Amos

1 These are the words of Amos, who was
among the sheep breeders* of Tekoa—what he
saw concerning Israel two years† before the
earthquake, in the days when Uzziah was king
of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash‡ was king
of Israel.
2 He said:

"The LORD roars from Zion
and raises his voice from Jerusalem;
the pastures of the shepherds mourn,
and the summit of Carmel withers."
3 This is what the LORD says:

"For three transgressions of Damascus, even
four,
I will not revoke my judgment,§
because they threshed Gilead
with sledges of iron.
4 So I will send fire upon the house of Hazael
to consume the citadels of Ben-hadad.
5 I will break down the gates of Damascus;
I will cut off the inhabitants* from the
Valley of Aven†
and the one who wields the scepter in Beth-eden.

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* **1:1 1:1** Or *sheepherders* † **1:1 1:1** Or *during the two years* ‡ **1:1 1:1** Hebrew *Joash*, a variant of *Jehoash* § **1:3 1:3** Or *I will not revoke the punishment*; Hebrew *I will not revoke it*; also in verses 6, 9, 11, and 13 * **1:5 1:5** Or *the ruler* † **1:5 1:5** *Aven* means *wickedness*.

The people of Aram will be exiled to Kir,"
says the LORD.
6 This is what the LORD says:

"For three transgressions of Gaza, even four,
I will not revoke my judgment,
because they exiled a whole population,
delivering them up to Edom.
7 So I will send fire upon the walls of Gaza,
to consume its citadels.
8 I will cut off the ruler of Ashdod
and the one who wields the scepter in
Ashkelon.
I will turn my hand against Ekron,
and the remnant of the Philistines will
perish,"
says the Lord GOD.
9 This is what the LORD says:

"For three transgressions of Tyre, even four,
I will not revoke my judgment,
because they delivered up a whole congregation
of exiles to Edom
and broke a covenant of brotherhood.
10 So I will send fire upon the walls of Tyre
to consume its citadels."
11 This is what the LORD says:

"For three transgressions of Edom, even four,
I will not revoke my judgment,
because he pursued his brother with the sword
and stifled all compassion;
his anger raged continually,
and his fury flamed incessantly.

12 So I will send fire upon Teman
to consume the citadels of Bozrah.”
13 This is what the LORD says:

“For three transgressions of the Ammonites,
even four,
I will not revoke my judgment,
because they ripped open the pregnant women
of Gilead
in order to enlarge their territory.
14 So I will kindle a fire in the walls of Rabbah
to consume its citadels
amid war cries on the day of battle
and a violent wind on the day of tempest.
15 Their king will go into exile‡—
he and his princes together,”
says the LORD.

2

1 This is what the LORD says:
“For three transgressions of Moab, even four,
I will not revoke my judgment,*
because he burned to lime
the bones of Edom’s king.
2 So I will send fire against Moab
to consume the citadels of Kerioth.
Moab will die in tumult,
amid war cries and the sound of the ram’s
horn.
3 I will cut off the ruler of Moab

‡ **1:15 1:15** Possibly *Milcom will go into exile*; Milcom, also called Molech, was god of the Ammonites; see Leviticus 18:21 and 1 Kings 11:7. * **2:1 2:1** Or *I will not revoke the punishment*; Hebrew *I will not revoke it*; also in verses 4 and 6

and kill all the officials with him,"
says the LORD.
4 This is what the LORD says:

"For three transgressions of Judah, even four,
I will not revoke my judgment,
because they reject the Teaching of the LORD
and fail to keep his statutes;
they are led astray by the lies
in which their fathers walked.
5 So I will send fire upon Judah
to consume the citadels of Jerusalem."
6 This is what the LORD says:

"For three transgressions of Israel, even four,
I will not revoke my judgment,
because they sell the righteous for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals.
7 They trample on the heads of the poor
as on the dust of the earth;
they push the needy out of their way.
A man and his father
have relations with the same girl
and so profane my holy name.
8 They lie down beside every altar
on garments taken in pledge.
And in the house of their God,†
they drink wine obtained through fines.‡

9 Yet it was I who destroyed
the Amorite before them,

† **2:8 2:8** Or *of their gods* ‡ **2:8 2:8** Or *they drink the wine of those who have been fined*

though his height was like that of the cedars,
and he was as strong as the oaks.
Yet I destroyed his fruit above
and his roots below.
10 And I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and led you forty years in the wilderness,
that you might take possession
of the land of the Amorite.
11 I raised up prophets from your sons
and Nazirites from your young men.
Is this not true,
O children of Israel?”
declares the LORD.
12 “But you made the Nazirites drink wine
and commanded the prophets not to
prophesy.
13 Behold, I am about to crush you in your place
as with a cart full of grain.
14 Escape will fail the swift,
the strong will not prevail by his strength,
and the mighty will not save his life.
15 The archer will not stand his ground,
the fleet of foot will not escape,
and the horseman will not save his life.
16 Even the bravest of mighty men
will flee naked on that day,”
declares the LORD.

3

1 Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt:

2 “Only you have I chosen*
from all the families of the earth;
therefore I will punish you
for all your iniquities.”

3 Can two walk together
without an appointment to meet?†
4 Does a lion roar in the forest
when he has no prey?
Does a young lion growl in his den
if he has caught nothing?
5 Does a bird land in a snare
on the ground where no bait has been set?
Does a trap spring from the ground
when it has nothing to catch?
6 If a ram’s horn sounds in a city,
do the people not tremble?
If calamity comes to a city,
has not the LORD caused it?

7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing
without revealing his plan
to his servants the prophets.
8 The lion has roared—
who will not fear?
The Lord GOD has spoken—
who will not prophesy?

9 Proclaim to the citadels of Ashdod
and to the citadels of Egypt:
“Assemble on the mountains of Samaria;
see the great unrest in the city

* **3:2** **3:2** Or *known* † **3:3** **3:3** Or *without agreeing where to go*

and the acts of oppression in her midst."

10 "For they know not how to do right,"
declares the LORD.
"They store up violence and destruction
in their citadels."
11 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says:

"An enemy‡ will surround the land;
he will pull down your strongholds
and plunder your citadels."
12 This is what the LORD says:

"As the shepherd snatches from the mouth of the lion
two legs or a piece of an ear,
so the Israelites dwelling in Samaria will be rescued
having just the corner of a bed
or the cushion of a couch.§

13 Hear and testify against the house of Jacob,
declares the Lord GOD, the God of Hosts.
14 On the day I punish Israel for their transgressions,
I will visit destruction on the altars of Bethel;
the horns of the altar will be cut off,
and they will fall to the ground.
15 I will tear down the winter house
along with the summer house;

‡ **3:11 3:11** Or *An adversary* § **3:12 3:12** Or *so will the Israelites be snatched away, those who sit in Samaria on the edge of their beds and in Damascus on their couches*

the houses of ivory will also perish,
and the great houses will come to an end,"
declares the LORD.

4

1 Hear this word,
you cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria,
you women who oppress the poor
and crush the needy,
who say to your husbands,
"Bring us more to drink."
2 The Lord GOD has sworn by his holiness:

"Behold, the days are coming
when you will be taken away with hooks,
and your posterity with fishhooks.
3 You will go out through broken walls,
each one straight ahead of her,
and you will be cast out toward Harmon,*"
declares the LORD.
4 "Go to Bethel and transgress;
rebel even more at Gilgal!
Bring your sacrifices every morning,
your tithes every three days.†
5 Offer leavened bread as a thank offering,
and loudly proclaim your freewill offerings.
For that is what you children of Israel love
to do,"
declares the Lord GOD.
6 "I afflicted all your cities with cleanness of
teeth‡

* **4:3 4:3** That is, possibly Mount Hermon † **4:4 4:4** Or *years*
‡ **4:6 4:6** That is, *with empty stomachs*

and all your towns with lack of bread,
yet you did not return to me,"
declares the LORD.
7 "I also withheld the rain from you
when the harvest was three months away.
I sent rain on one city
but withheld it from another.
One field received rain;
another without rain withered.
8 People staggered from city to city
for water to drink,
but they were not satisfied;
yet you did not return to me,"
declares the LORD.
9 "I struck you with blight and mildew
in your growing gardens and vineyards;
the locust devoured your fig and olive trees,
yet you did not return to me,"
declares the LORD.
10 "I sent plagues among you
like those of Egypt;
I killed your young men with the sword,
along with your captured horses.
I filled your nostrils with the stench of your camp,
yet you did not return to me,"
declares the LORD.
11 "Some of you I overthrew
as I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah,
and you were like a firebrand§ snatched from a blaze,
yet you did not return to me,"
declares the LORD.

§ **4:11 4:11** That is, *a burning stick*

12 “Therefore, that is what I will do
to you, O Israel,
and since I will do this to you,
prepare to meet your God, O Israel!
13 For behold, he who forms the mountains,
who creates the wind
and reveals his thoughts to man,
who turns the dawn to darkness
and strides on the heights of the earth—
the LORD, the God of Hosts, is his name.”

5

1 Hear this word, O house of Israel, this
lamentation I take up against you:

2 “Fallen is Virgin Israel,
never to rise again.
She lies abandoned on her land,
with no one to raise her up.”
3 This is what the Lord GOD says:

“The city that marches out a thousand strong
will have but a hundred left,
and the one that marches out a hundred strong
will have but ten left in the house of Israel.”
4 For this is what the LORD says to the house
of Israel:

“Seek me and live!

5 Do not seek Bethel or go to Gilgal;
do not journey to Beersheba,
for Gilgal will surely go into exile,

and Bethel will come to nothing.*
6 Seek the LORD and live,
or he will sweep like fire through the house
of Joseph;
it will devour everything,
with no one at Bethel to extinguish it.

7 There are those who turn justice into
wormwood
and cast righteousness to the ground.

8 He who made the Pleiades and Orion,
who turns darkness into dawn
and darkens day into night,
who summons the waters of the sea
and pours them over the face of the earth—
the LORD is his name—
9 he flashes destruction on the strong,
so that fury comes upon the stronghold.

10 There are those who hate the one who
reproves in the gate
and despise him who speaks with integrity.
11 Therefore, because you trample on the poor
and exact from him a tax of grain,
you will never live
in the stone houses you have built;
you will never drink the wine
from the lush vineyards you have planted.

12 For I know that your transgressions are many

* **5:5 5:5** Hebrew *to Aven*, a reference to Beth-aven, a derogatory term for Bethel; see Hosea 4:15.

and your sins are numerous.
You oppress the righteous by taking bribes;
you deprive the poor of justice in the gate.
13 Therefore, the prudent keep silent in such times,
for the days are evil.

14 Seek good, not evil,
so that you may live.
And the LORD, the God of Hosts,
will be with you, as you have claimed.
15 Hate evil and love good;
establish justice in the gate.
Perhaps the LORD, the God of Hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph."
16 Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Hosts, the Lord, says:

"There will be wailing in all the public squares
and cries of 'Alas! Alas!' in all the streets.
The farmer will be summoned to mourn,
and the mourners to wail.
17 There will be wailing in all the vineyards,
for I will pass through your midst,"
says the LORD.
18 Woe to you who long for the Day of the LORD!
What will the Day of the LORD be for you?
It will be darkness and not light.
19 It will be like a man who flees from a lion,
only to encounter a bear,
or who enters his house and rests his hand against the wall,
only to be bitten by a snake.

20 Will not the Day of the LORD
be darkness and not light,
even gloom with no brightness in it?

21 “I hate, I despise your feasts!
I cannot stand the stench of your solemn
assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me burnt offerings and
grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
for your peace offerings of fattened cattle
I will have no regard.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.
24 But let justice roll on like a river,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing
stream.

25 Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings
forty years in the wilderness, O house of
Israel?
26 You have taken along Sakkuth your king
and Kaiwan your star god,†
the idols you made for yourselves.
27 Therefore I will send you into exile beyond
Damascus,”
says the LORD, whose name is the God of
Hosts.

6

1 Woe to those at ease in Zion
and those secure on Mount Samaria,

† **5:26 5:26** LXX *you have taken along the tabernacle of Molech and the star of your god Rephan*

the distinguished ones of the foremost nation,
to whom the house of Israel comes.
2 Cross over to Calneh and see;
go from there to the great Hamath;
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.
Are you better than these kingdoms?
Is their territory larger than yours?

3 You dismiss the day of calamity
and bring near a reign of violence.
4 You lie on beds inlaid with ivory,
and lounge upon your couches.
You dine on lambs from the flock
and calves from the stall.
5 You improvise songs on the harp like David
and invent your own musical instruments.
6 You drink wine by the bowlful
and anoint yourselves with the finest oils,
but you fail to grieve
over the ruin of Joseph.

7 Therefore, you will now go into exile
as the first of the captives,
and your feasting and lounging
will come to an end.
8 The Lord GOD has sworn by himself—the
LORD, the God of Hosts, has declared:

"I abhor Jacob's pride
and detest his citadels,
so I will deliver up the city
and everything in it."
9 And if there are ten men left in one house,
they too will die.

10 And when the relative who is to make a
funeral fire to honor the dead* picks them up to
remove them from the house, he will call to one
inside, “Is anyone else with you?”
“None,” that person will answer.
“Silence,” the relative will retort, “for the name
of the LORD must not be invoked.”
11 For the LORD gives a command:

“The great house will be smashed to pieces,
and the small house to rubble.”

12 “Do horses gallop on the cliffs?
Does one plow there with oxen?†
But you have turned justice into poison
and the fruit of righteousness into
wormwood—
13 you who rejoice in Lo-debar‡ and say,
‘Did we not take Karnaim§ by our own
strength?’
14 For behold, I will raise up a nation
against you, O house of Israel,”
declares the LORD, the God of Hosts,
“and they will oppress you
from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of the
Arabah.”

7

1 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: He
was preparing swarms of locusts just after the

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* **6:10 6:10** Or *to burn the bodies* † **6:12 6:12** By emendation *Does one plow the sea with oxen?* ‡ **6:13 6:13** *Lo-debar* means *nothing.* § **6:13 6:13** *Karnaim* means *horn,* a symbol of strength.

king's harvest, as the late spring crop was
coming up.*
2 And when the locusts had eaten every green
plant in the land, I said, "Lord GOD, please
forgive! How will Jacob survive, since he is so
small?"
3 So the LORD relented from this plan. "It will
not happen," he said.
4 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: The
Lord GOD was calling for judgment by fire. It
consumed the great deep and devoured the land.
5 Then I said, "Lord GOD, please stop! How will
Jacob survive, since he is so small?"
6 So the LORD relented from this plan. "It will
not happen either," said the Lord GOD.
7 This is what he showed me: Behold, the Lord
was standing by a wall true to plumb, with a
plumb line in his hand.
8 "Amos, what do you see?" asked the LORD.
"A plumb line," I replied.
"Behold," said the Lord, "I am setting a plumb
line among my people Israel; I will no longer
spare them:

9 The high places of Isaac will be deserted,
and the sanctuaries of Israel will be laid
waste;
and I will rise up against the house of Jeroboam
with the sword."
10 Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent word
to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has

* **7:1** **7:1** LXX *A swarm of locusts coming from the east; and, behold, one grasshopper, king Gog.*

conspired against you in the midst of the house
of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words,
11 for this is what Amos has said:

'Jeroboam will die by the sword,
and Israel will surely go into exile,
away from their homeland.' "
12 And Amaziah said to Amos, "Go away, you
seer! Flee to the land of Judah; earn your bread
there and do your prophesying there.
13 But never prophesy at Bethel again, because
it is the sanctuary of the king and the temple of
the kingdom."
14 "I am not† a prophet," Amos replied, "nor am
I the son‡ of a prophet; rather, I am a herdsman
and a tender of sycamore-fig trees.
15 But the LORD took me from following the
flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people
Israel.'
16 Now, therefore, hear the word of the LORD.
You say:

'Do not prophesy against Israel;
do not preach against the house of Isaac.'
17 Therefore this is what the LORD says:

'Your wife will become a prostitute in the city,
and your sons and daughters will fall by the
sword.
Your land will be divided by a measuring line,
and you yourself will die on pagan§ soil.

† **7:14 7:14** Or *I was not* ‡ **7:14 7:14** Or *nor was I the son* § **7:17 7:17** Hebrew *unclean*

And Israel will surely go into exile,
away from their homeland.' "

8

1 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: I saw
a basket of summer fruit.*
2 "Amos, what do you see?" He asked.
"A basket of summer fruit," I replied.
So the LORD said to me, "The end has come for
my people Israel; I will no longer spare them."
3 "In that day," declares the Lord GOD, "the
singing women† of the palace‡ will turn to
wailing. Many will be the corpses, strewn in
silence everywhere!"

4 Hear this, you who trample the needy,
who do away with the poor of the land,
5 asking, "When will the New Moon be over,
that we may sell grain?
When will the Sabbath end,
that we may market wheat?
Let us reduce the ephah and increase the
shekel;§
let us cheat with dishonest scales.
6 Let us buy the poor with silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
selling even the chaff with the wheat!"
7 The LORD has sworn by the Pride of Jacob:

"I will never forget any of their deeds.

* **8:1 8:1** Or *ripe fruit*; also in verse 2 † **8:3 8:3** Or *the songs*
‡ **8:3 8:3** Or *temple* § **8:5 8:5** Or *Let us reduce the measure and increase the price*

8 Will not the land quake for this,
and all its dwellers mourn?
All of it will swell like the Nile;
it will surge and then subside
like the Nile in Egypt.

9 And in that day,
declares the Lord GOD,
I will make the sun go down at noon,
and I will darken the earth in the daytime.
10 I will turn your feasts into mourning
and all your songs into lamentation.
I will cause everyone to wear sackcloth
and every head to be shaved.
I will make it like a time of mourning for an only son,
and its outcome like a bitter day.

11 Behold, the days are coming,
declares the Lord GOD,
when I will send a famine on the land—
not a famine of bread or a thirst for water,
but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.
12 People will stagger from sea to sea
and roam from north to east,
seeking the word of the LORD,
but they will not find it.
13 In that day the lovely young women—
the young men as well—
will faint from thirst.
14 Those who swear by the guilt of Samaria
and say, ‘As surely as your god lives, O Dan,’

or, ‘As surely as the way* of Beersheba lives’—
they will fall, never to rise again.”

9

1 I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and
he said:

“Strike the tops of the pillars
so that the thresholds shake.
Topple them on the heads of all the people,
and I will kill the rest with the sword.
None of those who flee will get away;
none of the fugitives will escape.
2 Though they dig down to Sheol,
from there my hand will take them;
and though they climb up to heaven,
from there I will pull them down.
3 Though they hide themselves atop Carmel,
there I will track them and seize them;
and though they hide from me at the bottom of
the sea,
there I will command the serpent* to bite
them.
4 Though they are driven by their enemies into
captivity,
there I will command the sword to slay
them.
I will fix my eyes upon them
for harm and not for good.”

5 The Lord GOD of Hosts,
he who touches the earth and it melts,

* **8:14 8:14** Or *the god* * **9:3 9:3** Hebrew *nachash*; translated in most cases as *snake*

and all its dwellers mourn—
all the land rises like the Nile,
then sinks like the river of Egypt—
6 he builds his upper rooms in the heavens
and founds his vault upon the earth.
He summons the waters of the sea
and pours them over the face of the earth.
The LORD is his name.

7 "Are you not like the Cushites† to me,
O children of Israel?"
declares the LORD.
"Did I not bring Israel
up from the land of Egypt,
the Philistines from Caphtor,‡
and the Arameans from Kir?
8 Surely the eyes of the Lord GOD
are on the sinful kingdom,
and I will destroy it from the face of the earth.
Yet I will not utterly destroy the house of
Jacob,"
declares the LORD.
9 "For surely I will give the command,
and I will shake the house of Israel
among all the nations
as grain is sifted in a sieve;
but not a pebble will reach the ground.
10 All the sinners among my people
will die by the sword—
all those who say,
'Disaster will never draw near or confront
us.' "

† **9:7 9:7** That is, people from the upper Nile region ‡ **9:7 9:7** That is, Crete

11 “In that day I will restore
the fallen tent of David.
I will repair its gaps, restore its ruins,
and rebuild it as in the days of old,
12 that they may possess the remnant of Edom
and all the nations that bear my name,”§
declares the LORD, who will do this.
13 “Behold, the days are coming,”
declares the LORD,
“when the plowman will overtake the reaper
and the treader of grapes, the sower of seed.
The mountains will drip with sweet wine,
with which all the hills will flow.
14 I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel;*
they will rebuild and inhabit the ruined
cities.
They will plant vineyards and drink their wine;
they will make gardens and eat their fruit.
15 I will firmly plant them in their own land,
never again to be uprooted
from the land that I have given them,”
says the LORD your God.

§ **9:12 9:12** LXX *that the remnant of men, and all the nations that bear my name, may earnestly seek me* * **9:14 9:14** Or *restore my people Israel from captivity*

Masoretic English Tanakh

The Tanakh (Law, Prophets, and Writings) of the Holy Bible in English, conformed to the Masoretic Text.

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