***Studying the Northern Kingdom Prophets—Amos 1,*** GOD'S JUDGMENTS ON SYRIA, PHILISTIA, TYRE, EDOM, AND AMMON.

**OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS**

**\*\*BEFORE THE EXILE**

**Obadiah to Edom 887 BC**

**Jonah to Nineveh 862 BC**

**Joel to Judah (S. Kngdm.) 800 BC (“Day of the Lord”)**

**Amos to Israel (N. Kngdm.) 787 BC**

**Hosea to Israel 785-725 BC (end of Israel)**

**Isaiah to Judah 760-698 BC (biggest book)**

**Micah to Judah 750-710 BC**

**Nahum to Nineveh 713 BC**

**Zephaniah to Judah 630 BC**

**Habakkuk to Judah 626 BC**

**Jeremiah to Judah 629-588 BC (end of Judah)**

**\*\*DURING THE EXILE**

**Jeremiah Judah in Exile 629-588 BC**

**Ezekiel Judah in Exile, 3rd deport 595-574 BC**

**Daniel Judah in Exile, 1st deport 607-534 BC**

**\*\*AFTER THE EXILE**

**Haggai after the exile 520 BC**

**Zechariah after the exile 520-518 BC**

**Malachi after the exile 397 BC**

**\*\*\*\*Daniel 11:5-35, the four hundred years between the Old and New Testaments\*\*\*\***

**Amos was a sheepherder from the southern kingdom of Judah.** **Amos 7:15** **shows us that he received a direct call from God to go prophesy to the northern kingdom of Israel. So Amos goes to Bethel, which was functioning as the capital of Israel. The king, Jeroboam II, lived there. Bethel had special significance in Israel's history. In** **Genesis 28****: we see that this is where Jacob had his dream about the angels descending on the ladder and his wrestling with God. But now it had become the center for idol worship in the Northern Kingdom. Jeroboam set up golden calves in Bethel and Dan for the Israelites to worship, because he didn't want the people worshipping God in Jerusalem and reuniting the kingdom.**

**When Amos served as a prophet, the people of God had been divided into two nations for more than 150 years. The southern nation was known as Judah, and the northern nation was still known as Israel. Amos actually came from the Southern Kingdom, but was sent by God to the north; he raised sycamore figs and berry figs (which were not from Tekoa); he was a rancher, breeder, and a farmer. The word, “Amos,” is from the infrequently used verb, “burden.” Its literal translation is: “to load a burden upon an animal.” THIS WAS A POSSIBLE NICKNAME GIVEN TO HIM BY THOSE IN THE NORTH BECAUSE HE BECAME A BURDEN TO THEM BY HIS TOUGH MESSAGE! Through the period of the divided monarch Judah saw a succession of kings, some godly and some ungodly (Uzziah was one of the better kings of Judah). The northern nation of Israel saw nothing but a succession of wicked kings. Jeroboam the son of Joash was one of the better kings among these wicked men - especially in a political and military sense - but he was still an ungodly man (**[**2 Kings 14:23-29**](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Kings+14:23-29&t1=en_nas)**). Amos brings a message of judgment. The first two chapters of Amos describe the judgment of the Lord, first against Gentile nations then against Judah and Israel.**

***THE EIGHT JUDGMENTS IN AMOS 1:3-2:16***

**Judgment on Damascus 1:3-5**

**Judgment on Gaza 1:6-8**

**Judgment on Tyre 1:9-10**

**Judgment on Edom pagan 1:11-12**

**Judgment on Ammon 1:13-15**

**Judgment on Moab 2:1-3**

**Judgment on Judah 2:4-5**

**Judgment on Israel 2:6-16**

***THREE SERMONS OF JUDGMENT 3:1-6:14***

**1st Sermon Israel’s Present 3:1-15**

**2nd Sermon Israel’s Past 4:1-13**

**3rd Sermon Israel’s Future 5:1-6:14**

***FIVE VISIONS OF JUDGMENT 7:1-9:10***

**Vision of the Locust and Gog, their King 7:1-3**

**Vision of the Fire 7:4-6**

**Vision of the Plumb Line 7:7-9**

**Opposition of Amaziah (Hist. Pause) 7:10-17**

**Vision of the Summer Fruit 8:1-14**

**Vision of the Stricken Doorposts 9:1-10**

**THE DAVIDIC KNGD. RESTORED 9:11-15**

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

1. **The words of Amos: The words of Amos--that is, Amos' *oracular communications.* A heading found only in** [**Jeremiah 1:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jeremiah/1/1/s_746001)**, “The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that *were* in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin.**
2. **This book of the prophet Amos is the only mention we have of this man in the Old Testament. The books of 1 and 2 Kings or 1 and 2 Chronicles do not mention this prophet, and he should not be confused with *Amoz*, the father of Isaiah the prophet (**[**Isaiah 1:1**](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Isaiah+1:1&t1=en_nas)**).The name Amos means *burden* or *burden bearer*. Since most of the prophecies of Amos concern coming judgment on either the nations surrounding Israel or judgment on Israel itself, he was a man with a *burden*.**
3. **Talk about…..”Who was among the sheep breeders of Tekoa?” Amos uses an unusual word to describe his occupation. Instead of calling himself a shepherd, the literal ancient Hebrew calls Amos a sheep raiser. Amos probably chose this title to emphasize the fact that he really was a shepherd, and that he did not mean shepherd in a symbolic, spiritual sense. The way God used Amos reminds us of the way He used the twelve disciples of Jesus - common, workingmen used to do great things for God.**
	* 1. **Amos spoke of his background and calling in** [**Amos 7:14-15**](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Amos+7:14-15&t1=en_nas)**: *I was no prophet, nor was I a son of a prophet, but I was a sheepbreeder and a tender of sycamore fruit. Then the Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said to me, Go, prophesy to My people Israel.***
	1. **Where is Tekoa? Amos was from Tekoa, a city about ten miles from Jerusalem. It seems that he delivered his prophetic message at Bethel (**[**Amos 7:13**](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Amos+7:13&t1=en_nas)**, “But prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it is the king’s chapel, and it is the king’s court.” One of the southernmost cities of Israel - not very far from Tekoa.**
4. **It seems that Amos had no formal theological or prophetic training, though there was a school of the prophets known as the *sons of the prophets* at that time (**[**1 Kings 20:35**](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Kings+20:35&t1=en_nas)**, “**And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said unto his neighbour in the word of the LORD, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man refused to smite him,” [**2**](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Kings+20:2&t1=en_nas) **Kings 2:3-15, “**And the sons of the prophets that were at Bethel came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace. 4And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the Lord hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho. 5And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to day? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace. 6And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the Lord hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on. 7And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan. 8And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground. 9And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. 10And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. 11And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 12And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. 13He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; 14And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the Lord God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.15And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him,”[**2 Kings 4:1**](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Kings+4:1&t1=en_nas)**, “**Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the Lord: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen,” [**2**](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Kings+4:2&t1=en_nas) **Kings 4:38, “**And Elisha came again to Gilgal: and there was a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets were sitting before him: and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and seethe pottage for the sons of the prophets.”**) Amos was a simple man, a farmer, who had been uniquely called to ministry.**
	1. **Who were the herdsmen/ sheepherders? --rather, "shepherds"; both owning and tending sheep; from an *Arabic* root, "to mark with pricks," namely, to select the best among a species of sheep and goats *ill-shapen and short-footed* (as others explain the name from an *Arabic* root), but distinguished by their wool [MAURER].**
		1. **Relate to I Samuel 17:40, “And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.” God chooses "the weak things of the world to confound the mighty," and makes a humble shepherd reprove the arrogance of Israel and her king arising from prosperity (compare** [**1Sa 17:40**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1samuel/17/40/s_253040) **).**
5. **Discuss the earthquake referenced here. 250 years later, Zechariah refers to this same earthquake. Parallel with Zechariah 14:5,** “And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.” IF SEEN IN 762 BC, IT OCCURRED 40 YEARS BEFORE THE ASSYRIAN INVASION…..THIS IS A WARNING!!
T**wo years before the earthquake**--mentioned in [Zechariah 14:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/zechariah/14/5/s_925005). The earthquake occurred in Uzziah's reign, at the time of his being stricken with leprosy for usurping the priest's functions.
6. When was Amos a prophet? **Which he saw concerning Israel: Amos was primarily a prophet to Israel, though he will speak to many nations. He served in the days of the divided monarchy (the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash). Most researchers date the ministry of Amos somewhere between 760 b.c. and 750 b.c. ii. For most of its history, the northern kingdom of Israel struggled against Syria - her neighbor to the north. But around the year 800, the mighty Assyrian Empire defeated Syria, and neutralized this power that hindered Israel’s expansion and prosperity. With Syria in check, Israel enjoyed great prosperity during the reign of Jeroboam II...**

**2, “And he said: The Lord roars from Zion, and utters His voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers.”**

1. **Explain “The Lord roars from Zion.” Use** [**Joel 3:16**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/joel/3/16/s_879016)**, “16 The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD *will be* the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.” And utters His voice from Jerusalem: Israel - in direct disobedience to God - established rival centers of worship in Dan, Bethel, and Gilgal. When Amos says that the Lord speaks from Jerusalem, he reminds all of Israel where the center of true worship is. A LION ROARS BEFORE SEIZING HIS PREY!** God has been Israel's shepherd. The Israelites are familiar with the 23rd Psalm, etc. Like a shepherd, God is supposed to take care of them. ***But Amos, a sheepherder himself, uses what would have been a very vivid word picture to that society. God is now like a Lion to Israel. The lion was probably the most feared animal of that time. It could attack and devour a flock of sheep while the shepherd watched helplessly.***
	1. **Whereas Jehovah is there represented roaring in Israel's behalf, here He roars against her. Compare** [**Psalm 18:13**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/psalms/18/13/s_496013)**,** “The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire,” [**Jeremiah 25:30**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jeremiah/25/30/s_770030)**,** “Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth.”
2. **Talk about Zion and Carmel. From Zion. . . Jerusalem**--the seat of the theocracy, from which ye have revolted; not from Dan and Beth-el, the seat of your idolatrous worship of the calves. **Habitations. . . mourn**--poetical personification. Their *inhabitants* shall mourn, imparting sadness to the very *habitations.* **Carmel**--the mountain promontory north of Israel, in Asher, abounding in rich pastures, olives, and vines. The name is the symbol of *fertility.* When Carmel itself "withers," how utter the desolation! [Songs 7:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/songofsongs/7/5/s_678005), “Thine head upon thee is like Carmel, and the hair of thine head like purple; the king is held in the galleries,” [Isaiah 33:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isaiah/33/9/s_712009), “The earth mourneth and languisheth: Lebanon is ashamed and hewn down: Sharon is like a wilderness; and Bashan and Carmel shake off their fruits,” [35:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isaiah/35/2/s_714002), “It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God,” [Jeremiah 50:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jeremiah/50/19/s_795019), And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead, “ and [Nahum 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/nahum/1/4/s_901004), “He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth.”
	1. **See I Kings 18:19-40. The top of Carmel withers: Carmel was a prominent mountain in the north of Israel, the site of Elijah’s dramatic confrontation with the prophets of Baal (**[**1 Kings 18:19-40**](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Kings+18:19-40&t1=en_nas)**). Since Elijah served before the time of Amos, it may be that Amos is reminding Israel of this victory of the Lord God over idolatry.**
3. **Describe the imagery seen in “The pastures of the shepherds mourn.”**
	1. **See Amos 7:14, “**Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I *was* no prophet, neither *was* I a prophet's son; but I *was* an herdsman, and a gatherer of sycamore fruit.”  **Since Amos was a shepherd himself (**[**Amos 7:14**](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Amos+7:14&t1=en_nas)**) he knew how the judgment of God could affect the land. If God withheld rain, sent plagues, or allowed conquering armies to come upon the land, it made the pastures of the shepherds mourn.**

**Here, Verse 3, begins a series of threatenings of vengeance against six other states, followed by one against Judah, and ending with one against Israel, with whom the rest of the prophecy is occupied. The eight predictions are in symmetrical stanzas, each prefaced by "Thus saith the Lord." Beginning with the sin of others, which Israel would be ready enough to recognize, he proceeds to bring home to Israel her own guilt. Israel must not think hereafter, because she sees others visited similarly to herself, that such judgments are matters of chance; nay, they are divinely foreseen and foreordered, and are confirmations of the truth that God will not clear the guilty. If God spares not the nations that know not the truth, how much less Israel that sins willfully (** [**Luke 12:47, “And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes, “. 48**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/luke/12/47/s_985047)**, “But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few *stripes*. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more,”** [**James 4:17**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/james/4/17/s_1150017)**, “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”**

**3-5, “Thus says the Lord: For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because they have threshed Gilead with implements of iron. But I will send a fire into the house of Hazael, which shall devour the palaces of Ben-Hadad. I will also break the gate bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitant from the Valley of Aven, and the one who holds the scepter from Beth Eden. The people of Syria shall go captive to Kir, says the Lord.”**

1. **Discuss #1 of the EIGHT JUDGMENTS, Judgment on Damascus (1:3-5)**
2. **Did Damascus have only three sins? THE X/X+1 FORMULA…**It is especially confusing when he doesn't list three or four things after he says that. We might label this device as an x/x+1 formula. This x/x+1 formula is found throughout the Bible and usually follows a set pattern….**THE THREE/FOUR FORMULA.**
	1. **Why does Amos only actually list one sin, when he promises four?**
	2. **"Three and four" implies “sin *multiplied on sin*;” compare** [**Exodus 20:5**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/exodus/20/5/s_70005)**, “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me,”** [**Proverbs 30:15, “The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough,” 18, “There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not,” 21**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/proverbs/30/15/s_658015)**, “For three *things* the earth is disquieted, and for four *which* it cannot bear."**
	3. **Parallel with “six and seven,"** [**Job 5:19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/job/5/19/s_441019)**; "He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee,”**
		1. **See “once and twice,"** [**Job 33:14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/job/33/14/s_469014)**,” For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not.”**
		2. **Review** [**Matthew 23:32**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/matthew/23/32/s_952032)**, “Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.”**
		3. **DAMASCUS IS THE OLDEST CONTINUING CITY, 2000 BC**
		4. **GILEAD—MODERN GOLAN HEIGHTS**
		5. **Aram—ancient name for Syria**
* **It is occasionally used to emphasize completeness as in** **Job 40:5** **which says, “Once I have spoken, and I will not answer; Even twice, and I will add no more.”**
* **It is sometimes used to mean “a few” - one or two of something. E.g. there were a couple of people at the meeting.**
* **It is sometimes used to mean abundance - “7 even 8” is used more often to refer to that.** **Micah 5:5** **says, when the Assyrian invades our land,
when he tramples on our citadels,
and then we will raise against him
Seven shepherds and eight leaders of men.**
* **Sometimes it is more literal. The second number is what is being emphasized and the phrase “3 even 4” is mostly used for poetic parallelism. But it usually precedes a list of some sort. In** **Ps 62:11-12** **we see the one/two formula. In** **Proverbs 30:15-16****, 18-19, 21-23, 29-31 we have the three/four formula and in** **Job 5:19-22** **and** **Proverbs 6:16-19** **we have a six/seven grouping.** **Proverbs 6****: 16-19 is fairly well known....**
1. **Who is Hazael? Hazael and Ben-hadad of Syria, CONQUERED THE ISRAELITE ARMY AND THRESHED THE CAPTIVES WITH AN IRON THRESHING MACHINE!** **Damascus was the capitol of the Arameans or Syrians off to the North. Hazael and Ben-hadad were previous kings of Aram (ancient name for Syria).** As well as Jehu of Israel, mentioned as tributaries of "Shalmanubar," king of Assyria. The kind of tribute from Jehu is mentioned: gold, pearls, precious oil, &c. [G. V. SMITH]. The Ben-hadad here is the son of Hazael
	1. **See 2 Kings** [**13:3**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2kings/13/3/s_326003), “And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he delivered them into the hand of Hazel king of Syria, and into the hand of Beheaded the son of Hazel, all their days,” not the Ben-hadad supplanted and slain by Hazael….[**2 Kings 8:7,** “And Elisha came to Damascus; and Benhadad the king of Syria was sick; and it was told him, saying, The man of God is come hither,” **15**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2kings/8/7/s_321007), “And it came to pass on the morrow, that he took a thick cloth, and dipped *it* in water, and spread *it* on his face, so that he died: and Hazael reigned in his stead.
2. Is the phrase, "I will send a fire," implying “a flame of war?” Refer to [Psalm 78:63](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/psalms/78/63/s_556063), “The fire consumed their young men; and their maidens were not given to marriage.
3. **Parallel with** [**Amos 1:7, “But I will send a fire on the wall of Gaza, which shall devour the palaces thereof,” 10, “But I will send a fire on the wall of Tyrus, which shall devour the palaces thereof,” 12, “But I will send a fire upon Teman, which shall devour the palaces of Bozrah,” 14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/amos/1/7/s_880007)**, “But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour the palaces thereof, with shouting in the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind,” and** [**Amos 2:2, “**But I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth: and Moab shall die with tumult, with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet,”  **5**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/amos/2/2/s_881002)**, “**But I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem,” [**Jeremiah 49:27**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jeremiah/49/27/s_794027)**, “**And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall consume the palaces of Benhadad,” and[**Hosea 8:14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/hosea/8/14/s_870014)**, “**For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and Judah hath multiplied fenced cities: but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof.”
4. **Define “threshed.” threshed--the very term used of the Syrian king Hazael's oppression of Israel under Jehu and Jehoahaz. See** [**2 Kings 10:32**, “In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short: and Hazael smote them in all the coasts of Israel,” **33**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2kings/10/32/s_323032)**,** “From Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manassites, from Aroer, which *is* by the river Arnon, even Gilead and Bashan,”[**13:7**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2kings/13/7/s_326007)**,** “Neither did he leave of the people to Jehoahaz but fifty horsemen, and ten chariots, and ten thousand footmen; for the king of Syria had destroyed them, and had made them like the dust by threshing.**” The victims were thrown before the threshing sledges, the teeth of which tore their bodies.**
	1. **Refer also to 2 Samuel 12:31, “**And he brought forth the people that were therein, and put them under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brickkiln: and thus did he unto all the cities of the children of Ammon. So David and all the people returned unto Jerusalem,” and[**Isaiah 28:27**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isaiah/28/27/s_707027)**, “**For the fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument, neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cummin; but the fitches are beaten out with a staff, and the cumin with a rod.”
5. **What does “Threshed Gilead with implements of iron” point to? CONQUERED THE ISRAELITE ARMY AND THRESHED THE CAPTIVES WITH AN IRON THRESHING MACHINE!** **The region of Gilead belonged to Israel, and God will judge Damascus and the Syrians for coming against the land of Gods people, and coming with such complete destruction that it is as if a deep plow had been run through the land. *Threshing sledges* with iron prongs or teeth are probably a figure of speech implying extreme cruelty and utter thoroughness in the treatment of those who opposed.**
	1. Compare “**threshed” with** the very term used of the Syrian king Hazael's oppression of Israel under Jehu and Jehoahaz in [2 Kings 10:32, “2 In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short: and Hazael smote them in all the coasts of Israel,” 33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2kings/10/32/s_323032), “From Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manassites, from Aroer, which *is* by the river Arnon, even Gilead and Bashan, “and [13:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2kings/13/7/s_326007), “Neither did he leave of the people to Jehoahaz but fifty horsemen, and ten chariots, and ten thousand footmen; for the king of Syria had destroyed them, and had made them like the dust by threshing.
	2. **See 2 Samuel 12:31, “And he brought forth the people that were therein, and put them under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brickkiln: and thus did he unto all the cities of the children of Ammon. So David and all the people returned unto Jerusalem.” The victims were thrown before the threshing sledges, the teeth of which tore their bodies.**
		1. **Compare** [**Isaiah 28:27**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isaiah/28/27/s_707027)**, “For the fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument, neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cumin; but the fitches are beaten out with a staff, and the cumin with a rod.”**
6. **In verse 5, what is the “gate bar” of Damascus? See Jeremiah 51:30, “**The mighty men of Babylon have forborne to fight, they have remained in their holds: their might hath failed; they became as women: they have burned her dwellingplaces; her bars are broken.” **bar of Damascus**--that is, the bar of its gates (compare [Jeremiah 51:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jeremiah/51/30/s_796030) ).
7. **Where is the Valley of Aven and Beth Eden? THE HEATHEN CENTER OF IDOLATRY. Aven**--the same as *Oon* or *Un,* a delightful valley, four hours' journey from Damascus, towards the desert. Proverbial in the East as a place of delight [JOSEPHUS ABASSUS]. It is here parallel to "Eden," which also means "pleasantness"; situated at Lebanon. As JOSEPHUS ABASSUS is a doubtful authority, perhaps the reference may be rather to the valley between Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, called *El-Bekaa,* where are the ruins of the Baal-bek temple of the sun; so the *Septuagint* renders it *On,* the same name as the city in Egypt bears, dedicated to the sun-worship ( [Gen 41:45](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/genesis/41/45/s_41045); *Heliopolis,* "the city of the sun," [Ezekiel 30:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/ezekiel/30/17/s_832017), *Margin*). It is termed by Amos "the valley of Aven," or "vanity," from the worship of idols in it.
8. **Where is Kir? ASSYRIAN PROVINCE ON THE RIVER KIR. Refer to 2 Kings 16:9 The people of Syria shall go captive to Kir: This was fulfilled in** [**2 Kings 16:9**](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Kings+16:9&t1=en_nas)**, which describes when the Assyrians attacked Syria because King Ahaz of Judah paid them. *So the king of Assyria heeded him; for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus and took it, carried its people captive to Kir, and killed Rezin*. (**[**2 Kings 16:9**](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Kings+16:9&t1=en_nas)**) Kir**--a region subject to Assyria ([Isaiah 22:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isaiah/22/6/s_701006) ) in Iberia, the same as that called now in *Armenian Kur,* lying by the river Cyrus which empties itself into the Caspian Sea. Tiglath-pileser fulfilled this prophecy when Ahaz applied for help to him against Rezin king of Syria, and the Assyrian king took Damascus, slew Rezin, and carried away its people captive to Kir.

**6-8, “Thus says the Lord: For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because they took captive the whole captivity to deliver them up to Edom. But I will send a fire upon the wall of Gaza, which shall devour its palaces. I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, and the one who holds the scepter from Ashkelon; I will turn My hand against Ekron, and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish, says the Lord God.”**

1. **Discuss #2 of the EIGHT JUDGMENTS, Judgment on Gaza,(1:6-8)**
2. **CONQUERED THE ISRAELITE ARMY AND THRESHED THE CAPTIVES WITH AN IRON THRESHING MACHINE! THESE ARE THE PHILISTINES!...other towns in this area: Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Ekron/Gath…..also the Phoenicians**
3. **Why is there judgment pronounced on Gaza? Because they took captive the whole captivity to deliver them up to Edom: Gaza was a city of the Philistines, on the coast to the west of Israel and Judah. Because they came against Gods people and did deliver them up to Edom, God will bring judgment against Gaza and the other cities of the Philistines (Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Ekron). Gaza**--the southernmost of the five capitals of the five divisions of Philistia, and the key to Palestine on the south: hence put for the whole Philistine nation. **Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Ekron were major cities in Philistia, THE PHILISTINES!**
	1. **See** [**2 Chronicles 26:6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2chronicles/26/6/s_393006) **,** “And he went forth and warred against the Philistines, and brake down the wall of Gath, and the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod, and built cities about Ashdod, and among the Philistines.” Uzziah commenced the fulfilment of this prophecy.
	2. **Explain “fire”**--that is, the flame of war; see [Numbers 21:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/numbers/21/28/s_138028), “For there is a fire gone out of Heshbon, a flame from the city of Sihon: it hath consumed Ar of Moab, and the lords of the high places of Arnon,” [Isaiah 26:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isaiah/26/11/s_705011), “LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them.”
		1. Hezekiah fulfilled the prophecy, smiting the Philistines unto Gaza in[**2 Kings 18:8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2kings/18/8/s_331008), “He smote the Philistines, even unto Gaza, and the borders thereof, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.”).
		2. Foretold also by [**Isaiah 14:29,** “Rejoice not thou, whole Palestina, because the rod of him that smote thee is broken: for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a cockatrice, and his fruit shall be a fiery flying serpent,” **and 31**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isaiah/14/29/s_693029), “Howl, O gate; cry, O city; thou, whole Palestina, *art* dissolved: for there shall come from the north a smoke, and none *shall be* alone in his appointed times.”
	3. **Where is Ashdod?** **Ashdod,** &c.--Gath alone is not mentioned of the five chief Philistine cities. It had already been subdued by David; and it, as well as Ashdod, was taken by Uzziah***.*** [***2 Chronicles 26:6***](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2chronicles/26/6/s_393006)***, “And he went forth and warred against the Philistines, and brake down the wall of Gath, and the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod, and built cities about Ashdod, and among the Philistines.”*** ). Gath perhaps had lost its position as one of the five primary cities before Amos uttered this prophecy, whence arose his omission of it. ***So*** [***Zephaniah 2:4, “For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up,”***](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/zephaniah/2/4/s_908004) ***Compare*** [***Jeremiah 47:4***](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jeremiah/47/4/s_792004)***, “Because of the day that cometh to spoil all the Philistines,* and *to cut off from Tyrus and Zidon every helper that remaineth: for the LORD will spoil the Philistines, the remnant of the country of Caphtor, “*** [***Ezekiel 25:16***](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/ezekiel/25/16/s_827016)***, “Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will stretch out mine hand upon the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethims, and destroy the remnant of the sea coast.”*** Subsequently to the subjugation of the Philistines by Uzziah, and then by Hezekiah, they were reduced by Psammetichus of Egypt, Nebuchadnezzar, the Persians, Alexander, and lastly the Asmoneans.
4. **What is the “whole captivity?” because they carried away. . . the whole captivity--that is, they left none?**
	1. **Compare with the phrase here from** [***Jeremiah 13:19***](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jeremiah/13/19/s_758019)***, "The cities of the south shall be shut up, and none shall open them: Judah shall be carried away captive all of it, it shall be wholly carried away captive.”*** **Judah. . . carried captive *all* of it. . . *wholly* carried away." Under Jehoram already the Philistines had carried away all the substance of the king of Judah, and his wives and his sons, "so that there was never a son left to him, save Jehoahaz"; and after Amos' time (if the reference includes the *future,* which to the prophet's eye is as if already done).**
	2. ***See*** [***2 Chronicles 28:18***](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2chronicles/28/18/s_395018)***, “The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the low country, and of the south of Judah, and had taken Bethshemesh, and Ajalon, and Geberth, and Shocho with the villages thereof, and Timnah with the villages thereof, Gimzo also and the villages thereof: and they dwelt there.”,,,,* they seized on all the cities and villages of the low country and south of Judah.**
5. **Who are the Edomites? Because he pursued his brother with the sword: The people of Edom descended from Esau, the brother of Jacob (later named *Israel*). In this way, the Lord can speak of the people of Edom as brother to the people of God, in that they share common ancestors in Abraham and Isaac. God promises judgment against Edom because they attacked Judah. See** [**2 Kings 8:20-22**](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=2%20Kings+8:20-22&t1=en_nas)**, “**In his days Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah, and made a king over themselves. So Joram went over to Zair, and all the chariots with him: and he rose by night, and smote the Edomites which compassed him about, and the captains of the chariots: and the people fled into their tents. Yet Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah unto this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time.”
	1. **“To deliver them up to Edom”**--Judah's bitterest foe; as slaves …**See** [**Amos 1:9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/amos/1/9/s_880009)**, “9 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Tyrus, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they delivered up the whole captivity to Edom, and remembered not the brotherly covenant;” compare** [**Joel 3:1, “For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,” 3, “And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink,” 6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/joel/3/1/s_879001)**, “The children also of Judah and the children of Jerusalem have ye sold unto the Grecians, that ye might remove them far from their border.”**
		1. **Parallel with** [**Isaiah 16:4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isaiah/16/4/s_695004)**, “Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab; be thou a covert to them from the face of the spoiler: for the extortioner is at an end, the spoiler ceaseth, the oppressors are consumed out of the land.” …. that on Sennacherib's invasion of Judah, many fled for refuge to neighboring countries; the Philistines, instead of hospitably sheltering the refugees, sold them, as if captives in war, to their enemies, the Idumeans.**
6. **Discuss Amos’ similitude, figure of speech, the “X and X+1 formula” for completeness stressed, “For three, and for four.” LITERARY DEVICE.**
7. **What is the meaning of “the whole captivity?” The whole captivity: The condemnation here is not against slavery in and of itself, just as the previous oracle was not against war in and of itself. The crime is not that soldiers were enslaved after being taken in battle, which was the standard practice, but that the Philistines used their temporary supremacy to enslave whole populations - soldiers and civilians, men and women, adults and children, young and old - for commercial profit. Gaza did not even need the slaves. She merely sold them to Edom for more money. THEIR SIN….LARGE SCALE SLAVE TRADE.**

**9-10, “Thus says the Lord: For three transgressions of Tyre, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because they delivered up the whole captivity to Edom, and did not remember the covenant of brotherhood. But I will send a fire upon the wall of Tyre, which shall devour its palaces.”**

1. **Discuss #3 of the EIGHT JUDGMENTS, Judgment on Tyre (1:9-10)**
2. **Why is there a judgment on Tyre? IT TOOK NEBUCHADNEZZAR 13 YEARS TO BESIEGE TYRE, WITH ROYALTY ESCAPTING TO AN OFF SHORE ISLAND. BUT IT ONLY TOOK 7 MOS. FOR ALEXANDER THE GREAT TO BECAUSE HE BUILT A CAUSEWAY WITH ALL THE RUINS/RUBBLE OUT TO THE ISLAND. Because they delivered up the whole captivity to Edom: Since the city of Tyre (of Lebanon, to the north of Israel) sinned against Gods people like the Philistines did (**[**Amos 1:6-8**](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Amos+1:6-8&t1=en_nas)**), they will receive like judgment (fire upon the wall of Tyre). A fire upon the wall of Tyre: The walls of a city were her defense and strength. If the walls were burnt, the city was defeated.** Many parts of Tyre were burnt by fiery missiles of the Chaldeans under Nebuchadnezzar. Alexander of Macedon subsequently overthrew it.
3. **Where is Tyre? . . . Delivered up the. . . captivity to Edom--the same charge as against the Philistines...**[**Amos 1:6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/amos/1/6/s_880006)**, “**Thus saith the LORD; for three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they carried away captive the whole captivity, to deliver them up to Edom.” **THEIR MAJOR SIN—SLAVE TRADE!**
	1. **Elaborate on “remembered not the brotherly covenant”--the league of Hiram of Tyre with David and Solomon, the former supplying cedars for the building of the temple and king's house in return for oil and corn (** [**2Sa 5:11**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2samuel/5/11/s_272011)[**1Ki 5:2-6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1kings/5/2/s_296002)[**9:11-14, 27**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1kings/9/11/s_300011)[**10:22**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1kings/10/22/s_301022)[**1Ch 14:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1chronicles/14/1/s_352001)[**2Ch 8:18**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2chronicles/8/18/s_375018)[**9:10**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2chronicles/9/10/s_376010) **).**
4. **Recall the covenant between Solomon and King Hiram of Tyre in 2 Samuel 5:11.**

**11-12, “Thus says the Lord: For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because he pursued his brother with the sword, and cast off all pity; his anger tore perpetually, and he kept his wrath forever. But I will send a fire upon Teman, which shall devour the palaces of Bozrah.”**

1. **Discuss #4 of the EIGHT JUDGMENTS, Judgment on Damascus (1:11-12)**
2. **Who are the Edomites? TWIN BROTHER OF ISRAEL, ESAU…A PERPETUAL ENEMY OF ISRAEL. Edom. . . did pursue his brother—Isaiah** [**34:5**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isaiah/34/5/s_713005)**, “For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment.” The** [**Hebrew**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew) **word *Edom* means "red", and is derived from the name of its original founder, whose name was** [**Esau**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esau)**, the elder son of the Hebrew patriarch** [**Isaac**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaac)**, because he was born "red all over.” Later, as a young adult, he ate "red pottage.” The** [**Tanakh**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tanakh) **and the** [**New Testament**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Testament) **both describe the Edomites as descendants of Esau. Idumea were the Edomites. DAMASCUS FELL TO THE ASSYRIANS IN 732 BC.**
	1. **The chief aggravation to Edom's violence against Israel was that they both came from the same parents, Isaac and Rebekah (compare** [**Genesis 25:24-26**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/genesis/25/24/s_25024)**,)** “**And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb,” Deuteronomy 23:7,** [**”Thou shalt not abhor an Edomite; for he is thy brother: thou shalt not abhor an Egyptian; because thou wast a stranger in his land,” 8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/deuteronomy/23/7/s_176007)**, “The children that are begotten of them shall enter into the congregation of the Lord in their third generation,“** [**Obadiah 1:10, “For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off forever,” 12**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/obadiah/1/10/s_889010)**, “But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; neither shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress,“** [**Malachi 1:2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/malachi/1/2/s_926002)**, “I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: yet I loved Jacob.”**
	2. **Where is Teman--a city of Edom, called from a grandson of Esau ….**[**Genesis 36:11, “And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, and Gatam, and Kenaz,” 15**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/genesis/36/11/s_36011)**, “These *were* dukes of the sons of Esau: the sons of Eliphaz the firstborn *son* of Esau; duke Teman, duke Omar, duke Zepho, duke Kenaz,”** [**Obadiah 1:8, “Shall I not in that day, saith the LORD, even destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?” 9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/obadiah/1/8/s_889008)**, “And thy mighty *men*, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.” *Situated five miles from Petra; south of the present Wady Musa.***

***Its people were famed for wisdom.*** [**Jeremiah 49:7**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jeremiah/49/7/s_794007)**, “And thy mighty *men*, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.”**

* + 1. **Why did Esau have “his wrath forever?”--As Esau kept up his grudge against Jacob, for having twice supplanted him, namely, as to the birthright and the blessing….** ***(***[***Genesis 27:41***](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/genesis/27/41/s_27041)***, “And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.”),*** so Esau's posterity against Israel…..**ESAU REFUSED ISRAEL/ PASSAGE THROUGH THEIR LAND on the KING’S HIGHWAY**…([***Numbers 20:14, “And Moses sent messengers from Kadesh unto the king of Edom, Thus saith thy brother Israel, Thou knowest all the travail that hath befallen us,” 21***](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/numbers/20/14/s_137014)***, “Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him.”***  Edom first showed his spite in not letting Israel pass through his borders when coming from the wilderness, but threatening to "come out against him with the sword"; **next, when the Syrians attacked Jerusalem under Ahaz. Compare** [**2 Chronicles 28:17**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2chronicles/28/17/s_395017), “For again the Edomites had come and smitten Judah, and carried away captives,” and [2 Kings 16:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2kings/16/5/s_329005), “For again the Edomites had come and smitten Judah, and carried away captives,” next, when Nebuchadnezzar assailed Jerusalem…. ([***Psalm 137:7, “Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase* it*, rase* it, even *to the foundation thereof,”)***](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/psalms/137/7/s_615007)  In each case Edom chose the day of Israel's calamity for venting his grudge. This is the point of Edom's guilt dwelt on in [Oba 1:10-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/obadiah/1/10/s_889010), “For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee and thou shalt be cut off forever. **In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces**, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou *wast* as one of them. But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; ***neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction; n***either shouldest thou have spoken proudly in the day of distress. **Thou shouldest not have entered into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity**; yea, thou shouldest not have looked on their affliction in the day of their calamity, nor have laid *hands* on their substance in the day of their calamity; God punishes the children, not for the sin of their fathers, but for their own filling up the measure of their fathers' guilt, as children generally follow in the steps of, and even exceed, their fathers' guilt.”
		2. **Esau married pagan women. See Genesis 36:2-3, “Esau took his wives of the daughters of Canaan; Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and Aholibamh the daughter of Anah the daughter of Zibeon the Hivite; And Bashemath Ishmael’s daughter, sister of Nebajoth.” HE IS THE FATHER OF THE ARABS TODAY**

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* + 1. **Compare** [**Exodus 20:5**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/exodus/20/5/s_70005)**, “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.”**

**13-15, “Thus says the Lord: For three transgressions of the people of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because they ripped open the women with child in Gilead, that they might enlarge their territory. But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour its palaces, amid shouting in the day of battle, and a tempest in the day of the whirlwind. Their king shall go into captivity, he and his princes together, says the Lord.”**

1. **Discuss #5 of the EIGHT JUDGMENTS, Judgment on Ammon (1:13-15)**
2. **Who are the Ammonites? Ammon**—***MOAB AND AMMON WERE DESCENDANTS OF LOTS’ INCESTUOUS AFFAIR WITH HIS TWO DAUGHTERS AFTER SODOM AND GOMORRAH. .RABBAH WAS THE CAPTIAL OF THIS AREA, TODAY KNOWN AS AMMON, JORDAN.*** The

**Who are the Ammonites? Ammon**—***MOAB AND AMMON WERE DESCENDANTS OF LOTS’ INCESTUOUS AFFAIR WITH HIS TWO DAUGHTERS AFTER SODOM AND GOMORRAH. .RABBAH WAS THE CAPTIAL OF THIS AREA, TODAY KNOWN AS AMMON, JORDAN.*** The

 Invasion of Judea for the sake of plunder. Lot, Abraham's nephew, was the progenitor of the Ammonites. After Abraham and Lot separated ([Genesis 13](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%2013)), Lot settled in the city of Sodom. When God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of their wickedness, Lot and his daughters fled to the hill country on the southern end of the Dead Sea. Probably thinking they were the only people left on the earth, Lot’s daughters got him drunk and had incestuous relations with him to produce children ([Genesis 19:37-38](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%2019.37-38)). The older daughter had a son named Moab (“from father”), and

The younger gave birth to Ben-Ammi (“son of my people”). The Ammonites, descendants of Ben-Ammi, were a nomadic people who lived in the territory of modern-day Jordan, and the name of the capital city, Amman, reflects the name of those ancient inhabitants. In the time of Moses, the fertile plains of the Jordan River

Valley was occupied by the Amorites, Ammonites and Moabites. When Israel left Egypt, the Ammonites refused to assist them in any way, and God punished them for

Their lack of support ([Deuteronomy 23:3-4](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Deut%2023.3-4)). Later, however, as the Israelites entered the Promised Land, God instructed them, “When you approach the territory of the people of Ammon, do not harass them or contend with them, for I will not give you any of the land of the people of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the sons of Lot for a possession” ([Deuteronomy 2:19](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Deut%202.19)). The Israelite tribes of Gad, Reuben, and half of Manasseh claimed the Amorite territory bordering that of the Ammonites. The Ammonites were a pagan people who worshiped the gods Milcom and Molech. God commanded the Israelites not to marry these pagans, because intermarriage would lead the Israelites to worship false gods. Solomon disobeyed and married Naamah the Ammonite ([1 Kings 14:21](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Kings%2014.21)), and, as God had warned, he was drawn into idolatry ([1 Kings 11:1-8](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Kings%2011.1-8)). Molech was a fire-god with the face of a calf; his images had arms outstretched to receive the babies who were sacrificed to him. Like their god, the Ammonites were cruel. When Nahash the Ammonite was asked for terms of a treaty ([1 Samuel 11:2](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Sam%2011.2)), he proposed gouging out the right eye of each Israelite man. [Amos 1:13](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Amos%201.13) says that the Ammonites would rip open pregnant women in the territories they conquered…..**TODAY, NO AMMONITE EXISTS ON THE FACE OF THIS EARTH!**

1. **Ripped up. . . women with-child???**--as Hazael of Syria also did ([2 Kings 8:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2kings/8/12/s_321012), “And Hazael said, Why weepeth my lord? And he answered, because I know the evil that thou wilt do unto the children of Israel: their strong holds wilt thou set on fire, and their young men wilt thou slay with the sword, and wilt dash their children, and rip up their women with child.”)
	1. **Compare** [**Hosea 13:16**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/hosea/13/16/s_875016), “Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up.”Ammon's object in this cruel act was to leave Israel without "heir," so as to seize on Israel's inheritance [**Jeremiah 49:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jeremiah/49/1/s_794001), “Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up**. 2,** Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will cause an alarm of war to be heard in Rabbah of the Ammonites; and it shall be a desolate heap, and her daughters shall be burned with fire: then shall Israel be heir unto them that were his heirs, saith the LORD.
		1. **Because they ripped open the women with child in Gilead: The area of Gilead belonged to Israel, and suffered attacks not only from Syria (**[**Amos 1:3**](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Amos+1:3&t1=en_nas)**), but also from their neighbor to the west, Ammon. We could say that Ammon sinned against the *future* by killing babies in the womb.**
	2. **Bozrah**--a city of Edom ([**Isaiah 63:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isaiah/63/1/s_742001)**,** “Who *is* this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? This *that is* glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.) Selah or Petra is not mentioned, as it had been overthrown by Amaziah ([**2 Kings 14:7**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2kings/14/7/s_327007)**,** “He slew of Edom in the valley of salt ten thousand, and took Selah by war, and called the name of it Joktheel unto this day.”)
	3. **Rabbah**--the capital of Ammon: meaning "the Great." Distinct from Rabbah of Moab. Called *Philadelphia,* afterwards, from Ptolemy Philadelphos.
	**Tempest**--that is, with an onset swift, sudden, and resistless as a *hurricane.*
	**Day of the whirlwind**--parallel to "the day of battle"; therefore meaning "the day of the foe's *tumultuous assault.*"
	4. **Their king. . . princes**--or else**, their Molech (the idol of Ammon)** and his priests. [**Isaiah 43:28**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isaiah/43/28/s_722028)**,** “Therefore I have profaned the princes of the sanctuary, and have given Jacob to the curse, and Israel to reproaches…. so uses "princes" for "priests." **So** [**Amos 5:26**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/amos/5/26/s_884026)**,**”But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves,” and [**Jeremiah 49:3**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jeremiah/49/3/s_794003)**,** “Howl, O Heshbon, for Ai is spoiled: cry, ye daughters of Rabbah, gird you with sackcloth; lament, and run to and fro by the hedges; for their king shall go into captivity, *and* his priests and his princes together.”
2. **Sum-up the import of Amos 1. Compare it to Hosea.**

***And, here are the promises:***

## Amos 3:7, “[Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.](http://topverses.com/Bible/Amos/3/7)”

**Amos 5: 14-15, “Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.15Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.”**





