

Amos - A Just God

Introduction	Judgment of Foreigners
- shepherd from Judah - Called to prophesy to Israel (7:15) - Jeroboam II - Goes to Bethel - Gen 28 - Jacob had a dream - angels on the ladder and when he wrestled with an angel - Now the center of idol worship in Israel - Jeroboam set up 2 golden calves - Bethel and Dan - purpose was to keep the people from going back to the temple - During Uzziah (Judah) and Jeroboam II (Israel) - Warning to Israel to repent before it was too late - The Lord roars from Zion = lions - the lion will devour the lambs - the ground mourns	Damascus 1:3-5 - capital of the Arameans - off to the north of Israel (Syria) - Constant battles between Gilead and Arameans - Threshing - figurative word for the harsh treatment of Aram's armies raking across Gilead and crushing it like grain on a threshing floor - Torture device that was used by Aram - sledge with iron prongs or knives used on prisoners - Human atrocities Gaza 1:6-8 - Philistines to the west - Deported entire populations to deliver them to Edom - Slave trade - Philistines were famous for capturing entire villages and selling them to Edom and from there they were sold throughout the world - Joel 3:4-8 - the slave trade with the sons of Israel Tyre 1:9-10 - Phoenicians = seafarers - Crime against humanity - slavery

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Judgments of "Family"	Judgment of Judah
Edom - 1:11-12 - Edomites - descents of Esau - Jacob's brother (Israel) - Israel asked to pass through Edom's land when in the wilderness - Edom came after Israel with the sword - In Israel's mind they were probably cheering that their bitterest enemy would be destroy They all have in common - their hostility for Israel Ammon 1:13-15 - gross sin - ripping open pregnant women - Was to terrorize their enemies - People were without morals - Greedy for land Moab 2:1-3 - Ammon and Moab are Lot's sons with his daughters after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah - Burned the bones of the king of Edom - Desecrated the graves - Remember Joseph - had his bones taken when they left Egypt going into the promised land	2:4-5 - rejecting the law of the Lord and following false gods - God will send fire upon them and destroy the citadels of Jerusalem Is this the last condemnation from Amos? He will surprise them - 8th - Israel

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Judgment of Israel	Reason for Judgment
2:6-16 1) oppressing the innocent and the poor (6-7) 2) Engaging in pagan practices (7b) - temple prostitutes - participating in pagan rituals 3) Abuse of the system of pledges and fines (8-10) - they weren't returning the cloak at night (Ex 22:26-27) - they used them as a bed at the pagan temples 4) Showing a lack of respect for God's servants - Nazarites and the prophets (12) - coercing the Nazarite to drink and the prophets not to speak They are God's chosen people and God requires more from those to whom He has given more (Lk 12:48) - God had given them the laws - they knew better All these things have some things common 1) love of money has replaced the love of people 2) Money had become their god (Mt 6:24) Hypocrisy Mindset - wealth is a sign of God's approval - what does that say about the poor	1. God's Chosen People (3) - they were exempt from God's punishment (Jer 7:1-7) - Thought it didn't matter how they lived - took relationship with God for granted - Being chosen means having a responsibility - they are secure as long as they follow God's laws (justification, sanctification, glorification) 2. Hypocrisy (4) - economic exploitation (1-3) - even the women were exploiting the poor and demanding luxury - Religious hypocrisy - instead of coming to worship they came to sin - sacrifice and offerings were shams - did everything to impress other people (5) - You have not returned to Me - 5 times (6-11) 3. God's sovereignty (5:1-17) - Virgin of Israel - picture of purity and innocence that has now be lost and judgment is assured - premature death - Hate the ones who point out their wickedness (10) - God will bring judgment in their midst (17) 4. No Repentance (5:18-27) - fleeing with no escape to be found (18-20) - Worshipping and singing but it is just noise - external - Individuals can still repents (24) 5. Complacency (6) - they thought they were invincible - their strength and power brought them into the lap of luxury - Judicial system has become lethal to the people it was supposed to protect - Complete devastation is coming

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Results of Judgment	Ripe Fruit/Judgment/Restoration
Locusts (7:1-3) Fire (7:4-6) - vision, plea for mercy, God relents Plumb line (7:7-10) - plumb line would be set among the people - how are they going to measure up? - They don't measure up - God's standard is the only one that matters - When God's judgment falls, how do we respond? - There is a purpose in everything God does Amos's Response (7:11-17) - leaders (priest) - reject the warnings - Amaziah - Amos has conspired against the king - False accusations are made - Threats against Amos are made - Amaziah will suffer consequences of his actions against Amos	Ripe Fruit (8) - judgment is deserved! - Ripe fruit shows the time of harvest is at hand - Worship on the Sabbath and festivals BUT they resent them because it stops them from making a profit - CHEATING OTHERS - They didn't love the Lord or their neighbor - Famine in the land - for the hearing of the word of God (11) - better to go without food than without the word of God