

OLIVET BIBLE STUDY

BOOK OF AMOS

OUTLINE ONE (AMOS 1-2)

These chapters describe Amos's vision of God's judgment on Damascus, Philistia, Tyre, Ammon, Moab, Judah, and Israel.

- I. **THE REVELATION OF GOD'S JUDGMENT (1:1-2):** In a vision Amos sees divine wrath falling upon certain nations.
- II. **THE RECIPIENTS OF GOD'S JUDGMENT (1:3-2:16)**
 - A. **Damascus (1:3-5)**
 1. *Their sin (1:3):* They have ravished the Israelite city of Gilead.
 2. *Their sentence (1:4-5):* Damascus will be burned, and its people will be enslaved.
 - B. **Philistia (1:6-8)**
 1. *Their sin (1:6):* They have sold God's people into slavery.
 2. *Their sentence (1:7-8):* The Philistine cities will be torched, and the people will be killed.
 - C. **Tyre (1:9-10)**
 1. *Their sin (1:9):* They have broken their treaty with the people of Israel and have betrayed them.
 2. *Their sentence (1:10):* The city will be burned.
 - D. **Edom (1:11-12)**
 1. *Their sin (1:11):* They have hounded Israel with the sword.
 2. *Their sentence (1:12):* Their cities will be burned.
 - E. **Ammon (1:13-15)**

1. *Their sin (1:13)*: They ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead.

2. *Their sentence (1:14-15)*: Their cities will be burned, and their people will be enslaved.

F. Moab (2:1-3)

1. *Their sin (2:1)*: They have desecrated tombs, showing no respect for the dead.

2. *Their sentence (2:2-3)*: Their cities will be burned, and their people will be killed.

G. Judah (2:4-5)

1. *Their sin (2:4)*: They have rejected the law of God.

2. *Their sentence (2:5)*: Jerusalem will be destroyed.

H. Israel (2:6-16)

1. *Their sins (2:6-12)*

a. Bribery (2:6): They pervert justice with dishonest scales.

b. Cruelty to the poor (2:7a): They trample helpless people in the dirt.

c. Immorality (2:7b): Father and son sleep with the same woman.

d. Hypocrisy (2:8): They go to religious festivals in stolen clothing.

e. Tempting the godly to sin (2:9-12): They cause the Nazirites to sin by making them drink wine.

2. *Their sentence (2:13-16)*

a. They will groan as an overloaded wagon (2:13)

b. Their enemies will defeat them (2:14-16): The runners, the warriors, and those on horses will be unable to get away.

OUTLINE TWO (AMOS 3-6)

These chapters record for us three sermons preached by Amos.

I. AMOS'S FIRST SERMON (3:1-15)

- A. **The privileges of Israel (3:1-3):** Amos reminds the nation that God treats them as a special nation.
- B. **The perversions of Israel (3:10)**
 - 1. *They do not know right from wrong (3:10a).*
 - 2. *Their homes are full of loot they have stolen from others (3:10b).*
- C. **The prophecy against Israel (3:4-9, 11-15)**
 - 1. *God will roar out his wrath as a hungry lion (3:4-9):* God warns the people, but they do not listen.
 - 2. *Their enemies will devour them (3:11-14):* They will be torn into pieces.
 - 3. *Their beautiful homes will be destroyed (3:15).*

II. AMOS'S SECOND SERMON (4:1-13)

- A. **He denounces the Israel of God (4:1-5).**
 - 1. *Their godless women (4:1-3):* They will be led away with hooks in their noses.
 - 2. *Their hypocrisy (4:4-5):* They offer sacrifices to idols.
- B. **He defends the God of Israel (4:6-13).**
 - 1. *The past patience of God (4:6-11):* He has given Israel repeated opportunities to repent, all to no avail.
 - 2. *The future punishment from God (4:12-13):* The nation will soon face him in judgment.

III. AMOS'S THIRD SERMON (5:1-6:14)

- A. **God's invitation to Israel (5:4-9, 14-15):** Amos makes one final plea, urging his people to repent.
 - 1. *Seek God and live (5:4,7-9):* God is all-powerful.

2. *Renounce your idolatry* (5:5-6): They are to worship idols no longer.
3. *Do what is good* (5:14-15): The Lord will be their helper if they are obedient.

B. **God's indictment of Israel** (5:1-3, 10-13, 16-27; 6:1-14)

1. *The nation's perversions* (5:10-13, 25-26; 6:1-7, 12-13)
 - a. They hate the truth (5:10): They hate honest judges and people who tell the truth.
 - b. They oppose the good (5:11): They trample the poor and take what they have.
 - c. They are guilty of extortion and bribery (5:12-13): They oppress good people by taking bribes.
 - d. They are lazy and complacent (6:1-3): They lounge in luxury and think they are safe.
 - e. They are materialistic and indulgent (6:4-5): They lie on comfortable beds eating choice meat and singing idle songs.
 - f. They are a nation of drunkards (6:6-7): They drink wine by the bowlful.
 - g. They have turned justice into poison (6:12): They make bitter the sweet fruit of righteousness.
 - h. They are arrogant (6:13): They boast that they have made conquests on their own.
 - i. They worship idols (5:25-26): Their real interest is in the gods they have made themselves.
2. *The nation's punishment* (5:1-3, 16-24, 27; 6:8-11, 14)
 - a. To be broken and deserted (5:1-2): She will fall, never to rise again.

- b. To lose 90 percent of her soldiers in battle ([5:3](#))
- c. To grieve ([5:16-18](#)): Weeping will be heard throughout the land.
- d. To go from bad to worse ([5:19-20](#)): It will be a day without a ray of hope.
- e. To have hypocritical offerings rejected by God ([5:21-22](#))
- f. To have her songs rejected ([5:23-24](#)): God wants to see a river of righteous living instead.
- g. To go into slavery in exile ([5:27; 6:14](#))
- h. To lose their pride and glory ([6:8-11](#)): God will give everything to their enemies.

OUTLINE THREE (AMOS 7-9)

These chapters describe Amos's visions of the future of God's people.

- I. **THE PLAGUES (7:1-9; 8:1-9:10):** These verses describe five visions received by Amos, all dealing with God's judgment on Israel.
 - A. **Vision of the locusts (7:1-3)**
 1. *God's intention* ([7:1](#)): He is preparing a vast locust plague to destroy Israel's crops.
 2. *Amos's intervention* ([7:2-3](#)): The prophet prays, and this judgment is set aside.
 - B. **Vision of the fire (7:4-6)**
 1. *God's intention* ([7:4](#)): A great fire will soon devour the land.
 2. *Amos's intervention* ([7:5-6](#)): Again the prophet prays, and judgment is averted.
 - C. **Vision of the plumb line (7:7-9)**

1. *The revelation (7:7)*: Amos sees God measuring the "spiritual straightness" of Israel with a plumb line.
2. *The results (7:8-9)*: The moral crookedness of the nation demands divine judgment.

D. **Vision of the summer fruit (8:1-14)**

1. *The symbol (8:1-2)*: Israel is pictured as a basket of fruit, ripe for judgment because of sin.
2. *The sin (8:4-6)*
 - a. The rich are robbing and enslaving the poor, buying and selling them for a pair of sandals (8:4a, 6).
 - b. The needy in the land are being trampled on (8:4b).
 - c. Gross dishonesty can be witnessed everywhere (8:5).
3. *The suffering (8:3, 7-14)*: Sin always results in sorrow, pain, and disaster! Amos now describes a fourfold judgment:
 - a. In regard to sinners (8:3, 10)
 - (1) Dead bodies will be scattered everywhere (8:3): Singing will turn to wailing.
 - (2) Sheer misery will replace mirth (8:10): Celebrations will become times of mourning, and songs of joy will become weeping.
 - b. In regard to the soil (8:7-8): The entire land will rise and fall like the Nile River.
 - c. In regard to the skies (8:9): The sun will go down at noon.
 - d. In regard to the Scriptures (8:11-14)
 - (1) The famine (8:11): God himself will send a famine of hearing the words of the Lord.

(2) The fruitless search ([8:12-14](#)): Men will wander everywhere attempting to find it!

E. The vision of God at the altar ([9:1-10](#)): Amos sees the Lord standing at the altar, and God tells Amos that he will destroy the people.

II. THE PRIEST (7:10-17)

A. Amos's confrontation with Amaziah (7:10-13)

1. *He slanders Amos* ([7:10-11](#)): Amaziah tells King Jeroboam II that Amos is a traitor and a rebel.
2. *He scorns Amos* ([7:12-13](#)): Amaziah tells Amos to take his foolish preaching back to Judah.

B. Amos's clarification to Amaziah (7:14-15): He acknowledges that he is neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet. But he then adds that:

1. *He feels unworthy* ([7:14](#)): "I'm just a shepherd, and I take care of fig trees."
2. *He knows God has called him to prophesy* ([7:15](#)).

C. Amos's condemnation of Amaziah (7:16-17)

1. *Amaziah's wife will become a prostitute* ([7:16-17a](#)).
2. *Amaziah's sons and daughters will be killed* ([7:17b](#)).
3. *Amaziah's land will be divided up* ([7:17c](#)).
4. *Amaziah will die as a slave in a pagan land* ([7:17d](#)).

III. THE PROMISES (9:11-15)

A. Jerusalem will be rebuilt to its former glory ([9:11-12](#)): The walls will be rebuilt.

B. Israel will be restored to her former land ([9:13-15](#)): The people will rebuild the ruined cities and will live in them.

