

A STUDY OF AMOS

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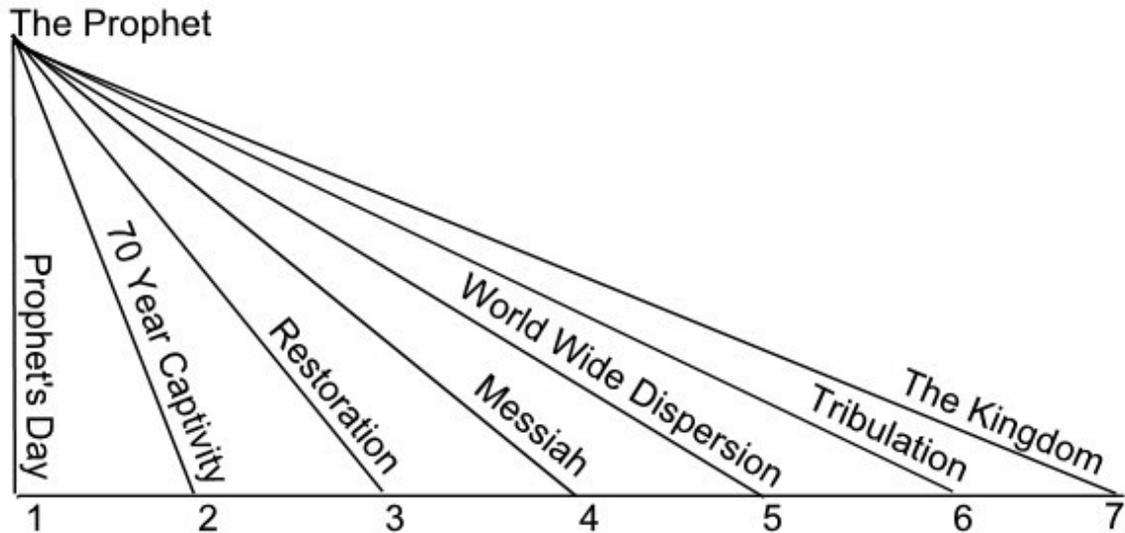
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AMOS

Commentary by Dr. Mark G. Cambron

Introduction to the Prophetic Books

Diagram of Prophecy in the Word of God



This simple diagram will illustrate perfectly how prophecy, AS A WHOLE, is divided into seven divisions:

(1) His Own Day; (2) The 70-Year Captivity; (3) The Restoration; (4) The coming of Messiah for the First Time; (5) World-wide Dispersion of the Jews; (6) The Tribulation; (7) The Kingdom.

1. As for the prophet's day the Word abounds with references to it.
2. Jer. 25:11.
3. Jer. 29:10; Dan. 9:2
4. The Old Testament is filled with Messianic prophecies
5. Amos 9:9; Ezek. 36:24, 28; 37:14.
6. Jer. 30:4-7; Dan. 12:1.
7. Isaiah 2:11; 11:11; Amos 9:14, 15.

A prophet, though a native of Judah, to the Ten Tribes. He was a herdsman of Tekoa, ten miles north of Jerusalem. His parents are unnamed.

His burden was national accountability.

I. Prophetic Sentences (1 - 2)

A. Against the Gentiles (1:1 - 2:3)

1. Damascus (1:1-5)
2. Philistia (1:6-8)
3. Tyre (1:9-10)
4. Edom (1:11-12)

Unchanging Spirit

5. Ammon (1:13-15)
Cruelty
6. Moab (1:1-3)

B. Against Israel (2:4-16)

1. Against the Southern Kingdom (2:4-5)
2. Against the Northern Kingdom (2:6-16)

II. Prophetic Speeches ("Hear!") (3 - 6)

- A. The First Discourse (3)
- B. The Second Discourse (4)
- C. The Third Discourse (5 - 6)

III. Prophetic Signs (7:1 - 9:10)

- A. Vision of the Grasshoppers (7:1-3)
- B. Vision of Fire (7:4-6)
- C. Vision of the Plumb Line (7:7-17)
- D. Vision of the Basket (8)
- E. Vision of the Lord (9:1-10)

IV. Prophetic Song (9:11-15)

In the Millennial Day: Abundance.

Chapter 1

Meaning of the name of the prophet = “Burden”

Key Verse: Amos 9:11

“In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:”

Key Word: “hear” (3:1, 13; 4:1; 5:1, 23; 7:16; 8:4)

3:1, 13 (all 12 tribes of Israel)

4:1 (10 tribe Kingdom of Israel)

5:1, 23 (House of Israel 12 Tribe Kingdom)

7:16 (10 tribe Kingdom of Israel)

8:4 (the rich, the lawyers, judges, all those in authority)

Objects of the judgment of God:

1. Seven Gentile Nations
2. Southern Kingdom of Israel (two tribe kingdom of Judah)
3. Northern Kingdom of Israel (ten tribe kingdom of Israel)

We find that the prophecies of Amos to the Ten Tribe Nation of Israel were so distasteful that the priest of Bethel said to Amos, “O thou seer, go flee thee away into the land of Judah” (the lower two Tribe Kingdom of Judah) “and there eat bread and prophesy there” (the prophet’s own land) “but prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it is the king’s chapel, and it is the king’s court.” (Amos 7:12, 13)

We learn that all sinners oppose the word of God, no matter whether he be a native or a stranger in the locale.

This prophet Amos was a citizen of the kingdom of Judah, yet he obeyed God rather than man, and preached in the Ten Tribe Kingdom of Israel — God’s message as God called him to do.

Amos was a rather humble person — that’s why God called him — he was a herdsman and a gatherer of sycamore fruit. His birth and early adulthood is not even mentioned, yet God made a prophet out of him — with some of the greatest and outstanding prophetic truths that God had not revealed to others. Man to man is the way Amos answered his accusers, but his answers were so profound, above the average person, but gloriously designed that makes the heart of the hearers beat just a little faster, and causes even our hearts who read these great prophecies to praise Jehovah with a new appreciation of the Word of God.

Verse 1

The words of Amos dictated by the Holy Ghost explains his job as that of a herdsman, the raiser of livestock, and also the gatherer of sycamore fruit — a small fig-like fruit of the sycamore trees. Few people ate this fruit, but as it abounded, it was found to be an excellent food for swine. Amos knew that the prophecies were for; firstly, the citizens of the Upper Ten Tribe Kingdom of Israel, then there are some prophecies for the lower kingdom of Judah. These

prophecies were uttered during the reign of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of King Jereboam II of Israel, and could be dated as being two years before the earthquake.

The result of the earthquake is unknown, yet was a shaking of the land that most people remembered. Even Josephus has a few words to say concerning it — that it was sent as a chastisement upon Israel.

Verse 2

Immediately, the prophet plunges into the pounding Word of God to His people.

Jehovah (the LORD) will roar from Zion — not from heaven — but where the people are — and utter His voice from Jerusalem against eight classes of people — six gentile nations, plus the Upper and Lower kingdoms of Israel and Judah. His voice that blasts the objects of His judgment calling them to repentance.

Verses 3 - 5

“Thus saith the LORD, for three transgressions of Damascus, and for four I will not turn away the punishment thereof.” How many? Four altogether! Why not say four to begin with and not the way the Scriptures state it “for three transgressions and for four” is God’s poetical statement that catches the ears of the sinner, declaring God will not show mercy. What is the charge? Because they threshed Gilead with threshing instruments of iron.

And the punishment was to send fire, which came to pass.

Verses 6 - 8

Thus saith Jehovah, for three transgressions and of Gaza and for four I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they carried away captive the whole captivity, to deliver them to Edom.

I will cut off the inhabitants from Ashdod, and him that holdeth the scepter from Ashkelon, and I will turn mine hand against Ekron: and the remainder of the Philistines shall perish.

Gaza is still a city after nearly 3000 years since the writing of the book of Amos.

For at least 800 years the Arabs dwelt there and possessed it. Since 1967, the six day War fought by Israel and the Arabs, Gaza was captured by Israel, and ruled by Israel, but the Arabs still lived there.

For peace making, Israel has given Gaza up to the Arabs to be under home rule for awhile — to see if a peace can be achieved. Israel will lose all of the holy land in the months to come.

For we are in the last days before the Tribulation begins. During the Tribulation, once more Israel shall lose the land. Yet after the Tribulation, Messiah Jesus shall return, and cause all Israel to return to the Holy Land, never to lose it when the Lord Jesus sits upon the Throne of David.

Verses 9 - 10

Thus saith Jehovah, For three transgressions, of Tyre, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof, because they delivered up the whole captivity to Edom, and remembered not the brotherly covenant.

But I will send a fire on the wall of Tyrus, which shall devour the palaces thereof.

Verses 11 - 12

Thus saith Jehovah: For three transgressions of Edom, and 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 forever.

But I will send a fire upon Teman which shall devour the palaces of Bozrah.

Verses 13 - 15

Thus saith Jehovah, For three transgressions of the children of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof, because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their burden.

But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour the palaces thereof, with shouting in the days of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind.

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

Chapter 2

Verses 1 - 3

Thus saith Jehovah; For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he burned the bones of the King of Edom into lime.

But I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall destroy the palaces of Kirioth, and Moab shall die with tumult, with shouting, and the sound of the trumpet:

And I will cut off the judge from the midst thereof, and will slay all the princes thereof with him saith Jehovah.

Verses 4 - 5

Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked:

But I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem.

The last king over Jerusalem was Herod the Great, who built the Temple Jerusalem, taking a little more than 46 years to complete it.

Herod the great was an Idueman, a descendant of Esau, and not a Jew. It was a great temple and lasted until 70 A.D. being destroyed by Titus, the Roman.

Solomon's temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in about 586 B.C. after the 70 year captivity in Babylon, Cyrus gave the call for all Israelites who wanted to return to the Promise Land could do so and be helped by the Medo-Persians.

Of the many millions of the Ten Tribe Israel who had been taken into the Assyrian captivity (740-722 B.C.) and the millions of the Kingdom of Judah who had been taken into the Babylon captivity (606-586 B.C.), only 50,000 Jews (Judah) and Israelites (of Ten Tribe Kingdom) returned in 537 B.C.

A new temple at Jerusalem was then built around 515 B.C. called the Zerubbabel Temple. This temple stood for hundreds of years until Herod the Great built his temple. This temple was

in the process of being built when Jesus was born and lived.

Therefore, this passage of the destruction of the princes' palaces was fulfilled several times (Amos 2:5).

Verses 6 - 8

Thus saith Jehovah; For three transgression of Israel, and for four, I will not, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes;

That pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek; and the man and his father will go in unto the same maid (how terrible for a father and son practicing the same debauchery together and with the same whore) to profane my holy name.

More

They are planners of taking away what money the poor have.

They lay down upon clothes laid to pledge by every altar — not allowing the poor his garment to sleep in.

And they drink the wine of the condemned — in my own Temple “they offer sacrifices of wine purchased with stolen money.”

Yet!

Verse 9

As the Elohim of Israel I destroyed the Amorite before them. They were a tall people, someone has said their height was as the cedars, yet I destroyed them — his fruit above and his roots from beneath.

Verse 10

How true God's statements are: “I brought you from the land of Egypt, leading you 40 years through the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite.

Verse 11

“I raised up of your sons for prophets, and your young men as Nazarites.” Not to confuse you with Jesus the Nazarene — meaning Christ the Messiah lived in the city of Nazareth — now here it speaks of the Nazarites — not Nazarenes. A nazarite was one or a group who vowed to separate themselves from the rest of Israel. The vow was to separate himself to God for a number of days. It was usually for 30 days, and extended maybe into 60, or even for life.

His vow included the forbiddance of drinking any wine or anything that belonged to the grape. Then he was expected not to touch a dead body even of his closest relative. A nazarite was to let his hair grow until the time that the vow was over.

Should he accidentally break the vow by touching a dead person or drinking wine, he was to shave his head to the line where he began to vow. The ordinance of the Red Heifer could take care of this infraction (Numbers 19:1-22).

But

Verse 12 - 13

“Ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink, and commanded saying `Prophesy not!’”

Now here Jehovah stands. You have placed me in an embarrassing position. You have bound my hands and feet to do good to you in the future. I can't move; I am pressed out of service, as a cart full of sheaves.

Verse 14

Only my justice can be your answer. "The flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not strengthen his force, neither shall the mighty deliver himself.

"Neither shall he stand that handleth the bow; and he that is swift of foot shall not deliver himself: neither shall he that rideth the horse deliver himself.

"And he that is courageous among the mighty shall flee away naked in the day, saith Jehovah."

These two chapters we have read and reread — here is our conclusion:

Isn't it strange that Jehovah speaks to the goyim (the Gentile)? There are six references to the gentiles and the announcement that judgment from the Great God Jehovah shall come upon them (mentioned six times) and two times upon the Israelites: (1) Judah (2:5), and (2) Israel (Ten Tribe Kingdom).

Thus we know that while God is the God of Israel. He is also the God of the heathen: "Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also."

Chapter 3

Verse 1

Judgment Day is coming

For all of Israel — the Ten Tribe Kingdom and Judah, the lower two tribe Kingdom. All of what we shall study has already happened to the twelve tribes of Israel. Israel today is waiting for what? As a whole, Israel refuses the Holy Scriptures to be God's revelation to them.

They as a nation refused Jesus of Nazareth to be God Himself manifest in the flesh, so God continues to pour out chastisement upon His people. The affliction has lasted as long as Israel's unbelief. But praise be to the Everlasting God who has sent His teachers to the lost sheep of Israel and the results have been outstanding.

When the doors of Russia were opened, God also opened thousands of the hearts of His people Israel to the Word of God, and visitors there have come home stating of the conversion of many Israelites.

Here in America we have seen hundreds of Israelites place their faith in the Lord Jesus the Messiah.

But —

As we wait patiently for the trumpet's call, we know that unbelieving Israel has the Great Tribulation to endure. By God's grace as we preach and teach the Jews, we see the direction of the Holy Ghost using the appeal today (1994) of warning Israel of the Tribulation and the antichrist and the suffering that shall come to the people of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. That escape can be theirs now by trusting Jesus the Messiah, believing that He died for their sins and arose from the dead — being born again, deliverance is theirs — now — His soon appearance is

upon us. Trust, call upon Him and escape the Tribulation NOW.

Many shall read this book, then trust Jesus the Messiah, and be saved. But for the rest of the world, Jew and Gentile, the Holy Ghost has led us to write these books that cover the suffering of the tribulation, and the glorious gospel of God that they may not take the mark of the beast, but trust the Coming Messiah after the Tribulation to gather them who refused his mark, neither did they worship his image. So we continue to warn people of the wretch, the antichrist.

Verse 1

“I am the One that is your Saviour,” saith Jehovah. I saved your fathers from Egypt and Pharaoh, and I shall be able to save you from Assyria of today. Assyria is no one else but Iraq — the antichrist is hiding within this nation. No doubt he has his ten men whom he shall appoint to lead the world in its full revolt against the true Messiah Jesus.

Verse 2 - 3

“While I am God of the Gentile, yet I chose only you as my family on earth. I will punish you for all your iniquity.” Oh, Jewish friend in the tribulation — haven’t you suffered enough?

“We; I and Israel, cannot walk in agreement unless we are keeping in step agreeing with `Come now and let us reason together,“ saith the Lord.

Verses 4 - 5

Listen: Can, or does, a lion roar when it has no prey? Of course not.

Can a bird fall in a trap when there is no trap? Of course not.

Verse 6

Can a trumpet be blown or can the TV give its warning of another catastrophe without the listener shaking in fear? Of course not.

Verse 7

Nothing can happen but which I am not the cause. The deep dark things of God and even of man (secrets) I have revealed unto my servants, the prophets. Read this portion of God’s word and see how the prophet has clearly opened God’s secret. There is more.

As a lion roars, his secret is the prey. God speaks!

Verse 8

Publish these warning words to Asdod the country of the Philistines. Listen as Jehovah reveals the coming catastrophe against the upper Ten Tribe Kingdom. God is planning Samaria’s (the capitol of Israel) downfall and destruction.

And to the palaces of Egypt — God orders them to attack them, and they did.

Verses 9

The destruction shall be terrible, even climaxing by the leading of Israel into the Assyrian conquest.

Verse 10

My people know not what is right, but they do know, but won’t recognize it.

Verse 11

What terrible times are in store for Israel — Ten Tribe Kingdom.

Verse 12

When a lion attacks a sheep, then the shepherd appears and kills the lion and takes out its mouth, two legs, a piece of ear, so shall be left a remnant of Israel.

Verse 13

Also Jehovah adds “To the house of Jacob, the third mentioned in the covenant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with God. There were many leaders He chose to lead His people to attack the enemies. Now He is leading the enemies to attack His people. You know it nearly broke the heart of God to do so!

Verse 14

When I shall visit the transgression upon Israel, I shall not forget the altars of Bethel and Dan. Here Jereboam, who caused Israel to sin, set up two golden calves — “Moses wouldn’t give you the golden calf at Sinai, here I’m giving you two of them.” What an insult to God.

Verse 15

Israel’s kings usually had two palaces — one for winter in southern place of Bethel, and the cooler location for the summer palace in Dan. These, too, were to be placed on “destruction corner.”

In the time of Christ, the Roman governors such as Pilate and Herod the Great had his winter palace in Masada near the shores of the Dead Sea, and he placed his summer palace in Bethlehem where he chose one of the mountains, cutting the top off and hauled to where he placed his quarters and a company of troops.

Chapter 4

Verse 1

The upper ten tribes of Israel are well acquainted with Samaria, their capitol city, and also their city of Bethel, whose land Jacob consecrated to Jehovah after twenty years being away from this place.

Jacob was fleeing from his brother Esau, and rested at this place. Using a stone for a pillow; he fell asleep and dreamed of a ladder (staircase) reaching from earth into heaven, with angels traveling up and down its steps. He awoke and said” If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on so that I come again to my father’s house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God, and this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God’s house; and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.” (Genesis 28:20-22)

“Beth-el, the house of God,” became so polluted by Jereboam, king of Ten Tribe Kingdom of Israel, by placing a golden calf in the city, the lower half of the kingdom, saying to the people “This (the calf) is Jehovah who brought you out of Egypt.” He took the name “He who caused Israel to sin.”

Now, let us look at Gilgal: This was the first place all Israel rested after passing over Jordan

under the new leader Joshua. Here, too, is where the twelve stones which twelve men of Israel had taken the twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan River and pitched them in Gilgal. This pile of stones was to remain in Gilgal as a testimony to Israel's children when they might ask "why the stones?", then tell your children that it was Jehovah who caused the Jordan River to dry up so that we could walk across. This is what Jehovah did for you, as He dried up the Red Sea for us. There is also a pile of stones lying in the midst of the Jordan River which was taken from across Jordan and brought over and place in the river as a testimony to us all."

Gilgal should have been revered as a holy place, too, but it became such a place for the worship of false gods by Israel. Yes, one would think it was reserved for the blessings of God to be bestowed upon the true worshippers, for it was here at Gilgal that Samuel visited time and again, for he went from year to year in circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh and judged Israel in all those places. And his return was to Ramah for there was his house, and there he judged Israel; and there he built an altar unto Jehovah.

[We now see the story of the birth of Samuel; how his mother prayed for a son, and the High Priest, Eli, guaranteed that by the same time next year a son would be born. And Samuel (the name means "asked for") was taken to the tabernacle when he was weaned by his mother and left there. Every year later, she would come to the Tabernacle to see her son Samuel and bring a larger coat for him to wear. It is a story that grabs the heart — to think, he could not see his mother but once a year — yet in the meantime Hannah had other children, boys and girls. His brother and sisters.— yet only once a year to see his mother. We know how many parents have felt when their children have grown, leave home to go to a foreign land as missionaries, but you can't out-give God!

[Did you know that after his apprentice days were over, and Eli the High Priest died, Samuel went back home to Ramah, and lived with his mother, father, brothers, sisters, half brothers, and half sisters, to be with them the rest of his life!!! How glorious.

[We Christians might have had to be separated from our loved ones as we have served the Lord Jesus, but it won't be long until we shall see Jesus and our loved ones forever.]

Also, Gilgal is the place where King David returned to his throne to reign over the twelve tribe Kingdom of Israel for the rest of his life.

But Gilgal became polluted! God is against it.

Verse 1

"Hear this word you cows — you women! of Bashan." You are not mothers to be proud of but cattle waiting for any bull that may come along. What a deplorable condition Israel had sunk to in the sight of Jehovah.

A mountain in the word is a nation or country, or city, and here God is speaking of Samaria the capitol of Israel. You destroy and oppress the poor who say to the husband, "Let us drink."

Verse 2

The Lord GOD — Master Jehovah! has sworn complete destruction and humiliation for you! Defeated you shall be and led about as a cow with a ring in its nose.

Verse 3

You shall rush through the torn down places of your wall, where all the cows are and you

shall make the palaces to be barns with the filth of the beasts.

Verse 4

“Go ahead with your sinning at Gilgal and Bethel — bring your sacrifices every morning and your tithe ever three years extra. The tithe of the land and the tithe of any business was to be given every year — also another tithe of the business every third year. But listen these things you offer images, I refuse.”

God invites the people who were the people of God to visit the seats of iniquity, Bethel and Gilgal so that He might destroy them.

Verse 5

It is true that Jehovah did give a feast whereby the worshipper was to make two wave offerings of bread made with leaven.

“And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the LORD. Ye shall bring out of your habitations two wave loaves of two tenth deals: they shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven; they are the firstfruits unto the LORD.” (Leviticus 23:15-17)

This feast was Pentecost. Leaven here represents the gentiles, and we learn of the first Pentecost in the Dispensation of grace, Gentiles were included in this great feast whereby the Holy Ghost was given, though no Gentiles were then present, they later were saved by the preaching of Peter to Cornelius and his household, who were saved by the Gospel Peter preached, and received the Holy Ghost them as the Apostles had received Him at the beginning (Acts 11:15). “Saith your Master Jehovah.”

Verses 6 - 7

“Ye have returned unto Me, how can I turn to you?” asked God of Israel.

You shall have cleanness of teeth simply means I am going to strike you with famine, thus your teeth shall be clean for the lack of chewing food. I am the cause of your lack of rain — one piece of land had water to rain upon it, while another section had plenty causing you to move from one city to another for water.

Verse 8

There was not water enough to satisfy all.

Verse 9

I have smitten you with blasting — blight and mildew so great that it affected everything you set up to grow and also affected that food that grew by itself — the tree, the field, the vine. As if that wasn't enough, I sent the palmer worm upon you.

Verse 10

And with this I sent the diseases of Egypt upon you, and your future citizens I blasted them with the sword, and took away your horses with which you thought you could destroy your enemies. You whose camp began to stink upon the whole land was polluted. Yes, when will you

return unto me?

Verse 11

I have overthrown you as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you who are listening to my letter to you — saved as a firebrand, and plucked out of the fire — still you haven't returned to Me.

Verse 12

You wouldn't recognize me in life; now you shall meet me in death.

Verse 13

Look around you — see the mountains, feel the blowing of the wind — yes, the air that you breathe and the ground you walk upon are the objects of my creation — and my name is “Jehovah — Elohim Sabbaoth!”

Chapter 5

Verses 1 - 2

I place you on the witness stand, Israel, these are the charges I have against you — it is a funeral dirge.

This great chapter is waiting to be fulfilled — most all prophecy in the Word of God has two meanings: one, for the present, and two, for the future.

Verse 3

All these prophecies have been fulfilled in the past and enacts fulfillment in the future. Just read that third verse again and again, “For thus saith our Master, Jehovah. The city that went out by a thousand, shall leave an hundred, and that went forth by a hundred shall leave ten, to the house of Israel.”

Now we find those prophecies that are reserved for the last days — the Great Tribulation! — the last half of the 70th Week of Daniel.

How many of Israel shall be left — ten percent — not how many shall be taken! 90% are taken! 10% are left, on earth when the Great Tribulation is over.

We find that the same percentage is found in Isaiah 6:11-13.

“Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, And the LORD have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land. but yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaved: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof.”

The same left of Israel — 10% here upon the earth at the close of the Great Tribulation.

And another place in the Scriptures declares the same 10% left here upon earth at the close of the Great Tribulation.

“And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the

bond of the covenant: And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.” (Ezekiel 20:37, 38)

This states that Israel shall pass under the rod — found in Leviticus 27:32.

“And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.”

Every tenth cow or tenth sheep shall be marked as it passes under the rod — the 90% are sold to the butcher, while the 10% are given to Jehovah.

Thus we have 10% left of all Israel at the close of the Great Tribulation.

In this dispensation of Grace, we are told, “There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God” (Romans 3:11). However, God it is who seeketh after the sinner, whether he be Jew or Greek.

No one seeks after God, but in the future, in the Great Tribulation, Israel shall seek Jehovah. How do you know? God says so — for God commands — of course, not all will obey, but the road shall be wide open for Israel to see Him who is all merciful, and all loving.

Verse 4

“Seek ye Me, and ye shall live.”

Verse 5

Now the command to the full is “Seek ye not Bethel, nor enter into Gilgal, nor Beersheba, for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity.”

Verse 6

Seek Jehovah, and ye shall live. If not, fire shall break out in the house of Joseph (Ten Tribe Kingdom of Israel).

Verse 7

And you who leave off all righteousness.

Verse 8

Seek Him that made the constellations Pleiades and Orion. When the constellation of Pleiades arises, it is introducing “spring,” and when Orion is the constellation introduces “winter.”

Great is Jehovah! He is God of the twenty-four hours that make day and night. He calleth for the waters of the sea and poureth them upon the earth. Jehovah is His name!

Verse 9

Why won't Israel come to God during the past 2000 years? All that is putrid is declared perfect in righteousness.

Verse 10

Why? They hate him that declares a righteous verdict. They can't stand truth nor him that uttereth it.

Verse 11

How unrighteous you are Israel — you stamp out the righteous person, and take advantage of the poor taking from him what is his. You have built such large homes of hewed stones, and planted the vines, but you shall not live in these homes nor drink of the wine that the vineyards have produced.

Verse 12 - 13

How left you are in dealing with life. You are controlled by transgressions and mighty sins. Your life is governed by your bribes, and your judges oppress the righteous, and the briber can ask and receive as long as the bribes come in. They turn the poor from what should be his by the Law of God.

Evil times should cause closed lips for safety's sake.

Verse 14

And as you seek Jehovah, He shall lead you in the right path.

Verse 15

Those who do come to Jehovah will hate the evil and love the good. Be with those who will establish judgment at the gate. Oh, that Israel's righteous action shall have an influence on Jehovah. Elohim shall pour out His grace upon the remnant of Israel.

The Day of Jehovah

It is the day of God's wrath. It shall begin in the Middle of the 70th Week of Daniel — in the beginning of the Great Tribulation and last on through the Millennium.

It shall come as a thief in the night and last through the reign of Christ Jesus.

“But the day of Jehovah will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burnt up” (2 Peter 3:10). The quoted verse showing the beginning and the ending of the Day of the LORD — day of Jehovah — then it has the beginning and ending then it must continue in the time between making it 1003 1/2 years.

When the heaven shall pass away is found also in Revelation 20:11.

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.”

Verses 16 - 20

The Day of Jehovah is a day not of 24 hours, but a day of 1003 1/2 years. Much judgment; complete rule of God through His Son Jesus the Messiah.

There shall be much wailing, sighing, and suffering for the guilty. Many who are gifted in uttering funeral wailing shall be called upon. Everything shall be against the unruly; God himself.

Wanting the Day of Jehovah: Some people do. That will be the exchanging of the days of the tribulation for hell itself. It shall be like a man flees from a lion and meets a bear, or he goes into his house and leaves his hand on the wall and a serpent bites him.

A day of darkness! Not light for the sinner.

Verses 21 - 23

Listen to Jehovah! I hate your hypocrisy. I hate every form of worship you do to try to attract my attention as to your holiness. There's no holiness; about you are your oblations.

Verse 24

But let judgment abound in the waters and righteousness as a mighty stream.

Verse 25

Israel, were your offerings in the 40 years of wilderness wandering true?

Verse 26

You turn from the Tabernacle of Jehovah unto the tents of Moloch and Chiun.

Verse 27

Therefore, I shall cause your captivity, your exile beyond Damascus, saith Jehovah, whose name is Elohim Sabbaoth.

Chapter 6

Verse 1

Woe, there is some kind of punishment for those who are at ease in ZION. Zion was the capitol city (Jerusalem) of the lower kingdom of Judah. Only this part of the first verse has reference to the lower kingdom while the rest of the book of Amos has to do with the upper Ten Tribe Kingdom of Israel. Here God warns Judah along with Israel of his wrath for both divisions of Israel. "And those who feel secure in the mountains of Samaria" the capitol city of the upper Ten Tribe Kingdom.

Your days of reckoning are closing upon you.

So much faith and trust has Israel placed into the leaders of the nations close by, and their day of calamity is close, also.

Verse 2

Calneh, Hamath, Gath — their day of judgment has come and gone — there is no one who can help.

Verse 3

Jehovah is truly warning which He advises Israel cannot prolong their day of calamity.

Verse 4

You are very rich. You recline on beds of ivory, and sprawl on their expensive couches. Nothing but the fattest lamb and healthiest calves are served on your tables.

Verse 5

You are like David of old who enjoyed playing the harp, and enjoyed composing of songs, but for the glory of God — your music is for self-gratification.

Verse 6

You are not satisfied with the goblet for wine; no, you must gratify your thirst by the bowls full.

Verse 7

They have not grieved over their nation of Israel called here “Joseph” — they care not for the spirituality of their nation — (Do we care for the spirituality of America?).

Verse 8

Adonai Jehovah (the LORD GOD) has sworn by Himself, Jehovah Elohim of Sabbaoth (Lord GOD) of host.

Listen to Jehovah, “I loath the arrogance of Jacob. I detest his forts; therefore, I will deliver up the city and all it contains.”

Verse 9

If ten men are left in one house, they will all die.

Verse 10

Then one’s uncle (he whom has been selected by the family to take care of the dead bodies of the family or the undertaker — the one who burns the dead). The body would be put into a pile of wood, set fire, and after the body had been burnt up, then the bones could be gathered up and placed into a bone box of marble and thus be placed into the tomb.

When the bones are taken out of the house, the body burner shall call out “Is one left?” Then comes the answer, “No one.” Then he will answer, “Keep quiet. For the name of Jehovah is not to be mentioned.”

Modern Jewry claims that no one is to mention the name of Jehovah. They call that the “unmentionable name of God,” but God did not inspire man NOT to mention His name, but God’s inspired account (and the word “inspiration” means “God breathed”). Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth. In other words, “God spoken.” In Joel 2:32, the Bible says “whosoever calleth upon the name of the LORD (Jehovah) shall be saved.” How can one call upon Him (Jehovah) without mentioning His name.

In 6:10 unbelievers are speaking that Jehovah’s name is not to be mentioned. Who says so? Unbelievers. Unbelievers who remain as such shall go to everlasting hell.

Verse 11

The LORD shall command, and the large houses (of the rich and famous) shall be destroyed, and small houses of the poor shall be pulverized.

Verse 12

Some horses can with iron shoes, but naturally of course not, and the oxen plow good, fertile ground. But you are so far from God, that you have turned truth into falsehood — poison to the heart. No one is practicing righteousness in Israel. Their righteousness is wormwood.

Verse 13

You who rejoice in Lo-de-bar (turning to 2 Samuel 9:4 we find that a son of Jonathan, David’s beloved friend, at the time of writing by the name of Mephibosheth was living in Lo-de-bar, afraid that David as king would find out where he lived and slay him. But David had the opposite motive; he desired to show the kindness for Jonathan’s sake (2 Samuel 9:1). We like Mephibosheth, are crippled on our feet, having had a fall at the hands of another — living in a place called Mephibosheth (which means “no pasture”). He was a child and dropped by a nurse

and became lame the rest of his life. Our fall came by the hands of another — Adam, and we have been sinners and can't walk since our natural birth. But God has for "Jesus' sake" allowed us to eat at his table. We are still sinners, but saved sinners feasting on the riches of His grace).

Verse 14

Jehovah, by the mouth of Amos, pronounces defeat at the hands of another king of another nation. The nation is none other but Assyria.

Chapter 7

Verse 1

Thus the Lord (Adonai) GOD (Jehovah) revealed to me what He was contemplating upon Israel. First He spoke of the grasshopper (the locust swarming) after the harvest was over and the upshoots were in their latter growth to cover the land.

Verses 2 - 3

I begged, Lord GOD to please pardon Israel for he is small. And Jehovah's mind was changed. (Now someone may arise and say God is not man that He should change His mind. But God does change His mind as far as meting out judgment is concerned. But He never changes His mind concerning things righteous and things unrighteous.

Verse 4

Then Adonai Jehovah showed me His mind concerning the greatest of all draughts.

Verse 5

Then I pled Adonai Jehovah please stop. How can Israel stand for he is so small?

Verse 6

And Jehovah changed His mind about this. This too shall not be said Jehovah Adonai.

Verses 7 - 8

Then He showed me a plumb line. He is measuring the nation (ten tribes) of Israel, and he is proving to be crooked according to Jehovah's plum line.

I will spare him no longer.

Verse 9

The high places of Isaac — which were dedicated to idol worship, and the sanctuaries of Israel laid as a plane. Jereboam II shall I rise up against with the sword.

Verse 10

There is no doubt that this prophet of God, Amos, spread this terrible news to the people of Samaria for Amaziah the priest of Bethel — the location of one sanctuary of the golden calf — yet the king let Amos' words be as they were.

When we speak of Amaziah the priest, he was chosen by Jereboam II for this "job," not a priest of the true God Jehovah.

At the beginning of the division of the land conquered by the army of Israel under the generalship of Joshua, the tribe of Levi was not given an inheritance "But unto the tribe of Levi

Moses gave not any inheritance: the LORD God (Jehovah Elohim) of Israel was their inheritance, as he said unto them” (Joshua 13:33).

Thus Levi was given 48 cities among the twelve tribes of Israel, yet the priests (descendants of Aaron) cities were located in the tribes of Simeon, Benjamin, and Judah, the lower kingdom of Judah. No priests were given cities in the other nine tribes.

And when we read that “Amaziah the priest of Bethel,” we know he was not of the kingdom of Judah, for no priest of Jehovah was given a city in Bethel. He was a self-appointed priest or appointed by the King of Israel (Ten Tribe Kingdom).

This priest Amaziah sent word to king Jereboam II of Israel saying “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is unable to endure all his words.” The king could endure the words of Amos but not this hireling priest.

Verse 11

For this Amos says, “Jereboam will die by the sword and Israel will certainly go from its land to exile.”

Still the King wouldn’t say anything.

Verse 12

Then Amaziah said to Amos, “Go thou seer away to thy own land Judah and there get your bread and do your prophesying. By leave off your prophesying in Bethel, for this is the city of the king, a royal residence.”

Verses 13 - 15

Amos replies, “I am no prophet, or the son of a prophet. I am a shepherd and a grower of sycamore figs. However, Jehovah took me from following the flock, and Jehovah said to me, ‘Go prophesy to My people Israel.’“

Verse 16

And now hear the word of Jehovah, you are saying, “You shall not prophesy against Israel nor shall you speak against the house of Isaac.”

Verse 17

Therefore, thus saith Jehovah, “Your wife will become a harlot in this city, your sons and your daughters will fall by the sword, and your land will be divided up by a measuring line, and you yourself will die upon unclean soil. Not only that, but Israel shall go into exile.”

Chapter 8

Verses 1 - 2

Do you know how God revealed to me the destruction of people and palace? I saw a basket of summer fruit — a harvest has taken place. Adonai Jehovah asked me what I saw, and I replied a basket of summer fruit.

Then Jehovah announced to me: The end of Israel My people has come. No longer shall I be lenient.

Verse 3

The songs of Samaria's palace shall turn to wailing. Oh, many shall be the corpses in every place.

Verse 4

Speak Amos and let the sinner hear — “You who stamp and trample the needy, and put an end to the humble saying.”

Verses 5 - 6

“What has happened to the new moon? Is its celebration over, so that I can do business in grain? Won't the Sabbath ever be over? So that we can make the bushel small and the shekel bigger. And rob the people with dishonest scales, so as to buy the helpless for money. And the needy for a pair of shoes (sandals). And make a killing in selling the blighted wheat.

Verse 7

Jehovah has spoken with an oath on the pride of Jacob.

Verse 8

Because of this the land shall shake with its destruction, and the people mourn. The land shall rise up like the River Nile and toss about, and then subside like the Nile of Egypt.

Verse 9

And in that day declares Adonai Jehovah, “I shall make the sun go down at noon and make the earth dark in broad daylight.

Verse 10

Then shall I turn festival into funeral quakes, and your songs into dirges, causing sackcloth to be your clothing on everyone's loins, and place baldness on every head. And I will make it like a time of mourning for an only son (Zechariah 12:10) and the end of the day bitter.

Verse 11

Yes your days are coming when I shall send a famine on the land of Israel: not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, but rather for hearing the words of Jehovah.

Verse 12

People shall stagger from sea to sea and from the north even to the east. They will go to and fro to seek the word for Jehovah, but they will not find it.

Verse 13

In that day, the beautiful virgins and the young men will faint from thirst of the Word of God.

Verse 14

The guilt of Samaria thus includes its King and its priest, which is the worship of their golden calves at Dan and Bethel. All who know not Jehovah, the God of all Israel, shall perish.

In the language of the Christian Jew and Gentile: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”

Chapter 9

Verse 1

This last chapter of Amos rounds out the complete judgment against Israel by Jehovah. This prophet sees Jehovah standing at the altar. Whose altar is this? As Amos says that he is a prophet living in the kingdom of Judah called and sent by Jehovah to the Upper Ten Tribe Kingdom of Israel, therefore, many claim that the altar as located in the temples at Dan or Bethel.

But this is completely out of order, for Jehovah would not be standing at, or on, or by the altar of a pagan god or goddess. He was, of course, standing at the side of His Own Brazen Altar of His own Altar of incense in His won Temple in Jerusalem.

As this has not been fulfilled as yet, then it must be fulfilled at the end of the Tribulation and at the beginning of the millennium, which can be found in Ezekiel 47:1-6

“Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side. And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins. Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over. And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river.”

and in Zechariah 14:8

“And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.”

being fulfilled for the remnant of all twelve tribes of Israel.

Now we leave this portion which in other places state in very last days, and see the destruction of unbelieving Israel. Unbelieving Israel cannot possibly escape the judgment of her God. “I will slay the last of them” (verse 1b).

Verse 2

Though they dig down to sheol (hell), my hand shall take them. And though, if it were possible, to ascend into heaven, from there I will bring them down.

Verse 3

Though they rest in the caves of Mt. Carmel, I will search them out and take them out.

Now (1994) men have been searching out the floor of the ocean, like finding the two halves of the ship Titanic, and should they go there and try to hide, I will command the serpent (explosive undersea boats) to blast them out.

“In that day of the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.” (Isaiah 27:1)

(Remember, this is Jehovah’s attack upon unbelieving Israel at the close of the Great Tribulation.)

Verse 4

Though they may be existing in the enemy camps of their prisons, I shall command that they die by the sword. See it in My eyes, Israel, I am against you.

Verse 5

Listen to Me, I am Adonai Jehovah of Sabaoth (the Lord GOD of host). The One who touches the land so that it melts (ever seen the streams of molten rock of the volcanoes?), and those that witness its destruction shall mourn, for it rises like the Nile, and subsides like the Nile of Egypt.

Verse 6

God’s upper quarters are located in the heavens, and has founded His vaulted dome over the earth. He who commands for the waters of the sea. He it is who pours them out on the face of the earth.

Jehovah is His name.

Verse 7

Are you not as children of the Ethiopians unto Me, O children of Israel? As I have rescued you in the past, I did so to the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Arameans from Kir. (This portion of the Word lets us know of Jehovah’s kindness and loving mercy, and delivering power toward other creatures — mankind of other races — as He does show toward Israel. But know this; you only are His covenant people.

Verse 8

Yes, Israel is My people, but desired other gods in place of Me. His eyes are still upon Israel — he hasn’t forgotten.

I will destroy it from the face of the earth.

Nevertheless, I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, declares Jehovah.

Verse 9

For I am ordering

I shall shake the house of Israel among all the nations

As grain is shaken in a sieve

But not a kernel will fall to the ground.

Verse 10

All the unbelievers among My people will die by the sword. Those who think the calamity will not fall on us.

Verse 11

Around the year of 45 A.D., the Apostle Paul with Barnabas preached with great success to the Gentiles in Antioch.

But several Jewish Christians (Remember for the first years of Christianity, the only believers were Jews, thus the preaching to the Gentiles was a new thing, and was a problem for the early Jewish believers) visited Antioch and told the believing Gentiles that they had to become Jews before they could be saved. They had to be circumcised!

This caused much debate and so the Lord had them who were such staunch Jewish believers, with Paul and Barnabas and some of the saved gentiles to go to Jerusalem to place this question before the apostle.

Peter was there and verified that by his own mouth that the Gentiles heard the Gospel and were saved — that they were saved without circumcision and begged not to put the law upon the Gentiles which neither the apostles nor their fathers were able to bear.

So, James, the Lord Jesus' brother made this quotation that we are now reading: Peter has declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles to take out of them a people for his name, and to this agree the words of the prophets, as it is written.

Verse 12

“After this” after I get a people from the Gentiles, “I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David which is fallen down, and I will build again the runs thereof, and I will set it up: that the residue of men seek after Jehovah, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things” (Acts 15:16, 17). Yes, the Lord Jesus shall set up His temple and He shall sit upon His throne — the millennium has begun.

Verse 13

When Israel repents, believes, and is saved by believing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, for one of these days all Israel shall be saved (Romans 11:26), and the land, the Promised Land shall yield to the full.

The plowman will overtake the reaper
And the treader of grapes him that soweth seed
When the mountains will drip sweet wine
And all the hills will be dissolved.

Verse 14

Israel, God's redeemed people, shall be restored to the place of God's choosing. They shall rebuild the ruined cities, and live in them. They will plant new vineyards and drink to the full their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit.

Verse 15

“I will plant them on their own land. And as a saved people, will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them,” says Jehovah (LORD) your Elohim (God).