



## Amos

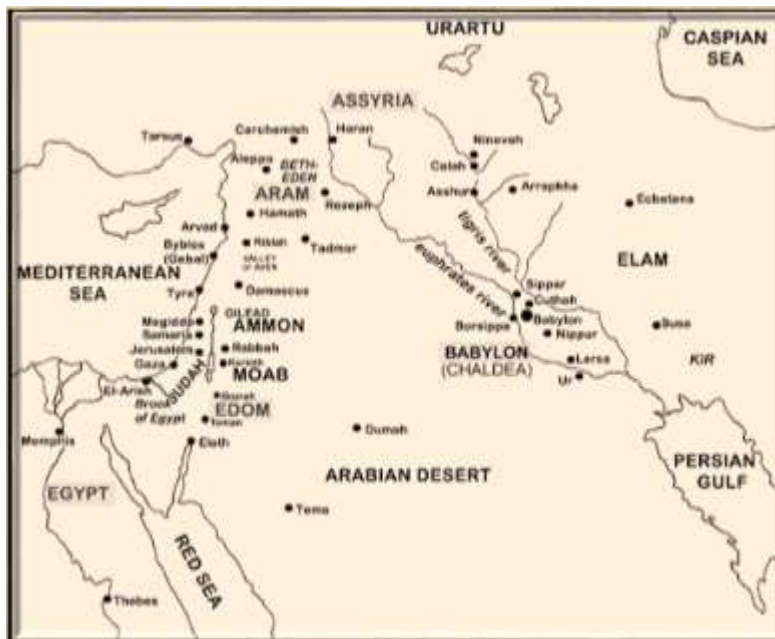
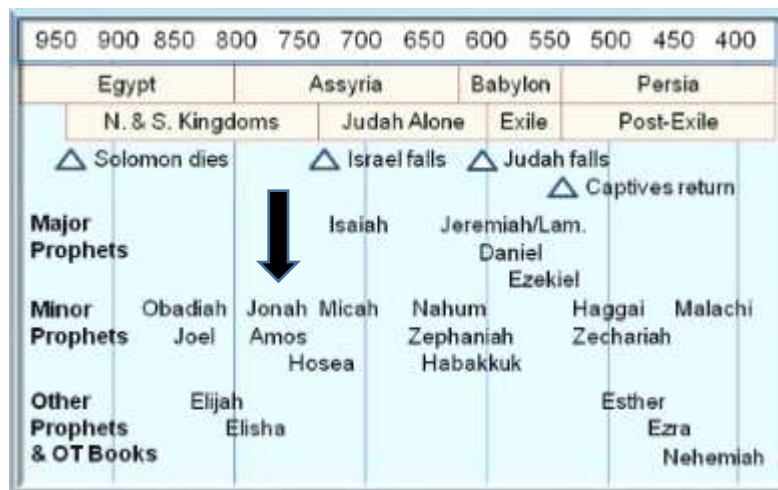
A shepherd who cared for fig trees named Amos preaches against the injustice of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. He prophesies of the Messiah's coming kingdom. He pronounces judgement on surrounding countries for crimes against Israel, and on Israel for crimes against God.

**Author:** Amos who was the father of Isaiah the prophet, and friend to Hosea. . He was a shepherd who farmed fig trees in Tekoa.

**In Amos – Jesus is the one who Delivers Justice to the oppressed**

Amos 5:6

"Seek the Lord and live."



TEACHER: 9 CHAPTERS

The black downward arrow points out where Amos falls in the timeline of the Minor Prophets. Amos was from the Southern Kingdom, but he preached in the northern kingdom. The map depicts clearly the areas of judgement that Amos is pronouncing these prophecies against. The 1<sup>st</sup> 5 prophecies are against Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom and Ammon. All surrounding Nations. Then the nation of Moab. Where did they come from? They are the descendants of the incestuous relationship between Lot and his daughter after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. And finally the Judgements against Judah, and Israel. Only 9 chapters long. Let's start.

CH. 1

STUDENT: Opening Introduction.

These are the words of Amos, a shepherd from the town of Tekoa.  
Two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah  
and Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel, God revealed to Amos  
all these things about Israel.

<sup>2</sup> Amos said,  
"The LORD roars from Mount Zion;  
*his voice thunders from Jerusalem.*  
The pastures dry up,  
and the grass on Mount Carmel turns brown."  
(GNT)



STUDENT: Syria (on the map see Damascus, its capital)

<sup>3</sup> The LORD says, "The people of Damascus have sinned again and again, and for this I will certainly punish them. They treated the people of Gilead with savage cruelty. <sup>4</sup> So I will send fire upon the palace built by King Hazael and I will burn down the fortresses of King Benhadad. <sup>5</sup> I will smash the city gates of Damascus and remove the inhabitants of Aven Valley and the ruler of Betheden. The people of Syria will be taken away as prisoners to the land of Kir." (GNT)

TEACHER:

Damascus is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world. Archeology goes back reliably to 3,000 years B.C. That's a long time ago. 1 of the 1<sup>st</sup> cities founded after the flood of Noah.

STUDENT: Philistia (on the map see Gaza, its capital)

<sup>6</sup> The LORD says, "The people of Gaza have sinned again and again, and for this I will certainly punish them. They carried off a whole nation and sold them as slaves to the people of Edom. <sup>7</sup> So I will send fire upon the city walls of Gaza and burn down its fortresses. <sup>8</sup> I will remove the rulers of the cities of Ashdod and Ashkelon. I will punish the city of Ekron, and all the Philistines who are left will die." (GNT)

TEACHER:

Philistia, the remnant survivors of King David's enemies, (remember Goliath and his brothers), have been living on what today is called the Gaza strip. This would be the end of the Philistines.

STUDENT: Tyre (on the map above, go up north from Gaza, along the coast. On the map below, see a close up)  
<sup>9</sup> The LORD says, "The people of Tyre have sinned again and again, and for this I will certainly punish them. They carried off a whole nation into exile in the land of Edom, and did not keep the treaty of friendship they had made. <sup>10</sup> So I will send fire upon the city walls of Tyre and burn down its fortresses." (GNT)

TEACHER:

Tyre, as you can see, was a port city whose main source of customers was Jerusalem, only 100 miles away. They were world famous, and ardent craftsmen. Beautiful glassware, spices, and especially purple dyes made from shellfish. The people actually got their name "Phoenicians" from the dye. The Greek "Phoinikes" means purple people. The picture shows how Alexander the Great would incorporate the island city into the mainland.



STUDENT: Edom

<sup>11</sup> The LORD says, "The people of Edom have sinned again and again, and for this I will certainly punish them. They hunted down their relatives, the Israelites, and showed them no mercy. Their anger had no limits, and they never let it die. <sup>12</sup> So I will send fire upon the city of Teman and burn down the fortresses of Bozrah." (GNT)

TEACHER:

The Edomites were Semitic. Descendants of Esau, Abraham's grandson. Esau, the father of the Edomites, was the brother of Jacob, the father of Israel.

STUDENT: Ammon

<sup>13</sup> The LORD says, "The people of Ammon have sinned again and again, and for this I will certainly punish them. In their wars for more territory they even ripped open pregnant women in Gilead. <sup>14</sup> So I will send fire upon the city walls of Rabbah and burn down its fortresses. Then there will be shouts on the day of battle, and the fighting will rage like a storm. <sup>15</sup> Their king and his officers will go into exile." (GNT)

TEACHER:

The Ammonites were the descendants of Lot through his incestuous relationship with his younger daughter. The false god Molek that is mentioned throughout the Bible, associated with ritual child sacrifice, originated with the Ammonites.

STUDENT: Moab

The LORD says, "The people of Moab have sinned again and again, and for this I will certainly punish them. They dishonored the bones of the king of Edom by burning them to ashes. <sup>2</sup> I will send fire upon the land of Moab and burn down the fortresses of Kerioth. The people of Moab will die in the noise of battle while soldiers are shouting and trumpets are sounding. <sup>3</sup> I will kill the ruler of Moab and all the leaders of the land." (GNT)

TEACHER:

The Moabites are the descendants of the incestuous relationship between Lot and his older daughter. Cousins to the Ammonites, you will often find them connected at the hip, partners in crime. Today the Nation of Jordan sits on their land. This is where the nation of Israel sat for a time, after the Exodus from Egypt, and before crossing the Jordan, to enter the Promised Land. Most famously, Ruth the grandmother of King David and the ancestor of Christ, was a moabite.

STUDENT: Judah

<sup>4</sup>The LORD says, "The people of Judah have sinned again and again, and for this I will certainly punish them. They have despised my teachings and have not kept my commands. They have been led astray by the same false gods that their ancestors served. <sup>5</sup> So I will send fire upon Judah and burn down the fortresses of Jerusalem." (GNT)

TEACHER:

This reference to Judah, we must assume, includes the tribe of Benjamin. The list that follows the intro that we just read is long and dark.

STUDENT:

"The people of Israel have sinned again and again, and for this I will certainly punish them."

1. They sell into slavery honest people who cannot pay their debts, the poor who cannot repay even the price of a pair of sandals.
  2. They trample down the weak and helpless
  3. *They* Push the poor out of the way
  4. A man and his father have intercourse with the same slave woman, and so profane my holy name.
  5. At every place of worship people sleep on clothing that they have taken from the poor as security for debts.
  6. In the temple of their God they drink wine which they have taken from those who owe them money.
- (GNT Edited into a list by the Author)

TEACHER:

Chapter 3 is a stern warning to the evil among the rich.

STUDENT:

Announce to those who live in the palaces of Egypt and Ashdod: "Gather together in the hills around Samaria and see the great disorder and the crimes being committed there." <sup>10</sup> The LORD says, "These people fill their mansions with things taken by crime and violence. They don't even know how to be honest. <sup>11</sup> And so an enemy will surround their land, destroy their defenses, and plunder their mansions." (GNT)

STUDENT:

<sup>12</sup> The LORD says, "As a shepherd recovers only two legs or an ear of a sheep that a lion has eaten, so only a few will survive of Samaria's people, who now recline on luxurious couches. <sup>13</sup> Listen now, and warn the descendants of Jacob," says the Sovereign LORD Almighty. <sup>14</sup> "On the day when I punish the people of Israel for their sins, I will destroy the altars of Bethel. The corners of every altar will be broken off and will fall to the ground. <sup>15</sup> I will destroy winter houses and summer houses. The houses decorated with ivory will fall in ruins; every large house will be destroyed." (GNT)



TEACHER:

In chapter 4, Amos attacks the wives of the wealthy.

STUDENT:

CH. 4

Listen to this, you women of Samaria, who grow fat like the well-fed cows of Bashan, who mistreat the weak, oppress the poor, and demand that your husbands keep you supplied with liquor! <sup>2</sup> As the Sovereign LORD is holy, he has promised, "The days will come when they will drag you away with hooks; every one of you will be like a fish on a hook. <sup>3</sup> You will be dragged to the nearest break in the wall and thrown out." (GNT)

TEACHER:

He then reminds us all who the Boss is.

STUDENT:

God is the one who made the mountains and created the winds.  
He makes his thoughts known to people; he changes day into night.  
He walks on the heights of the earth. This is his name: the LORD God Almighty! (GNT)

TEACHER:

A loving God, calls Israel to repentance.

STUDENT:

CH. 5

Virgin Israel has fallen, Never to rise again! She lies abandoned on the ground, And no one helps her up.  
<sup>3</sup> The Sovereign LORD says, "A city in Israel sends out a thousand soldiers, but only a hundred return; another city sends out a hundred, but only ten come back."  
<sup>4</sup> The LORD says to the people of Israel, "Come to me, and you will live. <sup>5</sup> Do not go to Beersheba to worship. Do not try to find me at Bethel—Bethel will come to nothing. Do not go to Gilgal—her people are doomed to exile."  
<sup>6</sup> Go to the LORD, and you will live. (GNT)

TEACHER:

More exhortation towards justice in the courts.

STUDENT:

<sup>14</sup> Make it your aim to do what is right, not what is evil, so that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty really will be with you, as you claim he is. <sup>15</sup> Hate what is evil, love what is right, and see that justice prevails in the courts. Perhaps the LORD will be merciful to the people of this nation who are still left alive. (GNT)

TEACHER:

A strong condemnation for shallow worship comes next.

STUDENT:

The LORD says, "I hate your religious festivals; I cannot stand them! <sup>22</sup> When you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; I will not accept the animals you have fattened to bring me as offerings. <sup>23</sup> Stop your noisy songs; I do not want to listen to your harps. <sup>24</sup> Instead, let justice flow like a stream, and righteousness like a river that never goes dry. (GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 6 the destruction of Israel is foretold.

STUDENT:

CH. 6

The Sovereign LORD Almighty has given this solemn warning: "I hate the pride of the people of Israel; I despise their luxurious mansions. I will give their capital city and everything in it to the enemy."<sup>9</sup> If there are ten men left in a family, they will die.<sup>10</sup> The dead man's relative, the one in charge of the funeral, will take the body out of the house. The relative will call to whoever is still left in the house, "Is anyone else there with you?" The person will answer, "No!" Then the relative will say, "Be quiet! We must be careful not even to mention the LORD's name." (GNT)

TEACHER:

Chapter 7 begins with 3 different visions. We will read 1 at a time.

CH. 7

STUDENT: Locusts

I had a vision from the Sovereign LORD. In it I saw him create a swarm of locusts just after the king's share of the hay had been cut and the grass was starting to grow again.<sup>2</sup> In my vision I saw the locusts eat up every green thing in the land, and then I said, "Sovereign LORD, forgive your people! How can they survive? They are so small and weak!"<sup>3</sup> The LORD changed his mind and said, "What you saw will not take place." (GNT)

STUDENT: Fire

I had another vision from the Sovereign LORD. In it I saw him preparing to punish his people with fire. The fire burned up the great ocean under the earth and started to burn up the land.<sup>5</sup> Then I said, "Stop, O Sovereign LORD! How can your people survive? They are so small and weak!"

<sup>6</sup>The LORD changed his mind again and said, "This will not take place either." (GNT)

STUDENT: Plumb Line

I had another vision from the LORD. In it I saw him standing beside a wall that had been built with the use of a plumb line, and there was a plumb line in his hand.<sup>8</sup> He asked me, "Amos, what do you see?" "A plumb line," I answered. Then he said, "I am using it to show that my people are like a wall that is out of line. I will not change my mind again about punishing them."<sup>9</sup> The places where Isaac's descendants worship will be destroyed. The holy places of Israel will be left in ruins. I will bring the dynasty of King Jeroboam to an end." (GNT)

TEACHER:

3<sup>rd</sup> time is a charm. Amaziah, the false priest, serving at the false altar at Bethel, goes to the king, the king rebuffs the prophet, and Amaziah rebuffs Amos, telling him they won't pay him for his prophecies. The nation was so back-slidden, that people were charging for words from the Lord.

STUDENT:

Amos answered, "I am not the kind of prophet who prophesies for pay. I am a herdsman, and I take care of fig trees."<sup>15</sup> But the LORD took me from my work as a shepherd and ordered me to come and prophesy to his people Israel.<sup>16</sup> So now listen to what the LORD says. You tell me to stop prophesying, to stop raving against the people of Israel.<sup>17</sup> And so, Amaziah, the LORD says to you, 'Your wife will become a prostitute in the city, and your children will be killed in war. Your land will be divided up and given to others, and you yourself will die in a heathen country. And the people of Israel will certainly be taken away from their own land into exile.'" (GNT)



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TEACHER:

And what will be the result of God's judgement?

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CH. 8

STUDENT:

"The time is coming when I will send famine on the land. People will be hungry, but not for bread; they will be thirsty, but not for water. They will hunger and thirst for a message from the LORD. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken. <sup>12</sup> People will wander from the Dead Sea to the Mediterranean and then on around from the north to the east. They will look everywhere for a message from the LORD, but they will not find it. <sup>13</sup> On that day even healthy young men and women will collapse from thirst. <sup>14</sup> Those who swear by the idols of Samaria, who say, 'By the god of Dan' or 'By the god of Beersheba'—those people will fall and not rise again." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Now in chapter 9, God proclaims through Amos, the future restoration of Israel.

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STUDENT:

CH. 9

"The days are coming," says the LORD,  
"when grain will grow faster than it can be harvested,  
and grapes will grow faster than the wine can be made.  
The mountains will drip with sweet wine,  
and the hills will flow with it.  
<sup>14</sup> I will bring my people back to their land.  
They will rebuild their ruined cities and live there;  
they will plant vineyards and drink the wine;  
they will plant gardens and eat what they grow.  
<sup>15</sup> I will plant my people on the land I gave them,  
and they will not be pulled up again."  
The LORD your God has spoken. (GNT)

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NEXT LESSON OBADIAH

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*"Seek the Lord that you may live. Then the Lord God  
Almighty will be with you,  
just as you say that He is."*

Amos 5:14

