

PRECEPT
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*Prepared
to Meet
Your God*

A STUDY OF AMOS

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®
KINGS AND PROPHETS SERIES
Course 6
PREPARED TO MEET YOUR GOD
A STUDY OF AMOS

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Hebrew Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

GAEBELIEN, FRANK E.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 4

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishers, 1990

WALVOORD, JOHN F., ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries, etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.

THE PROPHETS TO THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

When Solomon grew old, his many foreign wives turned his heart away from worshiping God alone, and he worshiped foreign gods, sacrificing to idols made with men's hands. That legacy of idolatry plagued God's people Israel from that day forward. After Solomon's death, the nation was divided into Northern and Southern Kingdoms, Israel and Judah.

The Northern Kingdom immediately instituted worship of golden calves and other gods, turning away from God's appointed worship system in Jerusalem at Solomon's temple. While the Southern Kingdom still had Jerusalem and the temple, people's hearts were pulled toward idol worship as well. High places and altars dotted the land.

Into this environment God sent prophets with messages from God for a particular audience and purpose. Each had a unique message.

In the same way that God had messages for the kings and nations then, He has a message for you to understand today. So examine your circumstances and your relationship to God to see how the message He gave Amos pierces your heart to instruct you, to shape your thinking, to impel you toward a life of worshiping Him. If you have strayed from loving, obeying, and worshiping God in spirit and truth, then pray that God's message will call you to return. That's our prayer for you!

Seek diligently, Beloved, to understand God's message to you. Meditate on the truths in His holy Word. Bow before your Father in humble adoration of His grace to those who love, obey, and serve Him.

NEWCOMERS TO PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT BIBLE STUDIES

Welcome to Precept Upon Precept Inductive Bible studies. We are excited that you will be studying with us! Inductive Bible study draws you into personal interaction with God and His Word, so that your beliefs are based on a prayerful observation and understanding of the Scriptures—truth that can transform your life. May the Lord bless you richly as you delve into the treasures of His Word.

The following will be helpful to you as you begin your studies:

Observing the Text

In these lessons, you will be asked to observe Scripture, marking key words or phrases in the particular passage you are observing. These key words or phrases will help unlock your understanding of the text.

For help on marking key words, read Step 7 of the chapter “Getting the Big Picture,” in *How to Study Your Bible* or Step 3 in the section “How to Use the Inductive Study Approach” at the beginning of the *New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)*.

There are suggested markings for key words in the *NISB* on page *NISB-26* which you may find beneficial also, but in any case, devise a marking system that works best for you.

- You will find it advantageous to keep your markings simple; colors and color combinations being the easiest as it does not put too many symbols on the page.
- When you have several things to mark, it is helpful to read the chapter more than once, marking a couple of words each time.
- You may make a bookmark, maybe using an index card, and list all the key words, marking them as you want to mark them in the text.

As you observe the text, you will also be asked to complete parts of an *At a Glance* chart. This chart provides space to list a theme for each chapter you study, as well as other main points concerning the book you are studying.

To learn how to do a word study, read chapter 5, “It’s All Greek to Me!” in *How to Study Your Bible*.

For help with your At a Glance chart, read Steps 9-11 of the chapter “Getting the Big Picture,” in *How to Study Your Bible* or Step 10 in the section “How to Use the Inductive Study Approach” at the beginning of the *New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)*.

When you have time, it would be beneficial for you to read the entire section on Observation, which is Part 1 in *How to Study Your Bible*. This will give you additional understanding of the principles of inductive Bible study.

We are so thankful you have joined us. You are about to begin a very exciting adventure that will help you discover truth for yourself as you have never done before. Just remember it takes time for these study skills to become “second” nature, but it will come with practice.

If you have any questions, call your Precept Leader for help. We are sure he/she will help you or connect you with another student who can. We also want to urge you to take our training workshops. They will teach you basic inductive study skills and give you an opportunity to practice them. There are also workshops to help prepare you to lead Precept should God so direct. You can find out more about the training workshops by going online to www.precept.org.

Blessings, Beloved. Welcome to the Precept family.

LESSON ONE

Amos One and Two

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following, located at in the Appendix
Observation Worksheets of Amos
“Amos at a Glance”
Map
Word studies
Cross-references

THE LORD HAS ROARED FROM ZION!

WHO will listen?

Listen and fear?

Listen and live accordingly?

DAY ONE

God spoke through Amos, a prophet whose message was to endure throughout time, a prophet whose words would not pass away until all was fulfilled (Matthew 5:17-18). How critical it is, then, that we study his prophecy and order our lives accordingly.

Before you open God’s Word, open your heart and mind in prayer to the One who gives His Spirit to His children that we, having the mind of Christ, might understand truth and be sanctified through it.

1. Read the book of Amos in one sitting. This will help you familiarize yourself with the basic content of the book. There are Observation Worksheets in the Appendix for your use.

Every time you come to “thus says the Lord,” “hear this word which the Lord has spoken,” “declares the Lord,” “the Lord God has sworn by His holiness”—any phrase that indicates the Lord speaking, color-code it, for example, in yellow.

2. Now read Amos again. This time do the following:
 - a. Watch for references that will give you the historical context of the book—references to people, to events, to timing.

- b. There are three sections in this book. You can see these by marking the repeated phrases in each section. Mark numbers 1 and 3 below using a different color or symbol for each:
 - 1) Thus says the LORD, “For three transgressions . . .”
 - 2) You’ve already marked “Hear the word which the LORD has spoken” or “Hear this word”
 - 3) “Thus the Lord GOD showed me” and “I saw the Lord”
 - c. Now, flip through Amos again. Look at the markings you’ve made and notice the divisions in the book. Mark them on the “Amos at a Glance” chart which is just after the Observation Worksheets.
3. If you have time today, Beloved, it would be good to read Amos through a third time—maybe even just before you go to bed. Go to a place where you can be quiet and alone, ask God to speak to your heart in the stillness of the evening, to let you sense Him . . . His heart . . . His holiness. Read Amos. Then talk with God about what you need.

DAY
TWO

1. What did you learn about Amos from chapter 1? Look for his hometown on the map.
2. List everything you observed from the text of Amos that puts us into its historical setting—the timing of Amos’s prophecy.
3. To better appreciate the times and God’s word through Amos, let’s go to Kings and Chronicles and find out what we can about these men. (Those of you who are studying through this series will get a sneak preview of what is to

come when we return to 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles.) Because we have more to read in connection with Uzziah, let's look at Jeroboam first.

a. Read 2 Kings 14:23-29. As you read, observe his genealogy since there was another Jeroboam before him. Who was this Jeroboam's father?

b. What kingdom did both these Jeroboams rule over?

c. List everything you learn about him and about the times.

d. According to what you read, would the time of Jeroboam's reign have been good or bad in general for the Northern Kingdom? Give the reason for your answer.

4. Now let's turn our attention to the reign of Uzziah. What was it like for Judah under his rule?

a. Read 2 Kings 15:1-7. Although Uzziah is called Azariah in 2 Kings, he is Uzziah in Chronicles and in Isaiah. As you observe the text, note his genealogy and what it was like for the Southern Kingdom under his reign.

- b. Second Chronicles 25:27–26:23 gives us the account of Uzziah’s reign and how he came to the throne. Record your observations. Note what the times were like for the people of the Southern Kingdom under Uzziah’s reign.

- 5. Obviously times were good when Amos delivered his message from the Lord. Both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms were prospering. Their armies were strong, so there was no threat from the enemy. So why Amos’s message? Why is God so upset with His people? If you haven’t yet picked it up from your readings of Amos, you will when you begin observing the text more closely.

However, for now let’s turn to Isaiah. The opening chapters of his prophecy give us a sense of the moral and spiritual climate of Israel and Judah during the reigns of Jeroboam (the second) and Uzziah.

Read Isaiah 1.

- a. Note the timing of Isaiah’s prophecy by reading Isaiah 1:1 and 6:1.

- b. Watch for references to their spiritual condition in this chapter. If you have a pencil, you might want to underline those references or record them. You can cover these broadly.

- c. Note how God describes Himself and what God calls them to do.
-
6. Now read Isaiah 5:7-25 very carefully. Note what you learn about the economic, moral, and spiritual status of the nation at that time.
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7. Do you see any relevance to our times? If so, where and how?
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8. And where are you in the picture, Beloved?

DAY
THREE

1. We'll begin today by observing Amos 1 and 2 since they are a unit. By now, you understand how to observe the text. Since Amos is nine chapters long, it would be wise to make a bookmark with key words and phrases on it that you would mark in more than one or two chapters.
 - a. It will be important to mark time phrases and geographical locations.
 - b. Mark the various countries that are mentioned. As you do, look them up on the map so you understand where they are and their geographical relationship to the Northern and Southern Kingdoms.
 - c. Watch for a key phrase in these first two chapters. Mark it accordingly.
2. As you read Amos 1 and 2 and watched Amos's messages, did you see a pattern in the content of each message? If so, what was it?
3. Look up the Hebrew words Amos uses for *transgressions* and *citadels*. Record your insights.
4. As you observed the first two chapters of Amos, marking key words and phrases, you saw that "for three transgressions and for four" the Lord would punish certain nations. Let's look at each one of these, developing the biblical background of each, to understand who they were, their relationship to Israel, and why the Lord would punish them. Our focus for today will be **Damascus/Aram**.

Read the scriptures listed, and record your insights about each:

 - a. Isaiah 7:8

b. 2 Kings 13:1-5

5. Because God said it would happen, we know it will come to pass. We'll study the fulfillment of this particular prophecy against Damascus when we get to 2 Kings 16 in Course 7 of our Kings and Prophets Series.

We'll continue this tomorrow. Just remember, Beloved, these are real countries inhabited by real people whom God holds accountable. Keep this in mind; whether they acknowledge Him or not, God is over the nations. His sovereignty rules over all.

DAY FOUR

Let's continue our study of God's word to the nations because of their transgressions. We'll begin with:

Gaza/Philistines

1. Read the following verses. Record your insights regarding the relationship of the Philistines to Israel and God's reason for judging them.

a. Joshua 13:1-3

b. Judges 10:6-7

c. 1 Samuel 4:1-2

Tyre

2. Again, record your insights from the following verses regarding Tyre and the prophecy through Amos about God's judgment.

a. Psalm 83:1-8

b. Judges 11:12-15,21-23,27

c. 1 Kings 11:7

Moab

5. As you saw in your study of Ammon, many of the Scriptures which deal with Ammon also deal with Moab, so the following will not repeat any of those, but only the ones about Moab that do not mention Ammon:

a. Numbers 25:1-2

b. 2 Chronicles 20:5-6,10-12

c. Isaiah 16:6

Good job! You've looked up a lot of Scriptures and we know you've learned much about these nations. It will help you appreciate all you learn when we come to Jeremiah, the prophet God raised up to prophesy regarding the nations.

DAY FIVE

It was one thing to hear Amos's pronouncement of judgment on the enemies of Israel, and yet another to hear "your name" mentioned—especially when you were the "apple of God's eye"!

The apple had some bad spots—decay had set in. And what was the problem? This is what we want to look at a little more closely in our final day of study for this week. Remember, begin your study in prayer. The purpose of Bible study is

- d. In the Law, the Torah, God has made it clear the way He intended His people to live under His leadership. When they first heard it, they received it, said they believed it, and would obey it. But then they abandoned it. According to verse 4, what had they turned to instead that led them astray? And who had also walked in the same way?

 - e. What does this show you about the effect of the ways of one generation on another? Have you seen this in your days? What will break the cycle—and what if it's not broken? Where are your generation and their children headed?
3. The footnote in the New American Standard for *lies* says, “Or *false gods*.” Lies are destructive because they distort truth. According to Jesus, it is truth that sanctifies us in an evil world.
 - a. Look up John 17:14-19. What do you learn from these verses? List the main points.

 - b. What is the origin of lies and where do they lead? Look up John 8:44 and record your insights.

4. Now look around you. Mentally take a survey of the morals and mores¹ of the United States of America. A country who once had at least a fear of God has virtually lost all respect for Him and for His Word. Even a majority of those who profess to believe in Christ have done the same.

What many (note we said “many,” not all) want in their Bible studies, preaching, and teaching is a “fix” for their problems taught by people who messed up and will share their stories, but don’t challenge the listeners to think, reason, or work their way through the Bible. They protest, “It is too hard. Life is too busy.” They don’t have time. They want someone whom they can relate to and who will tell them in an entertaining way what to do and how to get out of the mess they are in. Period. No more.

And do you know what, faithful one, if this continues we will have a generation who will be subject to lies . . . hear them . . . and won’t even recognize them for what they are! This is why you must in turn convince others to study God’s Word for themselves.

What does Hebrews 5:11-14 say to these people who, in the midst of hard times, are shaky in their faith? Look it up and list the main points. Then you’ll understand why we are so thankful for you. O valiant warrior, do all you can to see that the next generation is getting the message and the study skills they need to go on to maturity.

5. Now, let’s move on to some scriptures that help us see the alternative translation for lies. Obviously this is important, since we too are children of God and will, like Judah, be held accountable. Look up the following verses and briefly note what they teach:

- a. Deuteronomy 8:19; 11:16

¹ Mores are the customs and/or manners that prevail within a group—be it a social, religious, ethnic group, etc.—or a nation. It’s what the group or people hold to be right, acceptable, obligatory.

- b. Habakkuk 2:18,19

- c. Romans 1:20-25

- 6. Read Amos 2:6-16. It forms the last segment of these messages of chapters 1 and 2.
 - a. What is the indication that this message differs from the ones that follow? To answer that, look at the pattern of the messages to the various people groups in chapters 1 and 2 and then what happens in chapter 3. (Maybe you already saw that in your overview of the book. If so, good for you. This is review!)

 - b. Read Amos 2:6-16 again. This is the longest of the “Thus says the LORD” messages. Is there a change of direction in the message?
 - 1) What happens in verses 9-12?

 - 2) What happens in verses 13-16?

- 7. When you look at Israel’s sin as set forth in verses 6-8, in what ways was their sin manifested?

Fulfillment of Prophecy of Punishment on the Nations in Amos 1 and 2

Amos 1:3 through 2:3 prophesies judgment on six nations who had transgressed by their treatment of God's people, Israel. The following paragraphs summarize the fulfillment of these prophecies:

Damascus (Amos 1:3-5)

The dynasty of King Hazael ended; his son Ben-hadad was defeated; Damascus lost its power (business was done at the city gate, Amos 1:5); and “the house of Eden” (delight, paradise) became a ruin. King Joash defeated Ben-hadad three times (2 Kings 13:25), and finally Damascus fell to Assyria under Tiglath-pileser III in 732 B.C. when they were taken into captivity. (cf. 2 Kings 16:7-9).

Gaza (Amos 1:6-8)

Ashkelon was conquered by Tiglath-pileser III in 734 B.C. Some sources say that Gaza was captured at the same time. In 701 B.C., Sennacherib conquered Ashkelon and carried off the king of Ashkelon to Assyria. In later years Ashkelon was overrun by the Scythians, Chaldeans, and Persians. Esarhaddon and Ashurbanipal of Assyria required tribute of Ekron, which continued to exist until the time of the Crusades. Ashdod suffered at the hands of the Assyrians in 711 B.C. and was conquered by Nebuchadnezzar who ruled Babylon from 605-562 B.C. and carried their kings captive to Babylon.

It is possible that Gath was not mentioned in Amos because it had been destroyed earlier by Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:6).

Tyre

Tyre became tributary to Assyria, then later surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar (585–573 B.C.), never fully recovering. It fell to Alexander the Great in 332-330 B.C. after he laid siege to it for seven months. Six thousand people were slain outright, 2,000 were crucified, and 30,000 were sold as slaves.

Edom

Teman and Bozrah were strong cities that no longer exist. The Edomites lived “in the clefts of the rock” and had their nest among the stars (Obadiah 3-4), boasting that their fortresses were impregnable; but the Lord destroyed their nation so thoroughly that nothing is left today except ruins. Edom was subjugated by the Assyrians under Tiglath-pileser III in 732 B.C., and was turned into a desolate wasteland by the fifth century B.C. (Malachi 1:3). It was then overtaken by the Nabateans, an Arabian tribe, around 400-300 B.C., and when the Romans attacked Jerusalem in A.D. 70, they destroyed what was left of the Edomite people, then called Idumeans.

Ammon

The Assyrians under Tiglath-pileser III conquered Ammon in 734 B.C. Later, Nebuchadnezzar sacked the city of Rabbah and took many citizens captive, opening the way for Arab invaders to occupy the territory of Ammon.

Moab

Moab, like Ammon, fell to the Assyrians under Tiglath-pileser III in 734 B.C. Later, Moab was involved in a rebellion against Assyrian domination that was quelled by Sennacherib. Later still, during the period of Babylonian supremacy, Moab was forced to pay tribute to Babylon. The Moabites rebelled against Babylon shortly after 598 B.C. and, according to Josephus (Antiq. X, 181-82 [ix.7]), were conquered by Nebuchadnezzar. This allowed Arab tribes to occupy Moabite territory like they did to the Ammonites.

Sources:

D. A. Carson, D. A., *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition* (electronic edition) (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994)

Frank E. Gaebelin, General Ed. *Expositor's Bible Commentary, Old Testament* (electronic edition) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976-1992).

John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible* (Nashville, Tennessee: Word Publishing, 1997)

J. F. Walvoord, R.B. Zuck, and Dallas Theological Seminary, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (electronic edition) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books 1983-c1985).

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Concerned* (Colorado Springs, Colorado: Victor Books, 1996)

AMOS 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THE words of Amos, who was among the shepherders from Tekoa, which he envisioned in visions concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

- 2 He said,
“The LORD roars from Zion
And from Jerusalem He utters His voice;
And the shepherds’ pasture grounds mourn,
And the summit of Carmel dries up.”
- 3 Thus says the LORD,
“For three transgressions of Damascus and for four
I will not revoke its *punishment*,
Because they threshed Gilead with *implements* of sharp iron.
- 4 “So I will send fire upon the house of Hazael
And it will consume the citadels of Ben-hadad.
- 5 “I will also break the *gate* bar of Damascus,
And cut off the inhabitant from the valley of Aven,
And him who holds the scepter, from Beth-eden;
So the people of Aram will go exiled to Kir,”
Says the LORD.
- 6 Thus says the LORD,
“For three transgressions of Gaza and for four
I will not revoke its *punishment*,
Because they deported an entire population
To deliver *it* up to Edom.
- 7 “So I will send fire upon the wall of Gaza
And it will consume her citadels.

- 8 “I will also cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod,
And him who holds the scepter, from Ashkelon;
I will even unleash My power upon Ekron,
And the remnant of the Philistines will perish,”
Says the Lord GOD.
- 9 Thus says the LORD,
“For three transgressions of Tyre and for four
I will not revoke its *punishment*,
Because they delivered up an entire population to Edom
And did not remember *the* covenant of brotherhood.
- 10 “So I will send fire upon the wall of Tyre
And it will consume her citadels.”
- 11 Thus says the LORD,
“For three transgressions of Edom and for four
I will not revoke its *punishment*,
Because he pursued his brother with the sword,
While he stifled his compassion;
His anger also tore continually,
And he maintained his fury forever.
- 12 “So I will send fire upon Teman
And it will consume the citadels of Bozrah.”
- 13 Thus says the LORD,
“For three transgressions of the sons of Ammon and for four
I will not revoke its *punishment*,
Because they ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead
In order to enlarge their borders.
- 14 “So I will kindle a fire on the wall of Rabbah
And it will consume her citadels
Amid war cries on the day of battle,
And a storm on the day of tempest.
- 15 “Their king will go into exile,
He and his princes together,” says the LORD.

AMOS 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THUS says the LORD,

“For three transgressions of Moab and for four
I will not revoke its *punishment*,
Because he burned the bones of the king of Edom to lime.

2 “So I will send fire upon Moab
And it will consume the citadels of Kerioth;
And Moab will die amid tumult,
With war cries and the sound of a trumpet.

3 “I will also cut off the judge from her midst
And slay all her princes with him,” says the LORD.

4 Thus says the LORD,
“For three transgressions of Judah and for four
I will not revoke its *punishment*,
Because they rejected the law of the LORD
And have not kept His statutes;
Their lies also have led them astray,
Those after which their fathers walked.

5 “So I will send fire upon Judah
And it will consume the citadels of Jerusalem.”

6 Thus says the LORD,
“For three transgressions of Israel and for four
I will not revoke its *punishment*,
Because they sell the righteous for money
And the needy for a pair of sandals.

7 “These who pant after the *very* dust of the earth
on the head of the helpless
Also turn aside the way of the humble;

And a man and his father resort to the same girl
In order to profane My holy name.

8 “On garments taken as pledges they stretch out beside every altar,
And in the house of their God they drink the wine of those
who have been fined.

9 “Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them,
Though his height *was* like the height of cedars
And he *was* strong as the oaks;
I even destroyed his fruit above and his root below.

10 “It was I who brought you up from the land of Egypt,
And I led you in the wilderness forty years
That you might take possession of the land of the Amorite.

11 “Then I raised up some of your sons to be prophets
And some of your young men to be Nazirites.
Is this not so, O sons of Israel?” declares the LORD.

12 “But you made the Nazirites drink wine,
And you commanded the prophets saying, ‘You shall not prophesy!’

13 “Behold, I am weighted down beneath you
As a wagon is weighted down when filled with sheaves.

14 “Flight will perish from the swift,
And the stalwart will not strengthen his power,
Nor the mighty man save his life.

15 “He who grasps the bow will not stand *his ground*,
The swift of foot will not escape,
Nor will he who rides the horse save his life.

16 “Even the bravest among the warriors will flee naked in
that day,” declares the LORD.

AMOS 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

HEAR this word which the LORD has spoken against you, sons of Israel,
against the entire family which He brought up from the land of Egypt:

- 2 “You only have I chosen among all the families of the earth;
Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”
- 3 Do two men walk together unless they have made an appointment?
- 4 Does a lion roar in the forest when he has no prey?
Does a young lion growl from his den unless he has captured
something?
- 5 Does a bird fall into a trap on the ground when there is no bait in it?
Does a trap spring up from the earth when it captures nothing at all?
- 6 If a trumpet is blown in a city will not the people tremble?
If a calamity occurs in a city has not the LORD done it?
- 7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing
Unless He reveals His secret counsel
To His servants the prophets.
- 8 A lion has roared! Who will not fear?
The Lord GOD has spoken! Who can but prophesy?
- 9 Proclaim on the citadels in Ashdod and on the citadels in the land of
Egypt and say, “Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria and
see *the* great tumults within her and *the* oppressions in her midst.
- 10 “But they do not know how to do what is right,” declares the LORD,
“these who hoard up violence and devastation in their citadels.”
- 11 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD,
“An enemy, even one surrounding the land,
Will pull down your strength from you
And your citadels will be looted.”

- 12 Thus says the LORD,
“Just as the shepherd snatches from the lion’s mouth a couple of legs
or a piece of an ear,
So will the sons of Israel dwelling in Samaria be snatched away—
With *the* corner of a bed and *the* cover of a couch!
- 13 “Hear and testify against the house of Jacob,”
Declares the Lord GOD, the God of hosts.
- 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.
- 15 “I will also smite the winter house together with the summer house;
The houses of ivory will also perish
And the great houses will come to an end,”
Declares the LORD.

AMOS 4

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- HEAR** this word, you cows of Bashan who are on the
mountain of Samaria,
Who oppress the poor, who crush the needy,
Who say to your husbands, “Bring now, that we may drink!”
- 2 The Lord GOD has sworn by His holiness,
“Behold, the days are coming upon you
When they will take you away with meat hooks,
And the last of you with fish hooks.
- 3 “You will go out *through* breaches *in the walls*,
Each one straight before her,
And you will be cast to Harmon,” declares the LORD.
- 4 “Enter Bethel and transgress;
In Gilgal multiply transgression!
Bring your sacrifices every morning,
Your tithes every three days.
- 5 “Offer a thank offering also from that which is leavened,
And proclaim freewill offerings, make them known.
For so you love *to do*, you sons of Israel,”
Declares the Lord GOD.
- 6 “But I gave you also cleanness of teeth in all your cities
And lack of bread in all your places,
Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the LORD.
- 7 “Furthermore, I withheld the rain from you
While *there were* still three months until harvest.
Then I would send rain on one city
And on another city I would not send rain;
One part would be rained on,
While the part not rained on would dry up.

- 8 “So two or three cities would stagger to another city to drink water,
But would not be satisfied;
Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the LORD.
- 9 “I smote you with scorching *wind* and mildew;
And the caterpillar was devouring
Your many gardens and vineyards, fig trees and olive trees;
Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the LORD.
- 10 “I sent a plague among you after the manner of Egypt;
I slew your young men by the sword along with your captured horses,
And I made the stench of your camp rise up in your nostrils;
Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the LORD.
- 11 “I overthrew you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah,
And you were like a firebrand snatched from a blaze;
Yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the LORD.
- 12 “Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel;
Because I will do this to you,
Prepare to meet your God, O Israel.”
- 13 For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind
And declares to man what are His thoughts,
He who makes dawn into darkness
And treads on the high places of the earth,
The LORD God of hosts is His name.

AMOS 5

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

HEAR this word which I take up for you as a dirge, O house of Israel:

- 2 She has fallen, she will not rise again—
The virgin Israel.
She *lies* neglected on her land;
There is none to raise her up.
- 3 For thus says the Lord GOD,
“The city which goes forth a thousand *strong*
Will have a hundred left,
And the one which goes forth a hundred *strong*
Will have ten left to the house of Israel.”
- 4 For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel,
“Seek Me that you may live.
- 5 “But do not resort to Bethel
And do not come to Gilgal,
Nor cross over to Beersheba;
For Gilgal will certainly go into captivity
And Bethel will come to trouble.
- 6 “Seek the LORD that you may live,
Or He will break forth like a fire, O house of Joseph,
And it will consume with none to quench *it* for Bethel,
- 7 *For* those who turn justice into wormwood
And cast righteousness down to the earth.”
- 8 He who made the Pleiades and Orion
And changes deep darkness into morning,
Who also darkens day *into* night,
Who calls for the waters of the sea
And pours them out on the surface of the earth,
The LORD is His name.

- 9 It is He who flashes forth *with* destruction upon the strong,
So that destruction comes upon the fortress.
- 10 They hate him who reproves in the gate,
And they abhor him who speaks *with* integrity.
- 11 Therefore because you impose heavy rent on the poor
And exact a tribute of grain from them,
Though you have built houses of well-hewn stone,
Yet you will not live in them;
You have planted pleasant vineyards, yet you will not drink their wine.
- 12 For I know your transgressions are many and your sins are great,
You who distress the righteous *and* accept bribes
And turn aside the poor in the gate.
- 13 Therefore at such a time the prudent person keeps silent,
for it is an evil time.
- 14 Seek good and not evil, that you may live;
And thus may the LORD God of hosts be with you,
Just as you have said!
- 15 Hate evil, love good,
And establish justice in the gate!
Perhaps the LORD God of hosts
May be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.
- 16 Therefore thus says the LORD God of hosts, the Lord,
“There is wailing in all the plazas,
And in all the streets they say, ‘Alas! Alas!’
They also call the farmer to mourning
And professional mourners to lamentation.
- 17 “And in all the vineyards *there is* wailing,
Because I will pass through the midst of you,” says the LORD.
- 18 Alas, you who are longing for the day of the LORD,
For what purpose *will* the day of the LORD *be* to you?
It *will be* darkness and not light;

- 19 As when a man flees from a lion
 And a bear meets him,
 Or goes home, leans his hand against the wall
 And a snake bites him.
- 20 *Will* not the day of the LORD *be* darkness instead of light,
 Even gloom with no brightness in it?
- 21 “I hate, I reject your festivals,
 Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies.
- 22 “Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your
 grain offerings,
 I will not accept *them*;
 And I will not *even* look at the peace offerings of your fatlings.
- 23 “Take away from Me the noise of your songs;
 I will not even listen to the sound of your harps.
- 24 “But let justice roll down like waters
 And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
- 25 “Did you present Me with sacrifices and grain offerings in the
 wilderness for forty years, O house of Israel?
- 26 “You also carried along Sikkuth your king and Kiyun, your images,
 the star of your gods which you made for yourselves.
- 27 “Therefore, I will make you go into exile beyond Damascus,” says the
 Lord, whose name is the God of hosts.

AMOS 6

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

WOE to those who are at ease in Zion

And to those who *feel* secure in the mountain of Samaria,
The distinguished men of the foremost of nations,
To whom the house of Israel comes.

2 Go over to Calneh and look,
And go from there to Hamath the great,
Then go down to Gath of the Philistines.
Are they better than these kingdoms,
Or is their territory greater than yours?

3 Do you put off the day of calamity,
And would you bring near the seat of violence?

4 Those who recline on beds of ivory
And sprawl on their couches,
And eat lambs from the flock
And calves from the midst of the stall,

5 Who improvise to the sound of the harp,
And like David have composed songs for themselves,

6 Who drink wine from sacrificial bowls
While they anoint themselves with the finest of oils,
Yet they have not grieved over the ruin of Joseph.

7 Therefore, they will now go into exile at the head of the exiles,
And the sprawlers' banqueting will pass away.

8 The Lord GOD has sworn by Himself, the LORD God
of hosts has declared:

"I loathe the arrogance of Jacob,
And detest his citadels;
Therefore I will deliver up *the* city and all it contains."

- 9 And it will be, if ten men are left in one house, they will die.
- 10 Then one's uncle, or his undertaker, will lift him up to carry out *his* bones from the house, and he will say to the one who is in the innermost part of the house, "Is anyone else with you?" And that one will say, "No one." Then he will answer, "Keep quiet. For the name of the LORD is not to be mentioned."
- 11 For behold, the LORD is going to command that the great house be smashed to pieces and the small house to fragments.
- 12 Do horses run on rocks?
Or does one plow them with oxen?
Yet you have turned justice into poison
And the fruit of righteousness into wormwood,
- 13 You who rejoice in Lodebar,
And say, "Have we not by our *own* strength taken
Karnaim for ourselves?"
- 14 "For behold, I am going to raise up a nation against you,
O house of Israel," declares the LORD God of hosts,
"And they will afflict you from the entrance of Hamath
To the brook of the Arabah."

AMOS 7

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THUS the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, He was forming a locust-swarm when the spring crop began to sprout. And behold, the spring crop *was* after the king's mowing.

2 And it came about, when it had finished eating the vegetation of the land, that I said,

“Lord GOD, please pardon!
How can Jacob stand,
For he is small?”

3 The LORD changed His mind about this.

“It shall not be,” said the LORD.

4 Thus the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, the Lord GOD was calling to contend *with them* by fire, and it consumed the great deep and began to consume the farm land.

5 Then I said,

“Lord GOD, please stop!
How can Jacob stand, for he is small?”

6 The LORD changed His mind about this.

“This too shall not be,” said the Lord GOD.

7 Thus He showed me, and behold, the Lord was standing by a vertical wall with a plumb line in His hand.

8 The LORD said to me, “What do you see, Amos?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“Behold I am about to put a plumb line
In the midst of My people Israel.
I will spare them no longer.

- 9 “The high places of Isaac will be desolated
And the sanctuaries of Israel laid waste.
Then I will rise up against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”
- 10 Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent *word* to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel; the land is unable to endure all his words.
- 11 “For thus Amos says, ‘Jeroboam will die by the sword and Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.’ ”
- 12 Then Amaziah said to Amos, “Go, you seer, flee away to the land of Judah and there eat bread and there do your prophesying!
- 13 “But no longer prophesy at Bethel, for it is a sanctuary of the king and a royal residence.”
- 14 Then Amos replied to Amaziah, “I am not a prophet, nor am I the son of a prophet; for I am a herdsman and a grower of sycamore figs.
- 15 “But the LORD took me from following the flock and the LORD said to me, ‘Go prophesy to My people Israel.’
- 16 “Now hear the word of the LORD: you are saying, ‘You shall not prophesy against Israel nor shall you speak against the house of Isaac.’
- 17 “Therefore, thus says the LORD, ‘Your wife will become a harlot in the city, your sons and your daughters will fall by the sword, your land will be parceled up by a *measuring* line and you yourself will die upon unclean soil. Moreover, Israel will certainly go from its land into exile.’”

AMOS 8

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THUS the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, *there was* a basket of summer fruit.

- 2 He said, “What do you see, Amos?” And I said, “A basket of summer fruit.” Then the LORD said to me, “The end has come for My people Israel. I will spare them no longer.
- 3 “The songs of the palace will turn to wailing in that day,” declares the Lord GOD. “Many *will be* the corpses; in every place they will cast them forth in silence.”
- 4 Hear this, you who trample the needy, to do away with the humble of the land,
- 5 saying,
 - “When will the new moon be over,
 - So that we may sell grain,
 - And the sabbath, that we may open the wheat *market*,
 - To make the bushel smaller and the shekel bigger,
 - And to cheat with dishonest scales,
- 6 So as to buy the helpless for money
And the needy for a pair of sandals,
And *that* we may sell the refuse of the wheat?”
- 7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob,
“Indeed, I will never forget any of their deeds.
- 8 “Because of this will not the land quake
And everyone who dwells in it mourn?
Indeed, all of it will rise up like the Nile,
And it will be tossed about
And subside like the Nile of Egypt.

- 9 “It will come about in that day,” declares the Lord GOD,
“That I will make the sun go down at noon
And make the earth dark in broad daylight.
- 10 “Then I will turn your festivals into mourning
And all your songs into lamentation;
And I will bring sackcloth on everyone’s loins
And baldness on every head.
And I will make it like *a time of* mourning for an only son,
And the end of it will be like a bitter day.
- 11 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD,
“When I will send a famine on the land,
Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water,
But rather for hearing the words of the LORD.
- 12 “People will stagger from sea to sea
And from the north even to the east;
They will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD,
But they will not find *it*.
- 13 “In that day the beautiful virgins
And the young men will faint from thirst.
- 14 “*As for* those who swear by the guilt of Samaria,
Who say, ‘As your god lives, O Dan,’
And, ‘As the way of Beersheba lives,’
They will fall and not rise again.”

AMOS 9

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and He said,
 “Smite the capitals so that the thresholds will shake,
 And break them on the heads of them all!
 Then I will slay the rest of them with the sword;
 They will not have a fugitive who will flee,
 Or a refugee who will escape.
- 2 “Though they dig into Sheol,
 From there will My hand take them;
 And though they ascend to heaven,
 From there will I bring them down.
- 3 “Though they hide on the summit of Carmel,
 I will search them out and take them from there;
 And though they conceal themselves from My sight on
 the floor of the sea,
 From there I will command the serpent and it will bite them.
- 4 “And though they go into captivity before their enemies,
 From there I will command the sword that it slay them,
 And I will set My eyes against them for evil and not for good.”
- 5 The Lord GOD of hosts,
 The One who touches the land so that it melts,
 And all those who dwell in it mourn,
 And all of it rises up like the Nile
 And subsides like the Nile of Egypt;
- 6 The One who builds His upper chambers in the heavens
 And has founded His vaulted dome over the earth,
 He who calls for the waters of the sea
 And pours them out on the face of the earth,
 The LORD is His name.

- 7 “Are you not as the sons of Ethiopia to Me,
O sons of Israel?” declares the LORD.
“Have I not brought up Israel from the land of Egypt,
And the Philistines from Caphtor and the Arameans from Kir?”
- 8 “Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are on the sinful kingdom,
And I will destroy it from the face of the earth;
Nevertheless, I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob,”
Declares the LORD.
- 9 “For behold, I am commanding,
And I will shake the house of Israel among all nations
As *grain* is shaken in a sieve,
But not a kernel will fall to the ground.
- 10 “All the sinners of My people will die by the sword,
Those who say, ‘The calamity will not overtake or confront us.’
- 11 “In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David,
And wall up its breaches;
I will also raise up its ruins
And rebuild it as in the days of old;
- 12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom
And all the nations who are called by My name,”
Declares the LORD who does this.
- 13 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“When the plowman will overtake the reaper
And the treader of grapes him who sows seed;
When the mountains will drip sweet wine
And all the hills will be dissolved.
- 14 “Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel,
And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live *in them*;
They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine,
And make gardens and eat their fruit.
- 15 “I will also plant them on their land,
And they will not again be rooted out from their land
Which I have given them,”
Says the LORD your God.

AMOS AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

Segment Divisions		Chapter Themes
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