

Amos 1:1-15

The book of Amos is about the nation of Israel and surrounding gentile nations. The timeframe it's talking about - 750 B.C. - is parallel to what our nation is going through today. Most of the happenings today are not good. We need to take heed and wake up before terrible things happen. Too many people have the idea that we're too big to fail. That's not true. Anything can fail-size doesn't matter. Today we've seen GM, Citigroup, AIG insurance all fail, along with many banks.

Setting: Amos was a simple herdsman who came from a simple family and a simple life. God chose this simple man for a wonderful job. When "Israel" is mentioned in this book, it is not the nation of Israel but rather the 12 tribes of Israel. He comes from a small village about 10 miles south of Jerusalem. At that time, things were prospering for the people, and things had become so great and so corrupt that God decided to judge the people. God at that time never judged people without some warning beforehand. During the time of Amos, many prophets were warning people of pending judgment. Today there are many people warning others of pending judgment who are being ignored and stifled by corrupt people right here in America. The name "Jesus" is highly offensive to many, and this is very dangerous.

1:1 ¶ The words of Amos, who was among the herdsmen 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. The word "saw" means a vision in this context. Amos was given a warning about the earthquake to pass on to others. Jeroboam and Joash were the ruling kings at the time. Some people had set up golden calves to worship, and this became the center of their worship, and this angered God.

2 And he said, Jehovah will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the pastures of the shepherds shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither. Amos said this is going to be so bad that when God gets fed up, He will roar and charge from the north like an angry male lion. If you've ever heard a male lion roar, it is something you will never forget. It shakes you to your core. It's going to be a bad time.

3 ¶ Thus saith Jehovah: For three transgressions of Damascus, yea, for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have threshed Gilead with threshing instruments of iron: The "3 transgressions of Damascus, yea, for four" is a Hebrewism. It means sin upon sin has been judged by God. It means God is fed up with your attitude and He's had enough. Discipline and judgment is coming, and it shall be harsh. It's like a parent who's had enough of the misbehaving of his kids and it's time for a spanking. You can bet your bottom dollar its coming. Now Amos is getting into the gentile nations that surround Israel - Gilead, etc. These people have treated their fellow man so bad, putting some people in slavery, or they'd take a heavy instrument with iron rungs on the bottom to separate the grain from the husk, these people would take kids and lay them down and run over them with this farming equipment. They were Very Evil.

4 but I will send a fire into the house of Hazael, and it shall devour the palaces of Ben-hadad.

5 And I will break the bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitant from the valley of Aven, and him that holdeth the sceptre from the house of Eden; and the people of Syria shall go into captivity unto Kir, saith Jehovah.

6 Thus saith Jehovah: For three transgressions of Gaza, yea, for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they carried away captive the whole people, to deliver them up to Edom. This is the same Gaza that is still shooting rockets into Israel today. The Gaza people were going around and capturing whole villages-men, women, and children, and selling those into slavery those they didn't kill first.

7 But I will send a fire on the wall of Gaza, and it shall devour the palaces thereof.

Archeologist have found destroyed palaces. They are so wiped out they don't even have any heirs on the planet today.

8 And I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, and him that holdeth the sceptre from Ashkelon; and I will turn my hand against Ekron; and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish, saith the Lord Jehovah.

9 Thus saith Jehovah: For three transgressions of Tyre, yea, for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they delivered up the whole people to Edom, and remembered not the brotherly covenant: The people of Edom had a truce which they broke and hurt many people.

10 but I will send a fire on the wall of Tyre, and it shall devour the palaces thereof.

11 Thus saith Jehovah: For three transgressions of Edom, yea, for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he did pursue his brother with the sword, and did cast off all pity, and his anger did tear perpetually, and he kept his wrath for ever:

The Edomites had no mercy for the Israelites. They tortured them, killed them, and sold them into slavery with no second thoughts about it. They hated the Israelites for ever and ever.

12 but I will send a fire upon Teman, and it shall devour the palaces of Bozrah.

13 Thus saith Jehovah: For three transgressions of the children of Ammon, yea, for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead, that they may enlarge their border. This means exactly what it says. The Edomites ripped open the pregnant women, killing the baby and mother, so there would be no heirs to the land.

14 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;

15 and their king shall go into captivity, he and his princes together, saith Jehovah.