

- I) V1-3 INTRO: Thus says the Lord For three transgressions of *Moab* and for four I will not turn away
- II) AS WE SAW: In our introduction Amos is a prophet sent to speak of coming judgment on the nation
 - a) He began a series of prophetic declarations regarding areas that were in proximity to Israel
 - 1) He spoke of judgment on Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, and Ammon
- III) EACH: Of these judgments came for particular reasons
 - a) Syria was judged for its cruelty, Gaza for making and selling slaves, Tyre for breaking its treaty with Israel, Edom for its vengeful spirit, and Ammon for its violent crimes (they ripped open pregnant women, killing both the mother and the babies)
 - 1) Each of these judgments were fulfilled
- IV) CH 2: Continues God's proclamation of judgment that was to come
 - a) God is Just, and God brings fair judgment because He is righteous
 - 1) Ps 7:11 God *is a just judge*, And God is angry *with the wicked every day*.
- V) THE NATIONS MENTIONED: Were ripe for judgment and His judgment was equal to the evil
 - a) In this chapter Amos writes of judgment upon Moab, Judah, and Israel
- VI) V1 THUS SAYS THE LORD: For three transgressions of *Moab* and for four I will not turn away
 - a) This opening statement is his formula for saying the transgressions are numerous
- VII) TRANSGRESSION: Rebellion, against people, nation against nation, or *against God*
 - a) Ps 5:10 Pronounce them guilty, O God! Let them fall by their own counsels; Cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions, *For they have rebelled against You*.
 - b) Ps 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.
- VIII) MOAB: Will be judged for its continual thirst for vengeance
 - a) They had gained a victory in battle against Edomites, but went overboard in their victory
 - 1) They killed the Edomite king, but then went further and even burned his bones in lime
- IX) V2-3 BUT: I will send a fire upon Moab and it shall devour the *palaces of Kerioth* Moab shall die
 - a) I mentioned that Lot had sexual relations with two of his daughters
 - 1) This produced two different nations: The Ammonites, and the Moabites
 - 2) Both nations were in modern Jordan, with Moab being located SE of the Dead Sea
- X) AMOS SAYS: That God will bring judgment against Moab and it will be destroyed
 - a) Kerioth was the chief city of Moab, and it will be destroyed in the tumult of battle
 - 1) Jer 48:41 Kerioth is taken, And the strongholds are surprised; The mighty men's hearts in Moab on that day shall be Like the heart of a woman in birth pangs.
- XI) V3 AND: I will cut off the judge from its midst and slay all its princes with him says the Lord

- a) I will destroy everything, and overthrow Moab's government: this came by Nebuchadnezzar
- XII) FACT: Though Moab is a picture of complete judgement, out of Moab came Ruth (Naomi)
 - a) A Moabitess, but in the line of David through Boaz, and a picture of God's love and grace
- I) V4-5 THUS SAYS THE LORD: For three transgressions of Judah and for four I will not turn away
 - a) Judah is now spoken of as receiving judgment for disregarding and despising God's law
- II) AFTER SPEAKING OF JUDGMENT: Coming on surrounding nations, Amos now speaks of Judah
 - a) Though the other nations have deserved judgment, Judah and Israel's judgment is stricter
- III) KEY: This is because greater privilege results in greater responsibility, thus greater judgment
 - a) Ignorance of the law is no excuse
 - 1) Lev 5:17 If a person sins and does what is forbidden in any of the LORD's commands, even though he does not know it, he is guilty and will be held responsible.
 - 2) Lu 12:48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.
- IV) ISRAEL: Had greater responsibility because Israel had received greater privilege
 - a) They had prophets, miracles, great deliverance, the priesthood, and especially the Law
 - 1) This produced greater knowledge and greater privilege
- V) CHRISTIANS TODAY: Have greater understanding and also greater responsibility before God
- VI) AMOS: Begins with Judah, the southern kingdom which he himself had come from
- VII) V4 THUS SAYS THE LORD: For three transgressions of Judah and for four I will not turn away
 - a) You have many sins to be confronted with, but this is the most obvious one
 - 1) You have despised the law and have not kept His commandments
- VIII) YOU HAVE THE LAW: But you have regarded it as without value and have been habitually disobedient
 - a) You have been given both God's word as well as instructions of how to worship (temple ceremony)
 - 1) Yet, you have regarded it lightly and have not esteemed it and have dishonored God in doing so
- IX) NOTICE: *Their lies* lead them astray (some think idols, but most likely false prophets and lying priests)
 - a) KEY: They would direct them to have peace in their own delusions
 - 1) Jer 6:14 They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When *there is no peace.*

2) Jer 14:14 And the LORD said to me, "The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart.

3) Is 30:9-10 That this *is* a rebellious people, Lying children, Children *who* will not hear the law of the LORD Who say to the seers, "Do not see," And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us *smooth* things, prophesy deceits.

X) JUDAH: Had the true temple in its midst, but failed to worship God in Spirit and in truth
a) They walked in lies, even as those who had gone before them had done

XI) V5 KEY: In the near future, Nebuchadnezzar would send his armies to destroy Judah (605, 597, 586 BC)

a) 2 Ki 25:9 He burned the house of the Lord and the king's house; all the houses of Jerusalem, that is all the houses of the great, *he burned with fire*

I) V6-8 THUS SAYS THE LORD: For three transgressions of Israel and for four I will not turn away

a) Amos now speaks of God's judgment of the northern kingdom, Israel

II) HIS JUDGMENT: Is for their injustice, immorality, and blasphemy

III) V6 I WILL: Not turn away its punishment because they sell the righteous for silver

a) The judges are corrupt, and sell their judgment to the highest bidder

1) This has resulted in the righteous being robbed of fair judgment

IV) OBVIOUSLY: Judges were to be impartial

a) Ex 23:8 And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous.

b) Dt 16:19 You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.

c) Is 5:23 (speaks of those) Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away justice from the righteous man!

V) V6 NOTICE: They sell the poor for a pair of sandals

a) They sell out for almost nothing, even a used pair of shoes

VI) V7 THEY PANT: After the dust of the earth which is on the head of the poor and pervert the way

a) People at that time would throw dust in the air when mourning: these men even want that dust

VII) V7b AND: Pervert the way of the humble

a) The humble would not stand up against them and defend themselves, and got no justice

1) This may have led them to become bitter and to forsake the right path

2) Mt 18:6 But whoever causes one of these little ones who *believe in Me* to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

- VIII) V7c A MAN: And his father go in to the same girl to defile My holy Name
a) This could speak of more than one thing
- IX) FIRST: It could speak of a father and son visiting the same prostitute
- X) SECOND: It could speak of a son being intimate with his father's wife, and the father with the son's
a) 1 Co 5:1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife
1) This sin brought dishonor to the name of the Lord
- XI) V8 THEY: Lie down by every altar on clothes taken in pledge and drink the wine of the condemned
a) A very poor man had nothing but his outer garment to use as collateral
1) Dt 24:12-13 And if the man *is* poor, you shall not keep his pledge overnight. You shall in any case return the pledge to him again when the sun goes down, that he may sleep in his own garment and bless you; and it shall be righteousness to you before the LORD your God.
2) This was how the Lord intended to care for those who were destitute (Bartimaeus?)
- XII) V8 AND: *Drink the wine* of the condemned in the house of their god
a) They used the money they had made to go to pagan festivals
- I) V9 YET: It was I who destroyed the Amorite before them whose height was like the height of the
a) HE BEGINS: To remind them of God's work of deliverance and salvation
- II) FACT: This occurred under Joshua when Israel began to enter the promised land
a) Nu 24:8 I brought you into the land of the Amorites, who dwelt on the other side of the Jordan, and they fought with you. But I gave them into your hand, that you might possess their land, and I destroyed them from before you.
1) Jericho was part of the land controlled by Amorites, and as a people they no longer exist
- III) V10-11 ALSO: It was I who brought you up from the land of Egypt and led you forty years through the
a) I delivered you from slavery, cared for you, and raised up prophets a dedicated servants of God
- IV) THESE NAZARITES: Were set aside for holy service (Nu 6:1-21)
a) They did not cut their hair, they did not drink wine, and did not touch a dead body
1) All of this symbolized that they were completely dedicated to God (Nazarite means consecrated)
- V) HOW DID YOU TREAT: These dedicated men
a) You gave them wine and then told them to keep quiet
1) Jer 6:16-17 Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way *is*, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will

not walk *in it*.' Also, I set watchmen over you, *saying*, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not listen.'

- VI) V13-16 BEHOLD: I am weighed down by you as a cart is weighed down that is full of sheaves
 - a) You have burdened Me, and the result is sure judgment