

The God of Nations Amos 1:3-2:5

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Background - Review

- Jeroboam II – King of Israel
- Uzziah – King of Judah
- Both kingdoms are experiencing wealth and prosperity
- Both kingdoms are strong nations

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Background - Review

- But....
- Internally, they are both falling apart morally and spiritually
- Israel has forsaken God
- Justice is only for the rich while the poor are exploited

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Enter.... Amos!

- Likely preaching from Bethel in Northern Israel
- See 7:10
- God roars like a lion and thunders against Israel and their moral and spiritual corruption

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Judgment Speeches

- Largely poetic language
- Set the stage for the prophesying of Amos
- Amos is the first prophet to apply judgment speeches against nations as a whole

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Judgment Speeches

- Thus says Yahweh
- General accusation
- Specific accusation
- Specific announcement of judgment
- Elaboration of specific judgment
- Thus says Yahweh

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Eight Judgments Against the Nations,
including Israel and Judah

1. Damascus – Syria
2. Philistia
3. Tyre – Phoenicia
4. Edom
5. Ammon
6. Moab

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Eight Judgments Against the
Nations

Note 1

- Speaks to nations around
Israel, then Israel

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Eight Judgments Against the
Nations

Note 2

- The use of “for three sins of...
even for four”
- An idiom for repeated violations.
- A denunciation of the many and
continual sins of the nation.
- Even for four – the last straw

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Eight Judgments Against the Nations

Note 3

- The use of “I will not relent”
- Enough is enough. No more warnings, now comes judgment

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Eight Judgments Against the Nations

Note 4

- The nations that are named are historically enemies of Israel

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Eight Judgments Against the Nations

Note 5

- How would this message be received by the hearers in Israel?
- With enthusiasm at first
- But with disdain by the end

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Oracle against Damascus 1:3-5

- Image of threshing grain to separate out the chaff
- A picture of the cruelty of Syria against enemies
 - See 2 Kings 13:7

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Oracle against Damascus 1:3-5

- Judgment – destruction of Damascus and Syria
 - Because they were slave traders
 - God sent them away as slaves
 - See v5 and 9:7
- Fulfilled by Tiglath-Pileser III of Assyria

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Oracle against Gaza 1:6-8

- Gaza was a great trade center – the door of Asia
- Known for military strength
- Mightiest of all Philistine cities
- Southernmost city of Philistia
- 3 miles from the Mediterranean

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Oracle against Gaza 1:6-8

- Judgment:
- They would be destroyed
- Because of their slave trade
- Fulfilled in 732 by Assyrians
- Rebuilt and destroyed again in 720 by Assyrians

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Oracle against Tyre 1:6-10

- A wealthy and powerful city state on the Mediterranean Sea
- 2 parts – on the mainland and on an island
- Known for its slave trade

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Oracle against Tyre 1:6-10

- Judgment:
- Destruction – See also Ez 28
- Fulfillment by Alexander the Great in 322 B.C.
- Ironically, 30,000 of its inhabitants were sold as slaves

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Oracle against Edom 1:11-12

- South and East of the Dead Sea
- Descended from Esau – See Gen 25:19-26
- Fought battles against Israel
 - 2 Sam 8:13-14; 1 Kings 11:14-15; 2 Kings 14:22
- Edom's violent emotions were out of control

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Oracle against Edom 1:11-12

- Judgment:
- Condemned for cruelty shown against his brother nation – Nu 28:4; Dt 2:4, 23:7, Ob 10,27
- Teman – center of wisdom
- Bozrah – capital city

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Oracle against Edom 1:11-12

- Judgment:
- Fulfilled by Tigleath-Pileser III of Assyria
- Later in the 5th century, they were evicted from their land by the Nabateans who invaded.

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Oracle against Amon 1:13-15

- East of the Jordan River
- Origin of Ammon – See Gen 19:30-38
- Invaded Israelite towns and ripped open the wombs of pregnant women
- To eradicate the next generation

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Oracle against Moab 2:1-3

- East of the Dead Sea between Edom and Ammon
- Origins – Gen 19:30-38
- Moabites opposed the Israelites on the way to the promised land – Numbers 22-25
- Moabites were excluded from the assembly of Israel – Deut 23:3-4

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Oracle against Moab 2:1-3

- Crimes against kings – 2 Kings 9:3-4
- NOTE
- Edom, Judah, and Israel were joined in war against Moab – 2 Kings 3:6-9

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Oracle against Moab 2:1-3

- Judgment:
- Conquered by Tiglath Pileser III in 734 B.C.
- Rebelled and were conquered by Sennacherib
- Conquered again by Nebuchadnezzar in 598

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Oracle against Judah – 2:4-5

- Judgment:
- Not against treaty breaking or inhumane treatment of people
- For failure to follow the law
- Especially by breaking the covenant with Yahweh

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Oracle against Judah – 2:4-5

- Judgment:
- Broke the most sacred of treaties, the covenant between God and them
- They knew God, but rejected God

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Conclusion/Summary

- God is the God of nations whether they acknowledge Him or not
- All nations are God's nations – He is sovereign over the nations
- God is specifically involved in His creation

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Conclusion/Summary

- Nations are judged according to their interaction with God and their interaction with people
- Judged according to how they operate in relationships!
- The sovereign God desires us to love God and love others

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