

This book is the account of Amos foretelling about God punishing Israel and Judah and other nations, and restoring Israel and Judah. We call this book Amos

¹ This is the message that *Yahweh* gave to *me*, Amos. I am a ◀shepherd/man who takes care of sheep▶. I am from *near Tekoa town south of Jerusalem*. I received this message about Israel in a vision two years before the *big* earthquake. It was when Uzziah was the king of Judah, and Jeroboam, the son of *King Jehoash*, was the king of Israel.

² This is what *Yahweh* said:
 “I will roar *like a lion* [MET];
 when I speak from *Zion Hill in Jerusalem* [DOU], my voice will *resemble the sound of thunder*.
 When *that happens*, the pastures where you shepherds *take care of* your sheep will dry up,
 and *the grass* on top of *Carmel Mountain* will
 ◀wither/become brown▶
because I will cause that no rain will fall.”

Yahweh will punish Syria

³ This is *also* what *Yahweh* said to *me*:

“I will punish the people of Damascus, the capital
 of Syria, because of the many sins that they
 have committed;
 I will not *change my mind about punishing
 them* [MTY],
 because *the cruel things that they did to the people
 of the Gilead region
 were like* [MET] people threshing grain using
 sledges *that have* ◀iron teeth/sharp iron
 nails▶ *in them.*
⁴ I will cause a fire to burn the palace *that King
 Hazael built and lived in,*
 the fortress where *his son King Ben-Hadad
 also lived.*
⁵ I will cause the gates of Damascus to be broken
 down;
 I will get rid of the king who rules in Aven
 Valley
 and the one who rules in Beth Eden.
 And the people of Syria will be captured
 and taken to the Kir *region where they
 originally lived.*”

Yahweh will punish Philistia

⁶ Yahweh *also said this to me:*
 “I will punish the people of the cities in Philistia:
 I will punish the people of Gaza city because
 of the many sins that they have committed;
 I will not change my mind about punishing
 them,
 because they captured large groups of people
 and took them to Edom
 and sold them to become the slaves of *the
 people of Edom.*”

⁷ I will cause a fire to completely burn the walls of Gaza and *also* destroy its fortresses.

⁸ I will get rid of the king of Ashdod *city* and the king who rules [MTY] in Ashkelon *city*.

I will *also* strike/punish *the people of Ekron city*, and *all* the people of Philistia who are still alive will be killed.”

Yahweh will punish Tyre

⁹ Yahweh *also* said this *to me*:

“I will *punish the people of Tyre city* because of the many sins that they have committed; I will not change my mind about punishing them,

because they *also* captured large groups of our people and took them to Edom, disregarding the treaty of friendship that they had made *with your rulers*.

¹⁰ So I will cause a fire to completely burn the walls of Tyre and *also* destroy its fortresses.”

Yahweh will punish Edom

¹¹ Yahweh *also* said this *to me*:

“I will *punish the people of Edom* because of the many sins that they have committed; I will not change my mind about punishing them,

because they pursued the people *of Israel*, who descended from Esau’s *brother Jacob*, and *killed them* with swords;

they did not act mercifully toward them at all.

They were extremely angry *with the people of Israel*,
and they continued to be angry *with them*.

¹² I will cause a fire to burn Teman *district in Edom*
and completely burn the fortresses of Bozrah, *the biggest city in Edom.*”

Yahweh will punish Ammon

¹³ Yahweh *also* said this *to me*:

“I will punish *the people of Ammon* because of the many sins that *they* have committed;

I will not change my mind about punishing them,

because *their soldiers even* ripped open *the bellies of pregnant women*

when their army attacked the Gilead region to gain more territory.

¹⁴ I will cause a fire to *completely* burn the walls around Rabbah *city*
and completely burn its fortresses.

During that battle, *their enemies* will shout loudly and the fighting will be *like* [MET] a fierce/raging wind/storm.

¹⁵ *After the battle*, the king of Ammon and his officials will be ◀exiled/forced to go to another country▶.”

2

Yahweh will punish Moab

¹ Yahweh *also* said this:

“I will punish the people of Moab because of the many sins that they have committed;
 I will not change my mind about punishing them,
 because they *dug up* the bones of the king of Edom and burned them completely,
 with the result that *the ashes became as white* as lime.
² So I will cause a fire to completely burn the fortresses of Kerioth city in Moab.
People will hear soldiers shouting and blowing trumpets loudly
 while I am causing Moab to be destroyed
³ *and while* I am getting rid of its king and all its leaders.
That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it!”

Yahweh will punish Judah

⁴ Yahweh also said this:
 “I will also punish the people of Judah because of the many sins that they have committed;
 I will not change my mind about punishing them,
 because they have rejected what I taught them and they have not obeyed my commands.
 They have been deceived *and persuaded to worship false gods*,
 the same *gods* that their ancestors *worshiped*.
⁵ So I will cause a fire to completely burn *everything* in Judah, including the fortresses in Jerusalem.”

Yahweh will punish Israel

⁶ Yahweh also said this:

"I will punish the people of Israel because of the many sins that they have committed;

I will not change my mind about punishing them,

because they sell righteous people to get a small amount of silver;

they sell poor people, causing them to become slaves,

getting for each of them only the amount of money with which they could buy a pair of sandals.

⁷ *It is as though they trample the poor people into the dirt*

and do not allow those who are helpless to be treated fairly.

Men and their fathers dishonor me [MTY] by both having sex [EUP] with the same slave girl.

⁸ *When poor people borrow money,*

the lenders force those people to give to them a piece of clothing for them to keep until he can pay back the money.

But at the end of each day, instead of returning that garment as Yahweh had commanded them to,

they lie down on that garment at the places where they worship their gods!

They fine people,

and with that money they buy wine and drink it in the temples of their gods!

⁹ *Long ago*, to assist your ancestors, I got rid of the Amor people-group.

They *seemed to be* as tall as cedar trees
and as strong as oak trees,

but I got rid of them completely,

as easily as someone cuts off [MET] the
branches of a tree and then digs out all its
roots.

¹⁰ I brought your *ancestors* out of Egypt,
and *then* I led them through the desert for
40 years.

And then I enabled them to conquer/possess
the Amor area.

¹¹ I chose some of you Israelis to be prophets,
and I chose others to be Nazir-men *who were
completely dedicated to me*.

You people of Israel certainly [RHQ] know that
what I have said is true!

¹² But you commanded the prophets to not speak
the messages that *I gave to* them,
and you persuaded the Nazir-men to drink wine,
which I told them never to do.

¹³ So I will crush you
like [SIM] *the wheels of* a wagon that is
loaded with grain crushes *whatever it rolls
over*.

¹⁴ *Even* if you run fast,
you will not escape;
even if you are strong, *it will be as though* you
are weak,

and warriors will be unable to save themselves.

¹⁵ *Even* if you are able to shoot arrows *well*,
you will be forced to retreat [LIT];
even if you run fast or if you ride *away* on a
horse,
you will not *be able* to save yourself.

¹⁶ *Even* warriors who are very brave will drop
their weapons
when they try to flee on the day *that I get rid*
of them.
That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have
said it."

3

Yahweh warned the Israeli people

¹ "You people of Israel, I brought all your
ancestors out of Egypt;
so listen to what I am saying about you.
² From all the people-groups on the earth,
I *chose and* took care of only you.
That is the reason that I will punish you
for the sins that you have committed."

The prophets' task

³ Two *people* certainly cannot [RHQ] walk to-
gether
if they have not *already* agreed *about what*
place they will start walking from.
⁴ A lion certainly does not [RHQ] roar in the
bushes/forest
if it has not killed another animal.
It does not [RHQ] growl in its den

if it is not eating *the flesh of an animal that it has caught*.

⁵ No one can [RHQ] catch a bird
if *he does not set* a trap for it.

A trap does not spring shut
unless some *animal* has not sprung the trap.

⁶ *Similarly, all* the people in a city certainly [RHQ]
become afraid
when *they hear someone* blowing a trumpet
to signal that enemies are attacking.

And when a city experiences disaster,
Yahweh is the one who has caused it [RHQ].

⁷ And whatever Yahweh plans to do,
he tells his prophets about it.

⁸ Everyone certainly becomes terrified [RHQ]
when they hear a lion roar,
and if Yahweh the Lord has given messages
to prophets like me,
we certainly must [RHQ] proclaim those mes-
sages,
even if they cause people to become terrified.

Yahweh will punish Samaria

⁹ *I said this to the leaders of Samaria* (OR, *Yahweh said this to me*):

Send this message to the leaders [MET] in
Ashdod city and to Egypt:

“Come to the hills of Samaria
and see *the way that their* ◀*leaders/wealthy people*▶ are causing people in that city to
be terrified,

and *the way that they* are causing the people to suffer!"

¹⁰ Yahweh says that the people there do not know how to do things that are right.

Their homes are filled with *valuable things* that they have stolen or *taken* violently from others.

¹¹ So Yahweh *our* God says that *soon* their enemies will come and tear down their ◀defenses/high city walls▶ and take away those valuable things.

¹² Yahweh has declared this:
 "When a lion attacks a sheep,
sometimes a shepherd will be able to snatch from the lion's mouth only two legs or an ear of the sheep.
 Similarly, *only* a few people from Samaria will escape,
 and *they will be able to rescue only* a part of a couch and a part of a bed."

¹³ The Commander of the armies of angels said this:

"Proclaim *this message* about the descendants [MTY] of Jacob:

¹⁴ When I, Yahweh, punish *the people of* Israel because of the sins that they have committed,
 I will cause the altars at Bethel *town* to be destroyed;
 even the projections at the corners of the altars will be cut off and fall to the ground.

¹⁵ I will cause the houses *that they live in during the ◀winter/rainy season▶* and those in *which they live during the ◀summer/dry season▶* to be torn down.

Beautiful big houses and houses *that are decorated* with ivory will be destroyed.

That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it!"

4

The Israelis have not returned to God

¹ You *wealthy women* of Samaria *have grown fat like* [MET] the fat cows of the Bashan region.

You oppress poor people
and you cause needy people to suffer.

And you say to your husbands,
"Bring us *more wine* to drink!"

² But Yahweh *our God* has said this:
"Because I am holy, I solemnly promise this:
It will *soon* be the time when you all will be taken
to another country;
your enemies will take you away as though
they are using sharp hooks [DOU] *to grab*
you.

³ *Your enemies* will drag you out through breaks/
holes *in your city walls,*
and they will throw you outside the city.
That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have
said it!

⁴ Go to Bethel and Gilgal *towns where many*
people worship me

and sin more and more [SAR]!
*I say that not because I want you to do it,
but because it is what you have always been
doing!*

Offer sacrifices on the morning *after you arrive,*
and bring me ◀a tithe/one tenth▶ *of your
crops the next day.*

⁵ Bring offerings of bread to thank me,
and *other* offerings that are not required/
commanded,
and boast about *these offerings that you bring,*
because that is what you like to do,
but you do it to impress others, not to please me.
*That is certainly true, because I, Yahweh, have
said it.*

⁶ *I am the one who* caused there to be no food in
any of your cities and towns [DOU],
but you rejected me in spite of that.

⁷ When it was still three months before *the time
of harvesting crops,*
*at the time when your crops needed rain the
most,*
I prevented rain from falling.

Sometimes I allowed rain to fall on some towns
and prevented it from falling on other towns.

Rain fell on some fields,
but it did not fall on other fields,
with the result that *the soil in* those fields
where it did not rain dried up.

⁸ People would stagger from one town to another
town to find water,

but they could not even get enough water to drink,
but in spite of that, you have not returned to me.

That is certainly true because I, Yahweh, have said it!

⁹ I caused your grain fields to dry up;
I caused your gardens and vineyards to be struck/destroyed by ◀blight/hot winds▶ and mildew.

I sent locusts to eat the leaves on your fig trees and olive trees,
but in spite of that, you rejected me.

That is certainly true because I, Yahweh, have said it!

¹⁰ I caused you to experience ◀plagues/severe sicknesses▶
like the plagues *that I sent to the people of Egypt.*

I caused *many of your young men to die in battles.*

I allowed *your enemies to capture your horses.*

Many of your soldiers were killed,
and I caused your camps to be filled with the smell/stink of their *decaying* corpses.

But in spite of that, you rejected me.

That is certainly true, because I, Yahweh, have said it!

¹¹ I got rid of many of you,

like I got rid of *the people in Sodom and Gomorrah*.
Those of you who did not die were like [SIM] a burning stick that was snatched from a fire *so that it would not burn completely*.
 But in spite of that, you rejected me.
That is certainly true, because I, Yahweh, have said it!

¹² So *now, you people of Israel*, I am going to punish you.
 Prepare to stand in front of me, your God, *when I judge you!*

¹³ I created the mountains,
 and *I* created winds.
 I reveal to humans what I am thinking.
 I *sometimes* cause the daylight to become dark *like the night*.
 I *rule over everything*;
 I *even* walk on the highest mountains on the earth!
 I am the Commander of the armies of angels!"

5

The people of Israel must repent

¹ You people [MTY] of Israel, listen to this funeral song that I will sing about you:

² "You are like [MET] a young woman,
 but in spite of that, you will certainly be struck down
 and you will never get up again!

You will lie on the ground, abandoned,
and there will be no one to help you stand
up.”

³ This is what Yahweh the Lord says to the
people [MTY] of Israel:

“*When your enemies attack you,*
and when 1,000 *of your soldiers* will go to a battle,
there will be only 100 who will survive.
When 100 soldiers march out *from a city to fight,*
there will be only ten who will remain alive.”

⁴ Yahweh continues to say to the people [MTY]
of Israel:

“You Israeli people, return to me!
If you do that, you will continue to remain
alive.

⁵ Do not go to Bethel to seek *my help*;
do not go to Gilgal *to worship*;
do not *even* go to Beersheba,
because *your enemies* will drag away *the*
people of Gilgal to other countries,
and Bethel will be completely destroyed.”

⁶ So, come to Yahweh;
if you do that, you will remain alive.

If you do not do that,
Yahweh will descend on you descendants
[MTY] of Joseph like [SIM] a fire;
that fire will burn everything in Bethel,
and ◀nothing/no one▶ will be able to save
that town.

⁷ You people distort what is fair/right and cause
people to think that it is something that is
very bitter;
you treat good things as though they are evil.

⁸ *Do you know who* created all the groups of stars
and put them in their places?

Each morning he causes the darkness to become
the dawn,
and *each evening* he causes the daylight to
become darkness.

He scoops up water from the oceans *to become*
clouds,
and then he dumps the water *from the clouds*
onto the earth.

The one who does those things is named Yahweh.

⁹ He causes strong *soldiers* to be killed,
and causes the ◀high walls around/
fortresses of▶ cities to be torn down.

¹⁰ *He is the one who will punish you*
because you hate those who challenge any-
one who tries to make unjust decisions,
and you hate those who tell the truth in your
courts.

¹¹ You oppress poor people and force them to pay
big taxes.

You have built big stone mansions *for yourselves*,
but you will not be able to live in them.

You have planted vineyards,
but there will not be any *grapes for you to*
harvest to make wine.

¹² I know all of your sins

and the terrible crimes that you have committed.

You oppress righteous/honest people,
and you accept bribes.

You do not allow judges to treat poor people justly.

¹³ This is a time when *many people do* evil things,
so people who have good sense say nothing
when they hear about such things being done.

¹⁴ In order to remain alive,
you must stop doing what is wrong, and start
doing what is right.

If you do that, the Commander of the armies of
angels will be with you
like you claim *that he always is.*

¹⁵ Love what is good, and hate what is evil!
Try to cause *judges* in your courts to make
decisions that are right/fair!

If you do those things, perhaps the Commander
of the armies of angels
will act mercifully toward *you descendants*
of Joseph who are still alive.

¹⁶ "Because I, Yahweh, *will punish you for your sins*, this is what I have solemnly declared:
People will be wailing loudly in every street,
and people will be very sorrowful in every
plaza.

Farmers will be summoned to *come and weep*,
along with the other official mourners who
will wail *for those who have died.*

¹⁷ People will be wailing in your vineyards,

because I will punish you [IDM] severely.
That will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it!"

The day of punishment

18 Terrible things will happen to you who desire
 that it will soon be the day when Yahweh
will punish your enemies,
 because that will be a day of darkness, not
 of light.

19 *At that time,* when you try to run from a lion,
 you will face a bear.

When you run into your house *to be safe,*
 and you put your hand on a wall,
 it will be bitten by a snake.

20 That day, *when he punishes people,* will cer-
 tainly be [RHQ] a very dark day [MET],
 without even a little bit of light.

21 *Yahweh says,* "I hate your religious celebra-
 tions
 and the times when you gather to worship
 me;
 I detest them [DOU].

22 Even if you bring me offerings that will
 be completely burned *on the altar* and
 offerings of grain,
 I will no longer accept them.

Even if you bring me offerings to renew/main-
 tain fellowship with me,
 I will not pay any attention to them.

23 So, stop singing noisy/loud songs!
 I will not listen when you play harps.

- 24 Instead, your continually acting justly/fairly and righteously should be *never stop*, like [SIM] *the water in a river that never stops flowing*.
- 25 You Israeli people [MTY], your *ancestors* wandered through the desert for 40 years; and during that time, they never brought any sacrifices and offerings to me!
- 26 But they carried the two idols that they had made—
the idols of Succoth, the god *that they considered to be* their king,
and Kaiwan, *the image of the star that they worshiped*.
- 27 Therefore, now I will force you to go to *a country that is far beyond Damascus!*
That will surely happen because I, the Commander of the armies of angels, have said it!"

6

Israel will be punished

- 1 Terrible things will happen to you people in Jerusalem who are not worried about anything,
and also to you leaders who live on Samaria Hill who think that you are safe.
You think that [IRO] you are the most important people in the world,
people to whom Israeli people [MTY] go to *get help*.
- 2 But go to Calneh city and see *what happened there*.

Then go to *see* the great *city* Hamath *and see what happened there.*

Then go down to Gath *city* in Philistia *and see what happened to their city walls.*

Your land/country is certainly not [RHQ] larger or more powerful than their countries were,
but they were all destroyed.

³ You are trying to not think about a day when you will experience disasters,
when your enemies will come and violently attack you.

⁴ You lie on beds *decorated with expensive* ivory,
and on *soft* couches.

You eat *the tender meat of* lambs
and fat calves.

⁵ You create/compose new songs
and play them on your harps like *King David* did.

⁶ You drink entire bowlfuls of wine
and you put expensive oils/perfumes on your bodies,
but you do not grieve about *your country of* Israel [MTY], which is about to be destroyed.

⁷ Your feasting and lounging *on soft couches* will soon end,
and you will be among the first ones to be forced *by your enemies* to go ◀into exile/to another country▶.

Yahweh detests the Israelis for being very proud

⁸ Yahweh the Lord has solemnly declared this:

“I hate the people of Israel because they are very proud;
 I detest their fortresses.
 I will enable *their enemies* to capture their *capital city*
 and everything in it.”

⁹ *When that happens*, if there are ten people in one house, they will all die. ¹⁰ If a relative who ◀has the task of/is responsible for▶ burning their corpses comes to the house and inquires of anyone who is still hiding there, “Is there anyone here with you?”, and that person replies “No,” *the one who inquired* will say, “Be quiet! We must not mention the name of Yahweh, lest he cause us also to be killed!”

¹¹ *Terrible things like that will happen* because Yahweh has commanded that large houses *in Israel* must be smashed into pieces, and small houses must be smashed into tiny bits.

¹² Horses certainly do not [RHQ] run on big rocks, and certainly people do not [RHQ] plow the sea with oxen.

But you have *done things that no one should do*:
 You have distorted what is fair/right and caused it to be considered like poison [MET];
 you have changed what is right and consider it to be like things that are bitter.

¹³ You are proud because you have captured Lo-Debar *town*,
 and you have said, “We captured Karnaim by our own power!”

14 But the Commander of the armies of angels declares,
 “I will cause another nation to attack you people [MTY] of Israel;
 they will ◀oppress you/cause you to suffer▶
 all the way from Hamath Pass *in the northwest*
 to the Dead Sea *in the southeast.*”

7

Visions that Yahweh gave to Joel

¹ Yahweh our God showed me *in a vision* that he was going to send locusts *to destroy our crops*. It was going to happen right after the king’s share of the hay had been harvested/cut and before the rest of the hay was ready to be harvested. ² *And in the vision I saw* those locusts come, and they ate everything that was green. Then I cried out, “Yahweh our Lord, please forgive us! We Israeli people are very helpless; ◀how will we be able to survive [RHQ]?/we will not be able to survive!▶”

³ So Yahweh changed his mind and said, “That will not happen.”

⁴ Then this is what Yahweh our Lord showed me *in another vision*: He was calling to a fire to *come and punish his people*. *In the vision I saw* that the fire dried up the ocean and also burned *everything on the land*. ⁵ Then I cried out again, “Yahweh our Lord, I plead with you, please stop this! We Israeli people are very helpless; how will we be able to survive [RHQ]?”

⁶ So Yahweh changed his mind again, and said, "That also will not happen."

⁷ Then Yahweh showed me *another vision*. I saw him standing beside a wall. *It was very straight because* it had been built using a ◀plumb line/cord with a weight on one end to determine if walls are vertically straight▶. Yahweh had the plumb line in his hand. ⁸ Yahweh asked me, "Amos, what do you see?"

I replied, "A plumb line."

Then Yahweh said, "Look, I am going to use a plumb line among my Israeli people, *to show that they are like a wall that is not straight*. I will not change my mind again about punishing them.

⁹ The places on hills where *the descendants of* [MTY] Isaac worship *idols* will be destroyed.

And the other important shrines in Israel will also be destroyed.

And I will enable *your enemies* to attack your people with swords and they will get rid of *King Jeroboam* and all his descendants."

Amaziah criticized Amos

¹⁰ Then Amaziah, the priest at Bethel, sent a *message* to Jeroboam, the King of Israel. In the message he said, "Amos is plotting against you among the Israeli people [MTY]. *I am worried that* the people of this country will not be able to refute his words. ¹¹ This is what he is saying: 'Jeroboam will soon be killed by *someone using* a sword,

and the people of Israel will be ◀exiled/
forced to leave their land and go to an-
other country▶.’ ”

¹² Then Amaziah *came to me and* said, “You prophet, get out of here! Go back to the country of Judah! Earn money to *buy food to be able* to live there, and do your prophesying there!

¹³ Do not prophesy any more here at Bethel, because this is where the national temple, the king’s temple, is!”

¹⁴ I replied to Amaziah, “I was *previously* not a prophet, and my father was not a prophet; I was a shepherd. I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. ¹⁵ But Yahweh took me away from taking care of my sheep, and he said to me, ‘Go to Israel and prophesy to my people there!’

¹⁶ You said to me, ‘Do not prophecy saying terrible things will happen to *the people of* Israel;
stop saying those things!’

¹⁷ Therefore listen to what Yahweh says about you:

‘Your wife will become a prostitute in this city,
and your sons and daughters will be killed
by *your enemies’* swords.

Others will measure your land
and divide it up *among themselves*;

and you yourself will die in a foreign country.

And the people of Israel will certainly be forced
to leave their country and go ◀into exile/
to live in another country▶.’ ”

8

A vision of ripe fruit

¹ Yahweh showed me *in a vision* a basket full of ripe fruit. ² He asked me, “Amos, what do you see?”

I replied, “A basket of *very* ripe fruit.”

He said, “That indicates that it almost the end for my Israeli people. I will not change my mind again about punishing them.

³ *Soon*, instead of singing in the temple, they will be wailing. There will be corpses everywhere [HYP]. So, remain silent (OR, Everyone will be silent). *These things will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it!*”

Israel will be destroyed

⁴ *It is as though* you people trample on needy people,
and you destroy the poor people.

⁵ You habitually say,
“We wish that [RHQ] the new moon *festival*
would end soon,
in order that *restrictions on doing business*
during the festival will be ended
and we can sell grain.

We wish that the Sabbath would end soon,
in order that we will again be permitted to
sell our wheat”—

and *when you sell it*,
you charge a big price for it,
and you cheat people by using scales that do not
weigh correctly.

⁶ You sell wheat that you have swept up from the
floor, and as a result it is mixed with dirt.

Those who are needy and poor [DOU] and
 who do not have money *to buy things*,
 you cause them to become your slaves
 by buying them with the *small amount of*
 silver *with which you could buy* a pair of
 sandals!

⁷ Yahweh has declared, “Although you are very
 proud of *being descendants* [MTY] of Jacob, I
 solemnly declare that I will not forget the *evil*
things that you have done.

⁸ *Because of those evil things*, your country will
 certainly [RHQ] soon be shaken,
 and all of you will mourn.

It will be as though it will repeatedly rise and fall
 like [SIM] the Nile River that gets full of
 water *and overflows it banks*
 and then settles back into its riverbed.

⁹ On the day *when I punish my people*,
 I will cause the sun to set at noontime,
 and the *entire* earth will be dark in the
 daytime.

¹⁰ I will cause your *religious* celebrations to
 become times when you mourn;
 instead of singing, everyone will be weeping.
 Because of what I *will do*, all of you will wear
 rough sackcloth and shave your heads
to show that you are sorrowing.

I will cause that time to be like when people
 mourn after an only son *has died*.
 All of you will be extremely sad all of that
 day.”

11 And Yahweh our God says this:

“It will *soon* be the time when I will cause something to be very scarce [MET] throughout the country.

But it will not be a time when there is no food or water;

it will instead be a time when there will be no messages from me for anyone to hear.

12 People will stagger from the *Dead* Sea to the *Mediterranean* Sea,

and wander from the north to the east, searching for a message from me, but there will not be any.

13 At that time,

even beautiful young women and strong young men will faint because of being very thirsty.

14 Those who ◀make oaths/solemnly promise to do something▶ using the names of their shameful gods of Samaria, and those who solemnly promise to do something *using the name of* the god of Dan, and those who solemnly promise to do something *using the name of* the god of Beersheba,

will all die; and they will never live again.”

9

Israel will be punished

¹ Yahweh *showed me another vision*. In the vision, I saw him standing next to the altar. He said,

“Shake the tops of the pillars *of the temple*,
until they become loose and fall down,
so that even the foundation will shake.
Then cause the *pieces of the temple* to fall down
on the people *who are inside*.

I will kill with a sword anyone who *tries to flee*;
no one will escape.

² If they dig deep pits in the ground,
or if they try to climb up to the sky
in order to escape,

I will reach out and grab them.

³ If they go to the top of Carmel *Mountain* to
escape,

I will search for them and seize them.

If they *try to hide* from me at the bottom of the
sea,

I will command the *huge* sea monster to bite
them.

⁴ If their enemies *capture them and* force them to
go to other countries,

I will command that they be killed there with
swords.

I am determined [IDM] to get rid of them, not to
help them.”

⁵ When the Commander of the armies of angels
touches the earth, it melts,
and all over the earth *many people die, and*
the others mourn for them.

It is as though Yahweh causes the earth repeat-
edly to rise and fall

like [SIM] the Nile *River* rises and falls.

⁶ He builds his *beautiful* palace in heaven,

and sets/causes the sky to be like a dome
 over the earth.
 He scoops up the water from the ocean and *puts
 it into clouds*,
 and then empties *the clouds* onto the earth.
 His name is Yahweh.

⁷ And Yahweh says, “You people of Israel,
 you are certainly [RHQ] *now no more impor-
 tant to me* than the people of Ethiopia.
 I brought your *ancestors* here from Egypt,
 but I also brought the people of Philistia
 from *Crete Island*,
 and I brought the people of Syria from the
 Kir *region*.

⁸ I [SYN], Yahweh the Lord, have seen that you
 people in the kingdom of *Israel* are very
 sinful,
 so I will ◀destroy you/wipe you off the
 earth▶.
 But I will not get rid of all you descendants [MTY]
 of Jacob.
That is what will surely happen because I,
 Yahweh, have said it.

⁹ When I command it, *it will be as though* I will
 shake you Israeli people *who are living in*
 various nations,
 like [MET] *a farmer* shakes a sieve to *sepa-
 rate* the stone pebbles *from the grain*,
 in order that they do not fall on the ground
with the grain.

¹⁰ From among my people,

all you sinful people who say, 'We will not experience disasters; nothing evil will happen to us,'
will be killed by *your enemies'* swords."

Yahweh promised to restore Israel

11 "The kingdom over which King David ruled has been destroyed, like [MET] a house that collapsed and then became ruins.

But some day I will cause it to be a kingdom again.

I will cause it to prosper again just like it did previously.

12 When that happens, your *armies* will seize/capture the remaining part of Edom *region* again,

and they will also seize the land in other nations that previously belonged to me [MTY].

I, Yahweh, have said *that I will do these things*, and I will certainly cause them to happen.

13 There will be a time *when your crops will grow very well*.

Very soon after the crops are harvested, farmers will plow the ground *to plant more crops in it again*,

and soon after the vineyards are planted, *farmers will harvest grapes and tread on them to make wine*.

And because there will be a lot of wine, it will seem as though wine is flowing down from the hills [DOU].

14 I will cause you, my Israeli people, to prosper again.

You will rebuild your towns and live in them.
You will plant vineyards and then drink the wine
made from the grapes that grows in them.

15 I will enable you to live [MET] in your land again,

the land that I gave to *your ancestors*,
and never again will you be forced to leave it.
That is what will surely happen because I, Yahweh, have said it."

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