockingly invited to do?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How were they transgressing and even multiplying their transgression?

POINT OF DEPTH

The people were not obeying God by worshiping Him
And Him alone.

The people were not obeying God by worshiping Him
Where He said to worship Him.

The people were not obeying God by worshiping Him
When He said to worship Him.

The people were not obeying God by worshiping Him
How He said to worship Him.

The people were not obeying God.
The people were not worshiping God.

What did the sons of Israel love to do?

How did God feel about their false worship? **Amos 5:21-26**

Amos 4:6-12

When the people sinned so gravely against God in the pretentious worship, did God destroy them as He had a Covenant right to do?

Instead, what did He do?

1.

2.

What does cleanness of teeth mean?

What would cause cleanness of teeth?

What would lack of food cause?

What would cause lack of food?

How invasive was God's famine?

Where did God send His famine?

1.

2.

What was God's purpose in sending famine to all the places of all the cities of Israel?

The punishment was sent to cause repentance among the people. Were they repentant?

How do you know?

Did God discontinue His punishment?

What did He do next?

Who sends rain?

Who withholds rain?

When did God withhold the rain from Israel?

What would happen to the crop that did not receive the early rains?

When the people did not respond to God withholding the spring rains, what did He do?

On whom would He send rain?

On whom would He not send rain?

Sometimes God would send rain on one city and not another. Sometimes only one part of a city would receive His rain, while another part of a city would not. What would happen to the part that did not receive God's rain?

What would the people in the cities which had not received God's rain do?

Why would they stagger?

Would they receive enough water?

Instead of staggering to another city chasing the rain, what should they have done?

Had they repented, what would God have done? (We can know this for sure because He promised to send plenty of rain if they obeyed Him and He is a Covenant keeping God!)

POINT OF CONNECTION

**Read Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28-29, and I Kings 8.
Compare the Covenant curses you find there
with the punishments of Amos 4:6-11.**

**It seems like they should have caught on to what God was doing,
Especially since they knew His Law;
But they surely did not act like they understood.**

**God withheld the rain to punish them
in order to cause them to repent,
but they did not.
He even made it very clear that it was He alone
Who decided where He would send His rain
and that without Him sending rain to them,
they could not obtain it on their own.**

Still they did not repent...

What did God do next?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What did the caterpillar devour?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

God sent the scorching wind and mildew and caterpillar to cause His people to return to Him. Did they?

What did He do next?

What was the plague compared to?

What did the plague kill?

- 1.
- 2.

What happened in the camp?

Where did the stench come from?

1.

2.

Even then, with the stench of the corpses of men and horses permeating their every breath, did the people do the right thing? Did they return to God?

Despite the rebellion of His people, in His overflowing patience, what did God do next?

How completely did God overthrow them?

Were any of them saved?

Even the ones who were saved abundantly felt the fire of God's fury. Did they repent? Did they turn back to Him?

Alas! They did *not* return to Him. They continued in their own ways instead of His. What did God tell His people through Amos?

Why did He tell His people to prepare to meet their God?

How would their God come to them?

Amos 4:13

How does Amos describe God?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Who forms mountains?

Who creates the wind?

Who declares to man what are His thoughts?

Who makes dawn into darkness?

Who treads on the high places of the earth?

What is His Name?

How could they prepare to meet Him, the LORD God of hosts, their God?

READ AND REASON

**God had sent the judgments of famine and drought,
scorching wind, mildew and locust, plague and destruction.
His people had suffered through each curse,
never considering to turn and run to their God for relief.**

**Now He would come to them Himself.
Now they would meet God, Himself, in judgment!
How could they prepare to meet such a One!**

They could not...

AMOS ~ The PROPHECY

Chapter Five

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Amos 5** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking, i.e. declares the LORD. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Amos 5** and mark every reference to the LORD by marking it with a red triangle.

Read through **Amos 5** and mark every reference, including pronouns, to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Amos 5** and mark every reference, including pronouns, to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read **Amos 3:1; 4:1; 5:1** and mark the phrase “Hear this word” (if you haven’t done so already.)

Read through **Amos 5** and mark every reference to a geographical place with orange brackets.

Read through **Amos 5** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Amos 5** and highlight every reference to the phrase “seek the LORD that you may live” in pink.

Read through **Amos 5** and mark every reference to justice with a brown capital “J”.

Read through **Amos 5** and mark every reference to righteousness with a blue capital “R +”.

Read through **Amos 5** and mark every contrast with a pink forward slash.

Read through **Amos 5** and mark every reference to what God did to them with an orange "X".

Read through **Amos 5** and underline in purple everything God will do to them.

Read through **Amos 5** and highlight in purple all that describes God or His glory or His Name; then outline the entire section with a yellow box.

Read through **Amos 5** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Dirge for Israel
2. Seek the LORD to live
3. The LORD is His Name
4. Oppression of the poor
5. Seek good to live
6. Mourning because LORD will pass through them
7. Day of the LORD will be darkness to them
8. LORD hates their festivals
9. LORD will send them into exile beyond Damascus

READ AND ANSWER

Amos 5:1-3

Who is to hear this word?

Why is this word given as a dirge (funeral song)?

Who will die?

What does the eulogy say about the house of Israel?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What is the house of Israel called?

Is there anyone to raise up the neglected virgin Israel?

Where does she lay neglected?

What curse does God give concerning her?

1.

2.

If a city in Israel goes forth to battle one-thousand strong, how many will die?

If a city in Israel goes forth to battle one-hundred strong, how many will perish?

Amos 5:4-7

In the light of this, what does the LORD say to the house of Israel?

Can she survive through battle?

Can she survive through her false gods?

How can she survive?

What is the virgin Israel warned not to seek?

1.

2.

3.

Why would the people try to resort to Bethel and Gilgal?

What was in Beersheba? **Amos 8:14**

What would happen to Gilgal?

What would happen to Bethel?

What does the LORD once more exhort Israel to do?

Why did they need to seek the LORD?

What would certainly happen if they did not seek the LORD to live?

Upon whom would the LORD break forth like a fire?

Why would God break forth like a fire?

1.

2.

3.

What did He call Israel at that point?

What was the sin of Bethel?

Who turned justice into wormwood?

Who cast righteousness down to the earth?

What did God desire concerning justice and righteousness? **Amos 5:24**

Amos 5:8-9

What glorious description of God is given in **verses 8-9**?

Who made the Pleiades and Orion? (Look these up in a dictionary if you are not sure what they are.)

Who changes deep darkness into morning?

Who darkens day into night? (Compare this with **Amos 4:13**.)

Who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth? (The water cycle of the earth!)

Who does these wondrous and marvelous and impossible things?

Who flashes forth with destruction upon the strong and destroys the fortress?

Go back through **Amos 4:13** and **5:8-9** and make a list of all the awe-inspiring things God does! And then be filled with awe over Him! This is just a minuscule part of the breathtaking grandeur of God! Praise His Name! The LORD is His Name! Praise the LORD!

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

Amos 5:10-13

God, after describing Himself so beautifully, now describes His people. What a horrible contrast! They were to be a light to the nations—to show the nations Who God was and how to worship Him! Alas!

Did His people respect the one who reproved their sins in the gate (the place where court was held)?

How did they view the one who spoke with integrity and uprightness?

What did Israel do to the poor?

1.

2.

What had they done with their ill-gotten gain?

1.

2.

Though the fine houses were built, would the dishonest in Israel live in them?

Though their vineyards were fruitful and pleasant, would the corrupt oppressors drink the wine from them?

Why not?

Who knew about every single one of their transgressions; their rebellion against the authority and the ways of the LORD?

What did the LORD know they did to the righteous?

What else did they do?

Bribes for what?

Who must these particular people in Israel be? The ones described in this section?

What did the LORD know they did to the poor?

How does Amos describe the time?

How does the prudent person behave at such a time?

Is there anything to say in the light of God's indictment of their obvious rebellion?

Amos 5:14-15

For the third time in this chapter, Amos tells his listeners what they need to do in order to live; what does he tell them?

What will be the reward?

Has the Lord GOD of hosts been with them or against them?

What have they said about the Lord GOD of hosts?

POINT OF CONNECTION

**Just a few decades later,
Micah, God's prophet to the Southern Kingdom,
Tells us the problem didn't go away.
Do you see the same delusion?**

**Micah 3:11
Her leaders pronounce judgment for a bribe,
Her priests instruct for a price
And her prophets divine for money.
Yet they lean on the Lord saying,
"Is not the Lord in our midst?
Calamity will not come upon us."**

**Oh, dear, dear Judah!
You are so wrong.
Calamity *will* come upon you.
And all because you would not seek the Lord.**

**Oh, dear, dear Israel!
You are so wrong.
Calamity *will* come upon you first.
And all because you would not seek the Lord.**

Rather than seeking good and not evil, what have they been doing?

Rather than hating the one who reprovved sin in the gate, what are they told to do?

If they only would turn from their sin; if they only would turn to the Lord, what might happen?

Will it stop the judgment of God from coming upon them?

Who would be the remnant of Joseph?

What does that tell you about the rest of Israel? (Remember the dirge.)

Although there is a call to repent, what will necessarily come upon the Northern Kingdom of Israel?

Why?

Amos 5:16-17

Why does the LORD God of hosts, the Lord speak?

Why is the wailing in all the plazas?

Why do they say, "Alas! Alas!" in all the streets?

Who is called to mourn?

1.

2.

Why is the farmer called to mourning?

Why are professional mourners called to lamentation?

Why is there wailing in all the vineyards?

What will the LORD do?

What does it mean that the LORD will pass through the midst of them?

POINT OF DEPTH

Read this very familiar passage,
but pay very special attention to the phrases that are boxed in.

As you read ask yourself these questions:

What does it mean to go out into the midst of?
What happens to those to whom the Lord goes out into the midst of?
What does it mean that the Lord will go through?
What happens to those through whom the Lord will pass?

What does it mean to pass over?
What does it mean that it is the Lord Who is passing over?
What does it mean that the Lord will pass over?
What will not happen to those whom the Lord will pass over?

Exodus 11:4-12:13

*Moses said, "Thus says the Lord,
'About midnight I am going out into the midst of Egypt,
and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die,
from the firstborn of the Pharaoh who sits on his throne,
even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the millstones;
all the firstborn of the cattle as well.
Moreover, there shall be a great cry in all the land of Egypt,
such as there has not been before and such as shall never be again.
But against any of the sons of Israel a dog will not even bark,
whether against man or beast,
that you may understand how the Lord makes a distinction
between Egypt and Israel.'*

*All these your servants will come down to me and bow themselves before me,
saying, 'Go out, you and all the people who follow you,'
and after that I will go out."*

*And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger.
Then the Lord said to Moses,
"Pharaoh will not listen to you,
so that My wonders will be multiplied in the land of Egypt."
Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh;
yet the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart,
and he did not let the sons of Israel go out of his land.*

*Now the Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,
"This month shall be the beginning of months for you;
it is to be the first month of the year to you.
Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying,*

***'On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers' households, a lamb for each household.
Now if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his neighbor nearest to his house are to take one according to the number of persons in them; according to what each man should eat, you are to divide the lamb.
Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.
You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight.
Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.
They shall eat the flesh that same night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather roasted with fire, both its head and its legs along with its entrails.
And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall burn with fire.
Now you shall eat it in this manner:
with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste—it is the Lord's Passover.
For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the Lord.
The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.***

When Amos told the people of the Northern Kingdom that the LORD said He was going to pass through the midst of them, did they know what that meant?

Read **Amos 7:8**. The word for spare means pass him by. What would God no longer do for the Northern Kingdom?

Amos 5:18-20

Why is there a passion cry of grief and despair from Amos?

Who is longing for the Day of the LORD?

Why are they longing for the Day of the LORD?

What don't they understand properly?

What do they think the purpose of the Day of the LORD is?

Is the purpose of the Day of the LORD to rescue an unrepentant Israel from the nation or nations God sends against her?

For the unrepentant, what will the Day of the LORD be like?

Is darkness considered good or bad?

Is light considered good or bad?

What picture is given of the Day of the LORD for those who are in rebellion against Him?

POINT OF DEPTH

**We live in the country with quite a bit of forest reserve around us.
Stray mountain lions are a reality of life.
They are extremely secretive so you usually don't see them,
but once in awhile a sighting happens
and then you remember all the things
you have learned about meeting a lion and surviving.
One of the comments that you hear repeatedly
is that if you actually see a lion coming at you, it's too late to do anything.
They are master predators and there is no escape.
In other words, it's the worst of the worst fate.**

**Amos uses the example of a man being stalked by a lion;
the man flees, but to no avail, because he meets a bear!
The worst of the worst of the worst scenarios!**

**If it were possible to flee from a lion,
to run into a bear in your flight would ensure your death.
This would be a very dark day indeed!**

**But the Day of the LORD is darker even than that.
If somehow it were possible to evade the lion and the bear
and the man were to reach the safety of his house,
as soon as he were to lean his hand against the wall to catch his breath,
a deadly snake would bite him and its poison would kill him!
The worst of the worst of the worst of the worst!**

**In the Day of the Lord there will be constant terror, and no escape!
The Day of the LORD will be darkness and not light!
The Day of the LORD will be gloom with no brightness at all!**

Amos 5:21-24

How did God feel about Israel's festivals, which should have been offerings of worship to Him?

1.

2.

What about their solemn assemblies?

What about when Israel offered burnt offerings to God?

What about when Israel offered grain offerings to God?

Would God receive any of that which was offered to Him?

What about the peace offerings of their fatlings? What was God's reaction to them?

What about their songs, which should have been praising and worshiping God and would have been sweet to His ears? What did He call their songs?

Would He even listen to the sound of their harps without their hypocritical singing?

Why was God's reaction to their 'worship' so severe?

What was needed in order for God to receive their offerings?

1.

2.

What did justice need to do?

What did righteousness need to do?

What had their 'justice' been like? **Amos 5:7**

What had they done with righteousness? **Amos 5:7**

Amos 5:25-27

Did the house of Israel present God with sacrifices and grain offerings in the wilderness for forty years?

Was God their only god?

Who else did they worship?

1.

2.

Who or what was Sikkuth?

Who or what was Kiyyun?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Israel carried idols for their whole forty years in the wilderness!
They sacrificed to God and worshiped other gods at the very same time!
And all the while it was God Who was caring for them and leading them!**

Who made these images that they worshiped?

Who made God?

Who made Israel?

Where would God make them go?

Why would God make them go into exile beyond Damascus?

What is the LORD'S Name?

Can He do what He says He will do?

READ AND REASON

**If you are In Christ Jesus,
you are safe from the wrath of the LORD in the Day of the LORD!
Believers are of the day and not of the night!
God has not destined us for wrath!
God has destined us for salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ!**

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

***Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren,
You have no need of anything to be written to you.
For you yourselves know full well that
The Day of the LORD will come just like a thief in the night.
While they are saying, "Peace and safety!"
Then destruction will come upon them suddenly
Like labor pains upon a woman with child,***

***And they will not escape.
But you, brethren, are not in darkness,
That the Day would overtake you like a thief;
for you are all sons of light and sons of day.
We are not of night nor of darkness;
so then let us not sleep as others do,
But let us be alert and sober.
For those who sleep do their sleeping at night,
And those who get drunk get drunk at night.
But since we are of the day, let us be sober,
Having put on the breastplate of faith and love,
And as a helmet, the hope of salvation.
For God has not destined us for wrath,
But for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who died for us,
So that whether we are awake or asleep,
We will live together with Him.
Therefore encourage one another and build up one another,
Just as you also are doing.***

It seems that those living in the time of the Day of the Lord will still be doing the same things that men have done for centuries—false, hypocritical worship, oppression of the poor and needy, injustice and unrighteousness, and rebellion against God and His authority.

God is still saying the same thing He has said for centuries, “Destruction will come!”

They will still be saying, “Peace and safety!”, but destruction will surely come upon them.

Compare Amos 5:14, 18 and I Thessalonians 5:3

AMOS ~ The PROPHECY

Chapter Six

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Amos 6** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking, i.e. declares the LORD. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Amos 6** and mark every reference to the LORD by marking it with a red triangle.

Read through **Amos 6** and mark every reference, including pronouns, to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Amos 6** and mark every reference, including pronouns, to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Amos 6** and mark every reference to a geographical place with orange brackets.

Read through **Amos 6** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Amos 6** and mark every reference to justice with a brown capital "J".

Read through **Amos 6** and mark every reference to righteousness with a blue capital "R +".

Read through **Amos 6** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Greater kingdoms than you perished
2. Indulgent will go into exile first
3. Lord will deliver up the city and all it contains
4. Lord will raise up a nation against Israel

READ AND ANSWER

Amos 6:1-3

Who is woe pronounced against?

1.

2.

Of which Kingdom is Zion the capital?

Of which Kingdom is Samaria the capital?

Why are those in Zion at ease?

Why do those in the mountain of Samaria feel secure?

Who is the foremost of nations?

Who are the distinguished men of the foremost of nations? (Who lives in the capital city?)

To whom does the house of Israel come?

What are they told to do?

1.

2.

From Calneh, where are they told to go?

Where are they to go after they look at Hamath?

What are the leaders of Israel told to consider and compare?

POINT OF DEPTH

Calneh, Hamath and Gath were all great surrounding kingdoms which had been recently conquered and subjugated; Calneh and Hamath, in Northern Aram—to Assyria and Gath, in Philistia—to Judah.

What two part question were they to answer?

1.

2.

Was Israel better able to defend itself against the imminent conquering empire than these nations were?

Their territories were larger than Israel's—so how could Israel defend herself better than they had?

Did Israel believe that the day of calamity would ever come upon her?

And yet, as she continued to sin, believing nothing evil could befall her, what did she actually do?

Amos 6:4-7

Describe the “they” in **verses 4-7**.

1.

2.

- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

If you will, draw a picture of what Amos has just described. (Let it be a stick person picture, but try!)

Who are they? Remember the sins of Israel from **Amos 2:6** and on.

What will happen to them?

Why will they go into exile at the head of the exiles?

When they go into exile, who will be behind them?

What is the ruin of Joseph?

POINT OF DEPTH

Luxury, indulgence, and opulence (all at the expense of the poor)
bore the malodorous fruit of revelry, laziness, and drunkenness.
The wealthy distinguished men acted like poor wretched heathens.

During their abominable cultic feasts
they strewed themselves wantonly on their beds of ivory and couches of pleasure
while eating meat from the best of the best animals.

In between gorgings they fancied themselves to be clever musicians like David,
creating instruments out of anything close and making up frivolous words.
David created instruments and composed songs all to the glory of God;
these impostors did it all unto themselves.

They drank wine from the large basins used for sacrificial wine
and anointed themselves with the richest of oils;
all the while, not even conscious of the ruin of Joseph
(to which they contributed not a little).

Joseph was the nation of God, His chosen one, His Covenant possession.
Therefore God would bring on the curse of exile to His people.
And rightly enough, those who had taken the first for themselves in everything
would find themselves once more in first place—
At the head of the line of exiles leaving Israel!

Amos 6:8-11

Write out **verse 8** listening carefully to what is being said.

Verse 8 is strong, isn't it? Why will God deliver up the city and all it contains?

1.

2.

What city?

What does the city contain? (from the context)

How certain is Samaria's destruction?

1.

2.

Who will inflict the disaster on Samaria?

1.

2.

What does it mean for the Lord GOD to swear by Himself?

What does God loathe about Jacob?

What does God detest?

Does this differ from anything God has been saying about Israel since **Chapter 2**?

Can you see the connection and the constant repeating?

Why do you think God is speaking to Israel like He is?

Verse 9 starts with the word and; therefore it must be connected to what has gone before it. Remembering that, when will **verse 9** take place?

What will take place when God delivers up the city and all it contains?

Go back and read **Chapter 5, verse 3**. Do you see any similarity? What do you see?

Do you think there is a connection between the ten that are left from the 100 and the ten men left in one house that will die? If so, what is it?

When it says that ten men are left, from what are they left? (Sorry, I know it's a clumsy question!)

Verse 10 is bit obscure. When is then?

Who will come into a house when God delivers up Samaria?

What will one's uncle or his undertaker find?

What will the uncle or undertaker do with the bones?

Will anyone else be in the house?

Where will he be?

Why will he be in the innermost part of the house?

What has happened? What is he hiding from?

What will the uncle or undertaker ask the one hiding in the innermost part of the house?

What will the one in the innermost part of the house answer the uncle or undertaker?

Why? What happened to everyone else?

What will the uncle or undertaker tell him to do?

Why will he tell the one who is left to keep quiet?

Can you see any reason the uncle or undertaker would tell him the Name of the LORD was not to be mentioned?

Can you see why the one who was left might use the Name of the LORD?

What reason does the uncle or undertaker give?

What does that mean to the one who is left?

Does **Amos 3:15** shed any light?

Does **Amos 8:1-3** shed any light?

Don't worry if you don't know the exact answer. Remember, the verse is obscure.

Amos 6:12-14

What question does Amos ask?

What is the answer to Amos' question?

Why don't horses run on rocks?

What is the next question Amos asks?

What is the answer to Amos' second question?

Why don't oxen plow rocks?

Amos' two questions are set in place to compare what Israel has done. What has Israel done?

1.

2.

What is Amos' point? What is he saying about what Israel has done?

Compare **Amos 5:7** and **5:23** with **verse 12**. What do you see?

What should justice do?

What has Israel's corrupted form of justice done?

What should righteousness be like?

What has Israel done with righteousness?

What does Lodebar mean? (Check out your marginal concordance or look it up in a Biblical concordance.)

What are those in Lodebar doing?

What are they rejoicing over?

What does Karnaim mean?

Evidently Israel had recently achieved a military victory over these two places, most likely under the reign of Jeroboam II. Rather than recognize any victory as belonging to the Lord of hosts, what did they do?

What does God say He is going to do?

Why will a nation come against Israel? (The most basic reason.)

What does God call Himself?

The most powerful Commander; the Commander of all power, had given his orders. They would be carried out to the letter. What were His orders?

Read **II Kings 14:25**. Do you see any familiar places?

Who had given Jeroboam II the victory to restore the kingdom to those particular borders?

What had those in Lodebar said?

What was the truth?

READ AND REASON

**And just as it was God Who had given them the victory—
He is the Lord of hosts,
so He would give another nation the victory in that same territory.
He would afflict His people in a most appropriate way.
The question is, “Would they understand His message?”**

He loathed their arrogance...

AMOS ~ The PROPHECY

Chapter Seven

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Amos 7** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking, i.e. declares the LORD. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Amos 7** and mark every reference to the LORD by marking it with a red triangle.

Read through **Amos 7** and mark every reference, including pronouns, to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Amos 7** and mark every reference, including pronouns, to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read **Amos 7** and mark every reference to the Lord God showed me, or He showed me with a pair of blue eyes. (If you don't think you can draw a pair of eyes, try two blue zeros next to each other.)

Read through **Amos 7** and mark every reference to a geographical place with orange brackets.

Read through **Amos 7** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Amos 7** and mark every reference to prophet, along with synonyms and pronouns with a green circle filled in with green.

Read through **Amos 7** and underline in purple everything God will do to them.

Read through **Amos 7** and mark every reference to a term of conclusion, i.e. therefore, with a pink capital T.

Read through **Amos 7** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Vision of locust swarm
2. Vision of fire
3. Vision of plumb line
4. Amos and Amaziah

READ AND ANSWER

Amos 7:1-3

Read **Amos 1:1**. Do you see any connection with **Amos 7:1**? What do you see?

What did the Lord GOD show Amos? Write out word for word what Amos saw.

Was there a locust-swarm or was the Lord GOD forming a locust-swarm?

In the vision, when was the Lord GOD forming the locust-swarm?

- 1.
- 2.

POINT OF DEPTH

Evidently the king allowed his horses to graze the grass before allowing his people to harvest their own. In other words, the early spring grass would have been sheared down by the king's horses, and now a new crop was beginning to sprout.

That would have been a terrible time for a locust plague because it would have meant no harvest until the next season.

What did the locust-swarm do?

If a locust-swarm were allowed to finish eating the vegetation of the land, what would happen to Israel?

What was Amos' reaction to the vision?

What did Amos ask the Lord GOD to do?

Pardon whom?

For what?

Did Amos believe that Israel (Jacob) could survive a plague like the one he saw in his vision?

What reason did Amos use to implore the Lord GOD to pardon Jacob?

What was the Lord GOD's response to Amos' request?

Amos 7:4-6

Amos sees another vision. Who shows Amos the vision?

What was the vision Amos saw? Write it out word for word.

Was the fire already burning when Amos' vision began, or was God calling it to come?

With whom would the Lord GOD contend?

How would the Lord GOD contend with Jacob?

In the vision, what did the fire from the Lord GOD do?

1.

2.

What was Amos' reaction to the vision he saw?

What did he plead for God to do?

What rationale did Amos use as he pleaded with God to stop?

What would happen to Jacob if the sort of fire, as seen in the vision, came upon Jacob?

Why?

What did he call God?

Why did he call Him the Lord GOD?

How did the LORD respond to Amos' plea?

Was there any difference in Amos' first and second plea to God?

If so, what was it?

Other than pardon being changed to stop, is Amos' plea the same?

Why then, do you think he changed from pardon to stop?

Does God's response to Amos' pleas change?

If so, what is the change?

Does this give you any insight into Amos' choice of words? (If you don't know, don't worry. Just keep going.)

Amos 7:7-9

Amos receives a third vision; what is it? Write it out word for word.

What is a vertical wall?

Draw a picture of the wall and the plumb line hanging beside it.

What would a plumb line hanging beside a vertical wall show?

This time the LORD asked Amos a question. What was the question?

What did Amos see?

What did the LORD say He was going to do?

The LORD was about to put a plumb line in the midst of His people. What does the wall represent?

Is the "wall" of Israel vertical or not?

How do you know?

Why does God say He will spare His people no longer? What does the plumb line show?

Had the LORD hitherto passed over Israel rather than judging Him as He deserved? (Think about the first two visions.)

What does the LORD now declare?

What had God's people been spared from in the past?

Now that God's judgment would come to His people, what would happen to them?

1.

2.

3.

What are the high places of Isaac?

What will happen to them?

What are the sanctuaries of Israel?

What will happen to them?

Who is Jeroboam?

What will happen to the house of Jeroboam?

POINT OF DEPTH

The high places of Isaac were the particular hills of Israel being used to practice false worship and idolatry. The sanctuaries refer to the false temples in Israel being used to falsely worship God and other gods.

There was one official sanctuary site on the earth. It was, and is, the place God chose for Himself – Mount Zion, in Jerusalem.

Amos 7:10-13

Now we have a parenthetical segment about Amaziah and his reaction to Amos' words of prophecy. Who is Amaziah?

Think about it. If Amaziah was the priest of Bethel, and Bethel was a place of false worship, what does that make Amaziah?

Who does Amaziah communicate with?

Jeroboam is the king of Israel, the Northern Kingdom, in which Amos is prophesying. What does Amaziah tell the king that Amos has done?

Where does Amaziah get the idea of a conspiracy?

Is there a conspiracy?

In reality, Who is the author of the plan against the house of Jeroboam?

Has Amos conspired?

Amos has simply proclaimed the message the LORD gave Him. Where did Amos proclaim his message?

In earthly terms, whose kingdom is that?

In reality, Whose kingdom is that?

What does Amaziah say will happen to the citizens of the Northern Kingdom?

What can't they endure?

What, in your own words, are Amos' words?

In the book of **Amos**, where can you find the words of Amaziah's complaint?

What, in Amaziah's words, are Amos' words?

1.

2.

Were Amaziah's words true? Did Amos say that Jeroboam personally would die by the sword, or the household, family, dynasty would die by the sword?

Read **II Kings 14:29**. If God had said that Jeroboam would die by the sword, then, indeed, he would have, but he didn't.

We don't know what Jeroboam's response was, or if there was one, but we next see Amaziah verbally attacking Amos. What does he tell Amos to do?

1.

2.

3.

4.

What does he call Amos?

What does Amaziah tell Amos to stop doing?

What reasons does he give Amos for discontinuing his prophesying?

- 1.
- 2.

POINT OF DEPTH

“Do not prophesy at Bethel, for it belongs to a man!”

**Well! The truth came from the lips of Amaziah himself!
Bethel has become a sanctuary of the king—
but not *The King!*
Bethel *is* a royal residence—
but not the residence of The Majesty, Himself, The King!**

Evidently the false priest Amaziah did not even remember the pretense initially involved in setting up the false altars and false temples.

Amos 7:14-17

Amos replies to Amaziah with facts—two things he is not, and two things he is. What are they?

1. not
2. not
1. is
2. is

Why does Amos tell Amaziah he is not a prophet?

Read **Amos 7:12** and consider the implication of Amaziah’s tirade. Does that help you to see why Amos retorts that he wasn’t a professional prophet?

Why, then, is Amos up in the Northern Kingdom if he is not a prophet?

Why isn't Amos shepherding the flock back near Tekoa?

What did the LORD tell Amos to do?

Where did the LORD tell Amos to go?

What did Amos do?

Where did Amos go?

After Amos' justly conveyed defense of his obedience to the Lord, he has a few choice words to say to Amaziah about his own future. What does Amos tell Amaziah about his wife?

What will happen to Amaziah's sons and daughters?

What will happen to Amaziah's land?

What will happen to Amaziah himself?

What does it mean that Amaziah will die upon unclean soil?

Amos had prophesied the Lord's Word and Amos was certain that it would come true—because Amos knew the Lord was Truth! What did he know was definite in Israel's future?

READ AND REASON

Consider the three visions that Amos has received so far.

1. The vision of the locust-swarm
2. The vision of the fire
3. The vision of the plumb line

Write down what you see about those visions that are the same; what do they have in common?

Write down what you see about those visions that are dissimilar; can they be sorted into different categories??

AMOS ~ The PROPHECY

Chapter Eight

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Amos 8** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking, i.e. declares the LORD. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Amos 8** and mark every reference to the LORD by marking it with a red triangle.

Read through **Amos 8** and mark every reference, including pronouns, to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Amos 8** and mark every reference, including pronouns, to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read **Amos 8** and mark every reference to the Lord God showed me, or He showed me with a pair of blue eyes. (If you don't think you can draw a pair of eyes, try two blue zeros next to each other.)

Read through **Amos 8** and underline in purple everything God will do to them.

Read through **Amos 8** and mark every reference to a geographical place with orange brackets.

Read through **Amos 8** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Amos 8** and mark every contrast with a pink forward slash.

Read through **Amos 8** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through **Amos 8** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Vision of summer fruit

2. Word to those who cheat the poor
3. God will act because of the pride of Jacob
4. Famine for the Word of the LORD

READ AND ANSWER

Amos 8:1-3

The Lord God showed Amos a fourth vision. What was it?

What did the Lord ask Amos?

What was Amos' answer to the Lord?

When did the Lord tell Amos what the basket of summer fruit meant?

What did the basket of summer fruit mean?

What had come for God's people, Israel?

What do the "end for God's people" and "basket of summer fruit" have in common?

Who would consummate their end?

What phrase did God use?

Has God used this phrase before?

Where?

If God would spare His people no longer, what is implied concerning the end of God's people earlier to this?

Why had they not come to an end previously?

Had they deserved to come to an end previously?

Why?

What would happen in that day?

1.

2.

3.

Read **Amos 6:4-7**. Do you see any connection to **Amos 8:3**?

What is it?

Why would the songs of the palace turn to wailing in that day?

Why would people die?

How many people would die?

Read **Amos 6:8-10**. Do you see any connection to **Amos 8:3**?

What is it?

Amos 8:4-6

How does **verse 4** begin?

Who is to hear?

1.

2.

Who are the needy?

Who are the humble of the land?

Who are the ones who are trampling the needy and doing away with the humble of the land?

Who has Amos been prophesying against?

Why do those who trample the needy want the new moon to be over?

Why do those who do away with the humble of the land want the Sabbath to be over?

How do they conduct business in the grain and wheat market?

1.

2.

3.

What do they do to the helpless?

What do they do to the needy?

What quality of product do they sell to the needy and the humble?

Read **Amos 2:6-7**. What connection, if any, do you see?

Amos 8:7-10

What has the Lord done?

By what has the Lord sworn?

What has the Lord sworn?

What will God never forget?

Whose deeds?

What were their deeds?

What would happen to the land?

Why would it quake?

What will everyone who dwells in the land do?

Why will they mourn?

How is the earthquake described?

1.

2.

3.

Who causes the earthquake? **Amos 9:5**

Who causes earthquakes?

POINT OF DEPTH

*Stop now,
and surrender yourself,
every part of you,
to the Lord God of hosts,
the One Who touches the land so that it melts.*

When did Amos envision the visions? **Amos 1:1**

Could the earthquake in **Amos 1:1** be the same earthquake that is described in **Amos 8:8**?

What will God do to the sun?

What will God do to the earth?

When will God make the sun go down at noon and the earth dark in broad daylight?

What will God do to their festivals?

What will God do to their songs?

Why will everyone wear sackcloth?

Why will God bring baldness on every head?

How deep and great will this time of mourning be?

What will the end of That Day be like?

Amos 8:11-14

What does the Lord GOD declare?

What will happen during the days that are coming?

Where will the famine be?

Who will send the famine?

Will the famine be for food?

Will the famine be for water?

Of what will the land be deprived?

What will people do in order to hear the Words of the LORD?

Where will people go in order to hear the Words of the LORD?

What will people do to seek the Word of the LORD?

Will they find the Word of the LORD?

POINT OF DEPTH

This world, right now, is experiencing a famine for the Word of the LORD...

And yet, most people do not realize the crisis...

Starvation produces death...

What will happen in That Day?

1.

2.

Who will fall?

What do those say who swear by the guilt of Samaria?

1.

2.

What is the guilt of Samaria?

Once they fall, will they rise again?

READ AND REASON

Read Chapter 4:6-13.

Do you see any connection to Amos 8:11-14?

What do you see?

Make a list below of the contrasts and the comparisons.

Contrasts between:

Amos 4:6-13

Amos 8:11-14

Comparisons between:

Amos 4:6-13

Amos 8:11-14

Could the physical famines be forerunners of the spiritual famine?

“Yet you have not returned to Me...”

AMOS ~ The PROPHECY

Chapter Nine

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Amos 9** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking, i.e. declares the LORD. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Amos 9** and mark every reference to the LORD by marking it with a red triangle.

Read through **Amos 9** and mark every reference, including pronouns, to Israel with a brown Star of David.

Read through **Amos 9** and mark every reference, including pronouns, to Judah with a blue Star of David.

Read **Amos 9** and mark every reference to the Lord God showed me, or He showed me, or I saw, with a pair of blue eyes. (If you don't think you can draw a pair of eyes, try two blue zeros next to each other.)

Read through **Amos 9** and mark every reference to a geographical place with orange brackets.

Read through **Amos 9** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Amos 9** and mark every contrast with a pink forward slash.

Read through **Amos 9** and underline in purple everything God will do to them.

Read through **Amos 9** and highlight in purple all that describes God or His glory or His Name. Then outline each entire section with a yellow box.

Read through **Amos 9** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Vision of altar
2. The LORD is His Name
3. LORD will destroy them, but not totally
4. Raised up, rebuilt, and restored in That Day

READ AND ANSWER

Amos 9:1-4

Amos sees a fifth vision. What did he see?

Where was the Lord?

What did the Lord tell Amos to do?

1.

2.

What would happen if Amos struck the capitals?

What would happen if the thresholds shook?

Where would the thresholds land?

What would happen if the thresholds fell?

What does God say He will do next?

Who are the rest of them?

By the way, who are them?

How thoroughly will they be slain?

1.

2.

Why will there not be a fugitive or refugee who will flee or escape?

What would God do if somehow they were able to dig into Sheol itself to escape the hand of God?

And to where would God's hand take them?

What would God do if somehow it were possible for them to ascend to heaven to escape their destruction on earth?

And to where would God bring them?

Even if they should hide themselves on the summit of Carmel, what would ultimately happen to them?

Why?

And to where would God take them?

If it was possible, and they were able to hide on the floor of the sea, thinking they were hidden from God's sight, what would God do?

If they are taken into captivity, rather than slain, what would God do?

What form of destruction will God send? I.e. natural phenomenon, war?

Where will God's eyes be set?

Will good come for them?

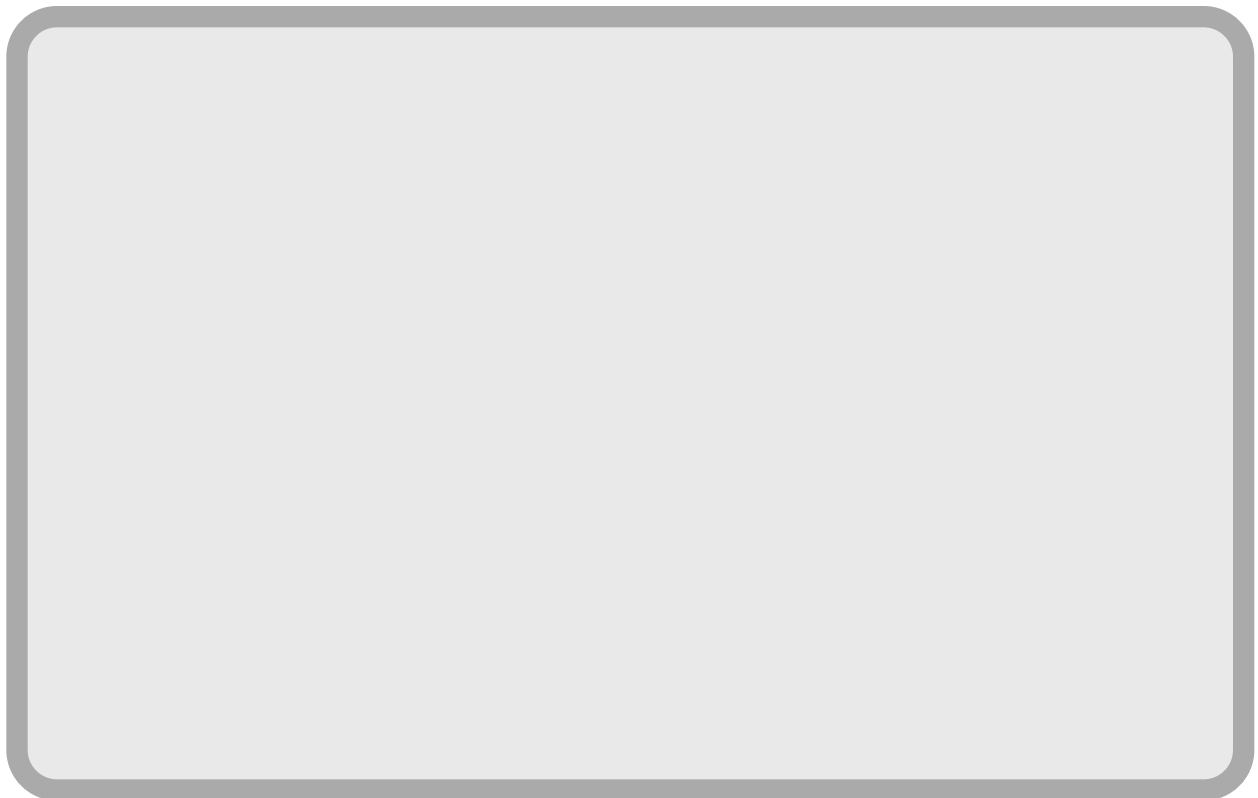
Will evil come?

Why?

How do you know?

Amos 9:5-6

Write out word for word **verses 5 and 6**, prayerfully asking God to show you what He is disclosing about Himself.



What title does He give Himself?

Who can touch the land so that it melts?

What happens to those in the land that the Lord GOD of hosts touches?

Why do those in the land mourn?

What does the land do?

1.

2.

What is this describing?

Read **Amos 1:1** and **Amos 8:8**. Could this be referring to the same earthquake?

What is God pictured as doing in the heavens?

What has He founded over the earth?

What can He do with the waters of the sea?

1.

2.

Who is the One Who can, and does, do all these things?

POINT OF DEPTH

Do you know His Name?

*Do you know the One Who can,
And does,
All these things?*

Does He know you?

Amos 9:7-10

To whom did God compare the sons of Israel?

How are the sons of Ethiopia and the sons of Israel compared? In what respect are they alike?

The nation of Israel was held captive in Egypt for 400 years. Who delivered them?

To where did God bring Israel?

Who was evidently held captive in Caphtor?

And Who delivered the Philistines?

To where did God bring the Philistines?

Who was evidently held captive in Kir?

And Who delivered the Arameans?

To where did God bring the Arameans?

Who is the sinful nation? (Context)

Whose eyes are on Israel?

Also, remember **Amos 9:4**. What did it mean that God's eyes were on the sinful nation?

What will God do to the kingdom of Israel?

Yet, what will God not do?

Is it certain?

How do you know?

Who has declared?

What would God do to the house of Israel?

Why would the house of Israel be shaken among all the nations?

Who would do the shaking?

To what is the shaking compared?

God said He was commanding? Who would He command?

Despite the intensity of the shaking, what would not happen to a single kernel?

What would happen to the sinners of God's people?

What were those sinners saying?

Had this attitude been exposed before? **Amos 6:3**

Think with me for a minute. If the house of Israel were going to be shaken as grain is shaken in a sieve, and all the sinners of Israel would die by the sword, then who is it that will be saved during the shaking? Who are the kernels? (Read **verses 8-10** together.)

Amos 9:11-12

What will God do in That Day?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What is the booth of David?

What has happened to it?

What will happen to it?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What was the booth of David like in days of old? (During the days of David's reign.)

Was the house of David, during his reign in the days of old, a divided kingdom, or a united kingdom?

What does this suggest concerning the fulfillment of this prophecy in That Day?

Who will possess the remnant of Edom?

Who will possess all the nations who are called by the Name of the LORD?

Who is the One Who declares this will happen?

Who is the One Who will make this certainly happen?

Amos 9:13-15

What was coming?

Who declared that days were coming which would be different than the days of destruction? (**Amos 9:1-10**)

What would happen to the cycle of planting and harvesting in those days?

1.

2.

Why would the plowman overtake the reaper?

Why would the treader of grapes overtake him who sows seed?

POINT OF DEPTH

The plowman would be the one
who would break up the ground in order to plant the seed.
He normally would start in the fall.
But in these days he would not be able to begin
because someone else was still in the field—
the one who was reaping the harvest from the former season,
which should have been done springtime.
Why wasn't he done?
Because the harvest was abundantly bountiful from the LORD their God!

What did the lateness of the reaper do to the schedule of the plowman?
It put him behind;
so much so that the sower of seed would be delayed in his planting,
causing the treader of grapes,
who should have been treading his grapes by mid-summer,
to wait his turn, as well.

Now, when the grapes were ripe, they needed to be picked and tread,
but they weren't because everyone was behind
because of the greatness of the harvest—all given by the LORD their God!

So what happened?
Well, the mountains themselves would drip sweet wine!
The grapes would be so full and lush on the vines, they would burst!
From a distance, it would look like the hills themselves were melting—
they weren't,
The LORD was blessing His people in their (His) land!

What will God restore for His people, Israel?

What will God's people do once they are back in the land?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4.

5.

6.

As they plant their vineyards and gardens, what will God plant?

Will anyone, ever uproot what God has planted?

Why not?

Who keeps watch over Israel?

Whose God is the LORD?

READ AND REASON

God promises He will rise up the fallen booth of David.

God promises He will cause the land to overflow with harvest.

God promises He will bring His people back to this wonderfully refurbished land.

God promises He will rebuild their cities and they will live in them.

God promises that He will keep them in the land—they would never leave again.

They will be...and stay...and live...in the land which God has given them...

Isaiah 42:6

I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness. I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations...