

Amos



I. Amos 1-3; 6, 9, 11, 13; 2:1, 4, 6-7

דבְּרֵי עָמוֹס אֲשֶׁר-הָיָה בְּנִקְדָּיִם מִתְּקוּעַ אֲשֶׁר חָזָה עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּיָמָיו | עֲזַיָּה מֶלֶךְ-יְהוּדָה וּבִיָּמֵי יִרְבֵּעָם בְּנֵי-אוֹשׁ מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל
 שְׁנָתַיִם לִפְנֵי הָרַעַשׁ:
 (וַיֹּאמֶר | יְהוָה מִצִּיּוֹן יִשְׁאָג וּמִירוּשָׁלַיִם יִתֵּן קוֹלוֹ וְאֶבְלֹוּ נְאוֹת הָרְעִים וַיִּבֶשׂ רֹאשׁ הַפְּרָמָל: (פ)
 כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה עַל-שְׁלֹשָׁה פְּשָׁעֵי דַמָּשֶׁק וְעַל-אַרְבַּעָה לֹא אֲשִׁיבֵנּוּ עַל-דּוֹשָׁם בְּחֲרָצוֹת הַבְּרָזָל אֶת-הַגִּלְעָד:

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

2 And he said: The LORD from Zion roars,
 And from Jerusalem puts forth his voice;
 And the shepherds meadows wither,
 And the peak of Carmel dries up.

3 Thus said the LORD:
 For three trespasses of Damascus,
 And for four, I will not turn it back--
 For their threshing Gilead with iron threshing boards.

6 ...For three trespasses of Gaza and for four I will not turn it back--....

9...For three trespasses of Tyre and for four I will not turn it back--....

11...For three trespasses of Edom and for four I will not turn it back--....

13...For three trespasses of the Ammonites and for four I will not turn it back--....

2:1 ...For three trespasses of Moab and for four I will not turn it back--....

4...For three trespasses of Judah and for four I will not turn it back--
 For their spurring the Lord's teaching, and God's statutes they did not keep, and their false things led them astray, after which their fathers had gone.

6 ...For three trespasses of Israel and for four I will not turn it back-- for their selling the just man for silver and the needy for sandals.

7 Who trample the head of the needy to the dust of the ground and pervert the way of the poor.

II. Amos 3:1-8

1 Hear this word, O people of Israel, That the LORD has spoken concerning you,
Concerning the whole family that I brought up from the Egypt, saying:

2 Only with you was I intimate
of all the clans of the earth.

Therefore will I make a reckoning with you for all your crimes.

3 Do two walk together
If they have not first agreed?

4 Does the lion roar in the forest
Unless it has taken prey?

Does the maned beast put forth its voice from its lair
If it has not made a catch?

5 Does a bird gall into a trap on the ground
When there is no snare for it?

Does a trap spring up from the soil
And fail to make a catch?

6 Is a ram's horn is sounded in the town,
And the people do not tremble?

Is there harm within the town
And the LORD has not done it?

7 For the Master, the Lord, does nothing without revealing God's secret to God's
servants the prophets.

8 A lion roars, Who does not fear?
The Master, the Lord, speaks.
Who cannot prophesy?

III. Amos 5:21- 27

21 I hate, I spurn your festivals,
And smell no fragrance in your convocations.

22 Should you offer up to Me burnt offerings
or grain offerings, I will not accept them;
Nor will I look on the well-being sacrifice of your fatted calves.

23 Take away from Me the noise of your singers,
Nor will I listen to the melody of your lutes.

24 But let justice well up like water,
And righteousness like a steady stream.

25 Did you bring Me sacrifices and grain offering
In the wilderness forty years, house of Israel?

26 And you shall carry off your "king" — Sikkuth, and Kiyyun, the images you have made
for yourselves of your star gods—

27 And I will exile you beyond Damascus — said the LORD, God of Israel in God's name.

IV. Amos 7:10- 17

10 And Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to Jeroboam, King of Israel, saying: “Amos is conspiring against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words.

11 For thus has Amos said, ‘By the sword Jeroboam shall die, and Israel shall surely be exiled from its soil.’”

12 And Amaziah said to Amos, “Seer, go flee to the land of Judah and there eat bread and prophesy there.

13 But don’t ever prophesy again at Bethel; for it is the king’s sanctuary and a royal palace.”

14 Amos answered Amaziah: “No prophet am I, nor the son of a prophet am I, but a cattle herder and a tender of sycamore fruit.

15 And the LORD took me from going after the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to My people Israel.’

16 And now, hear the word of the LORD. You who say I must not prophesy to Israel and shall not preach to the House of Isaac;

17 Therefore, thus said the LORD:

Your wife shall play the whore in the town,
 And your sons and daughters shall fall by the sword,
 and you shall be shared out with a measuring line.
 And you shall die on unclean soil;
 and Israel shall surely be exiled from its soil.”

V. Amos 9: 13-15

13 Look, days are coming, said the LORD,
 When the plowman shall overtake the reaper,
 And the treader of grapes the sower of seed;
 And the mountains shall drip fermented juice,
 And all the hills shall melt.

14 And I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel,
 And they shall rebuild ruined cities and dwell there
 And plant vineyards and drink their wine;
 They shall make gardens and eat their fruit.

15 And I will plant them on their soil,
 And they shall no more be uprooted from their soil
 That I have given them, said the LORD your God.

VI. Margaret Walker, 1914-1997

A. Amos, 1963

Amos is a Shepherd of suffering sheep;
 A pastor preaching in the depths of Alabama
 Preaching social justice to the Southland
 Preaching to the poor a new gospel of love
 With the words of a god and the dreams of a man
 Amos is our loving Shepherd of the sheep
 Crying out to the stricken land
 "You have sold the righteous for silver
 And the poor for a pair of shoes.
 My God is a mighty avenger
 And He shall come with His rod in His hand."
 Preaching to the persecuted and the disinherited millions
 Preaching love and justice to the solid southern land
 Amos is a Prophet with a vision of brotherly love
 With a vision and a dream of the red hills of Georgia
 "When Justice shall roll down like water
 And righteousness like a mighty stream."
 Amos is our Shepherd standing in the Shadow of our God
 Tending his flocks all over the hills of Albany
 And the seething streets of Selma and of bitter Birmingham.

B. Amos, (Postscript, 1968)

From Montgomery to Memphis he marches
 He stands on the threshold of tomorrow
 He breaks the bars of iron and they remove the signs
 He opens the gates of our prisons.
 He speaks to the captive hearts of America
 He bares raw their conscience
 He is a man of peace for the people
 Amos is a Prophet of the Lord
 Amos speaks through Eternity
 The glorious Word of the Lord!