

- I) **V1-2 INTRO:** Hear the word that the Lord has spoken against you O children of Israel against the
- II) **AS WE HAVE SEEN:** Amos has been prophesying that God's judgment is falling on the earth
 - a) He spoke of the judgment coming upon Syria, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, and Moab
 - 1) All of these people were from nations that surrounded Israel
- III) **IN CH 2:** Amos went on to prophesy against Israel, beginning with Judah and moving on to Israel
 - a) As I have mentioned, the nation had been divided into two separate kingdoms: Judah and Israel
 - 1) Each of these people received word that God was bringing judgment
- IV) **UNDER KING SOLOMON:** The nation was united and had twelve tribes
 - a) When he died, his son Rehoboam ascended the throne of the united kingdom of Israel
 - 1) This did not last long
- V) **FACT:** Solomon's son Rehoboam had an issue with an influential man named Jeroboam
 - a) Jeroboam had been in exile in Egypt while Solomon ruled, but came back when he died
- VI) **WHEN HE RETURNED:** He led a delegation of the northern tribes to speak to Rehoboam
 - a) He wanted Rehoboam to reduce the burdensome service that Solomon had put on them
- VII) **REHOBAM:** Sought counsel from the elders, and then with the younger men
 - a) 1 Ki 12:7 tells us The elders spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."
 - 1) He rejected their counsel and listened to the young men he had grown up with
- VIII) **KEY:** They advised him to speak in a threatening way, which resulted in the division
 - a) 1 Ki 12:16 when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying: "What share have we in David? *We have* no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!" So Israel departed to their tents.
- IX) **FACT:** The nation divided into 10 northern tribes (Israel) and 2 southern tribes (Judah) 1 Ki 12
- X) **JEROBOAM:** Built two sites for worship, one in Dan and the other in Bethel
 - a) The kingdom split around 930 BC and from that point on, the nation existed in a divided state
- XI) **BY THE TIME:** Of Amos (760 BC) Israel and Judah had been divided for many years
 - a) Amos prophesied that Judah would be dealt with, which occurred under Nebuchadnezzar
 - b) Israel would be judged through Assyria, around 732 BC
- XII) **AS WE BEGIN:** Amos has been prophesying of Israel's judgement and continues doing so

XIII) V1-2 HEAR: The word that the Lord has spoken against you O children of Israel against the whole family

a) He is making it clear that Israel's punishment is completely deserved

XIV) INTERESTINGLY: Though Israel has been split into two sections, God still addresses them as one

a) He does this by reminding them that He brought them out, north and south, from Egypt

1) In His eyes, though they existed as two separate nations in fact they were still regarded as one

2) The two nations are in fact still the one family before Him

I) V2 YOU ONLY: Have I known of all the families of the earth *therefore I will punish you for all your*

a) He has already outlined their sins, first addressing Judah and then speaking to Israel

1) They have despised His law, disobeyed His commandments, followed false teachers, perverted justice by taking bribes, lived immoral lives, brought dishonor to His holy name, mistreated the poor, encouraged the consecrated ones to sin, and told prophets to cease speaking so they would be punished

II) THEY HAD FORGOTTEN THEIR OWN HISTORY

III) AFTER GOD: Brought the judgment of the flood, man continued rebelling against God

a) A tower in Babel was built, to reach unto the heavens as an altar of worship, perhaps to the sun

1) The rain had brought judgment, but the sun had become of great importance to them

2) In a false way, it would have been a form of worshiping *the light* that dispelled the darkness

IV) AFTER SCATTERING THE PEOPLE: God revealed Himself to Abraham and chose him

a) It was out of Abraham that the nation of Israel would spring forth

1) Gen 12:1-3 The LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

V) THIS NATION: Was chosen by God in a unique way from amongst the pagan nations in the world

a) In choosing them, God revealed his saving grace

1) Dt 7:6-8 For you *are* a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but *because the LORD loves you*, and because *He would keep the oath* which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

VI) BECAUSE OF UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP TO HIM: God held them more accountable

a) Amos 2:4 made it clear that they despised His law and did not keep His commands

1) They had special privileges, greater opportunities, and thus stricter accountability

VII) GOD HAD COMMANDED THEM: To remember His work with them and how He delivered them

a) Dt 16:12 You shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you shall be careful to observe these statutes.

b) Ps 77:11-12 I will remember the works of the LORD; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds.

c) Ps 78:1-4 Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.

VIII) V2 NOTICE: Therefore *I will punish* you for all your iniquities

a) They were held accountable for their wilfull rejection of His commands

1) God is obviously filled with grace towards sinners, but is also the Judge of the world

2) Hosea 12:2 The LORD also *brings* a charge against Judah, And will punish Jacob according to his ways; According to his deeds He will recompense him.

I) AT THIS POINT: Amos begins to ask a series of questions

a) These questions are intended to illustrate why God is justified in punishing the nation

II) V3 FIRST: Can two walk together unless they are agreed

a) It is possible to walk in the same direction with someone but not to be united in heart

1) You do not really walk together unless you are in agreement with one another

2) Marie likes to walk fast, and I walk slowly

III) POINT: If you are going to walk with God, you must be united in heart with Him

a) Walking in agreement means that you are going to the same place, taking the same path, and going with the same goal and purpose

IV) THE POINT IS SIMPLE: Without friendship, there will be no fellowship and ultimately *no unity*

a) QUOTE: Israel could not expect that God would walk with them, and show Himself friendly to them, and continue his favors with them, *when they walked contrary to Him*; when they were so disagreeable to Him in their sentiments of religion, in their worship...and in the way that they continually lived and behaved

V) WALKING IN AGREEMENT: Is another way of saying walking in obedience and fellowship

a) Jn 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

b) 1 Jn 1:6-7 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

VI) IF WE ARE: Going to walk with God, we will walk according to His leading and under His direction

VII) V4 WILL A LION: Roar in the forest when he has no prey Will a young lion cry out of his den if he has

- a) A lion does not roar if it does not have prey that it is about to kill
 - 1) The cubs in the den do not cry out when their hunger is to be satisfied if no food is brought

- VIII) POINT: God is the lion, and He is crying out judgment to the nation
 - a) In a sense, the nation is going to undergo God's judgment as *they are a prey to His wrath*
 - 1) Amos 1:2 He said The Lord roars from Zion, speaking of His coming judgment

- IX) V5 WILL A BIRD: Fall into a snare on the earth where there is no trap for it Will a snare spring up
 - a) To catch a bird requires a plan and intent to capture it, by laying a snare
 - 1) POINT: God's judgment that is coming has been determined to occur by God Himself
 - 2) The snare of judgment will not be removed until judgment has been accomplished

- X) V6 IF A TRUMPET: Is blown in a city will not the people be afraid If there is calamity in a city will not
 - a) God has said He is bringing judgment, and it is foolish to act as if it is not coming and not respond

- XI) V6b NOTICE: When calamity occurs, there is something to be learned from it
 - a) McGEE: God will not let any nation dwell in peace and prosperity when it is in sin. Though there may be a period of peace and prosperity but judgment will come
 - b) QUOTE: Natural evil is the punishment of moral evil: God punishes whens sin is persisted in.
 - c) Is 45:7 I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these *things*.'
- I) V7 SURELY: The Lord God does nothing unless He reveals *His secret* to His servant the prophets
 - a) Amos is letting them know that he has been authorized to reveal what God is going to do
 - 1) *His secret* would speak of what He is determining to do

- II) V8 A LION: Has roared Who will not fear The Lord God has spoken who can but prophesy
 - a) God has sounded the alarm: who can hear this without trembling in fear
 - 1) Amos had heard the sound of the lion and trembled: how much more when God roars

- III) WHEN GOD: Determines to bring judgment He makes it clear to His spokesmen
 - a) He told Noah He would judge the world; Abraham He would judge Sodom and Gomorrah; Moses that He would judge Egypt; Jonah that Nineveh would be judged; Amos that judgment was coming on the world

- IV) KEY: Even at the end, He continues warning of coming judgment
 - a) In Revelation He speaks of judgment through 144,000 Jewish evangelists, the two witnesses, and angelic announcements of the everlasting gospel, judgment on Babylon, and a warning against receiving the mark of the beast (Rev 14)

- V) SADLY: Even when God's word is declared there will be those who do not hear
 - a) Even so, the prophet is *obligated* to speak what God says

- VI) **NOTICE:** The Lord God has spoken who can but prophesy
- a) 1 Co 9:16 Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!
 - b) Jer 20:9 But if I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.
- VII) **V9-10 PROCLAIM:** In the palaces at Ashdod and in the palaces in the land of Egypt and say
- a) His prophets were to speak forth God's judgment throughout Philistia and Egypt
 - 1) They were to assemble on the mountains of Samaria:
 - 2) in other words, to see what was happening in Samaria, the capitol of the northern kingdom
- VIII) **THIS IS:** A way of speaking of the world witnessing God's judgment on disobedience
- a) *The tumults in her midst* speaks of the great outrages and sins that were openly committed there
 - 1) They stood in witness of the injustice towards the poor, widow, orphans who were plundered
- IX) **V10 FOR:** They do not know to do right says the Lord Who store up violence and robbery in their
- a) Because they have become experts in doing evil, they have forgotten how to do good
 - 1) Jer 4:22 For My people are foolish, They have not known Me. They are silly children, And they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, But to do good they have no knowledge.
 - 2) Ro 3:11-13 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one. Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit; The poison of asps is under their lips
 - 3) **QUOTE:** People, step by step, lose the power of understanding either good or evil
- X) **V10b WHO STORE UP:** Violence and robbery in their palaces
- a) They store up what they have stolen from others by oppression and injustice
- l) **V11 THEREFORE:** Thus says the Lord God An adversary shall be all around the land He shall sap
- a) No matter where they turn, there will be no help available for them
 - 1) He shall sap, or bring down, your strength: you will be brought down, or humbled
 - 2) You relied on your own power and wisdom, but will be completely humbled and judged
 - 3) Mt 23:12 whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted
- II) **V12 THUS:** Says the Lord As a shepherd takes from the mouth of a lion two legs or a piece of an ear
- a) God will bring complete and utter destruction on Samaria for its evil
- III) **V13-15 HEAR AND TESTIFY:** Against the house of Jacob says the Lord God the God of hosts
- a) The destruction on the altars of Bethel occurred under King Josiah

1) 2 Ki 23:15 The king also tore down the altar at Bethel—the pagan shrine that Jeroboam son of Nebat had made when he caused Israel to sin. He burned down the shrine and ground it to dust, and he burned the Asherah pole.

2) God will bring complete judgment for their disobedience and idolatry