

Amos 1-2 – 19 March 2026

“Even A Shepherd Knows”

Introduction

Read 1:1-2

1. Unlike other writers, Amos’ lineage isn’t given, He’s just given as a shepherd from Tekoa
 - a. He didn’t go to prophet school, but instead he simply listened to God
 - b. He’s used of God as a prophet for a year or two and then goes back to being a shepherd
2. Tekoa is SW of Jerusalem in southern Judah, yet he’ll speak against Judah *and* Israel in the north
3. The year is around 760 BC – 2 yrs before a great earthquake that affected everyone (Zec 14:5)
4. ‘Yahweh roars from Zion’ – Israel’s God is the God of all the universe and all nations
 - a. God has a standard for all to live by & He expects u to live by it

Now, we’ll see 8 attributes that will get you judged

#1 – Cruelty toward God’s people (Chap 1:3-5) - Damascus

Read 1:3

1. “For 3 and for four” just means *for sin upon sin upon sin* I will do this
2. “They threshed Gilead”
 - a. Gilead was part of the Tribe of Gad & Syria mistreated them
3. Yahweh writes of these nations b/c of how they impacted Israel, His people (Read Jer 12:14a)

Read 1:4-5

1. Hazael & Ben-Hadad were the 2 dynasty titles
2. The end of Damascus here is *exile* not an end
 - a. This exile of the Syrians to Kir was under Assyria rule about 30 years later (II King 16:9)
 - b. A prophet needed to be authenticated by fulfilled prophecy within his lifetime
3. Other key passages are Isa 17 & Jer 49:23-27
 - a. Jer 49 - further Babylonian destruction
 - b. Isa 17 - prophecies the yet future total destruction of Damascus

#2 – Enslavement of anyone (Chap 1:6-8) - Gaza

Read 1:6

1. There was a practice after war, to sell the prisoners of war as slaves – but to the Philistines, it was their economy
 - a. They would capture people just to sell them
 - b. Their target was Israel (II Chr 21:16-17)

Read 1:7-8

1. Philistines were taken into Babylon and, unlike Israel, *could not retain an identity nor return*
 - a. Modern Palestinians (same word as Philistine) have no connection genetically, culturally or religiously to the Philistines – there isn't even a 'P' in Arabic
2. Other key passages are Eze 25:15-17, Zec 9:5-8, Jer 47, Zep 2:4-7
 - a. Eze 25 - detail of their 'old hatred' of Israel
 - b. Zec 9 - their waning years of their power
 - c. Jer 47 - their fall to Babylon
 - d. Zep 2 - Israel will again possessing the land

#3 – Betrayal of friends (Chap 1:9-10) - Tyre

Read 1:9

1. Tyre also sold people as a regular part of their economy and sea trade
2. What's worse than treating them as hated enemy?
 - a. Treating them as an enemy after having a strong alliance under King David & Solomon

Read 1:10

1. Their end - their *strong cities are destroyed*
2. Other key passages are Eze 26-28, Isa 23, Zec 9
 - a. We gave much attention to Tyre's fall to Babylon & then Alexander in Eze 26-28

#4 – Betrayal of brothers (Chap 1:11-12) - Edom

Read 1:11

1. Edomites are the descendants of Esau the brother of Jacob renamed Israel
 - a. Esau's descendants never let go of their anger against Israel

2. They were often against Israel
 - a. They wouldn't let Israel pass thru during Moses' Wilderness wanderings (Num 20:14)
 - b. King Saul and David both had to defend against them (I Sam 14:47 & II Sam 8:13)
 - c. As recently as 80 years before this date Edom revolted against Israel's King Jehoram

Read 1:12

1. Edom's palaces and prestige are destroyed, they're not wiped out of existence
2. Other key passages are Isa 21:11-12, Jer 49:7-22, Eze 35, Obadiah

#5 – Savagery toward Israeli innocents (Chap 1:13-15) - Ammon

Read 1:13

1. Ammonites were Lot's kids & therefore family
 - a. Amman is still the capital of Jordan today
2. Killing women-bad, kill innocent babies-worse
 - a. All for the wealth of expanding their land

Read 1:14-15

1. It's Babylon that wipes out Ammon & king
 - a. It's renamed Philadelphia by the Greeks
 - b. It's 1 of 10 cities of Decapolis in Jesus' day
 - c. It was renamed Amman in 700 AD
2. Other key passages are Jer 49:1-6, Eze 25:1-7, Zep 2:8-11

#6 – Desecrating their past heritage (Chap 2:1-3) - Moab

Read 2:1

1. This type of desecration was common to Moab (II Kings 3)
2. It's a disrespect for the afterlife & to their past

Read 2:2-3

1. Moabite people aren't extinguished but they have no nation or rulers of their own after Babylon
2. Moab has quite a future as Israel will flee to their city of Petra 1/2 way thru the Tribulation
3. Other key passages are Isa 15-16, Jer 48, Eze 25)

#7 – Disrespecting God’s truth (Chap 2:4-5) - Judah

Read 2:4

1. Just like with the other nations, the most important problem is here highlighted
2. They disrespected the greatest gift anyone could be given – God’s truth and light for the way

Read 2:5

1. Judah’s palaces and places of governmental rule will be taken away

#8 – Despising the spiritual for the earthly (Chap 2:6-16) - Israel

Read 2:6-8

1. Israel’s sins are numerous but they’re all about abusing mankind in order to gain earthly things
 - a. They despise the righteous and the needy to gain money and clothes

- b. They will oppress the poor to gain the smallest of earthly rewards
 - c. They despise humility and respect and replace it with lustful gain
2. Their priorities are completely backward

Read 2:9-12

1. It's the Lord that brought them out of Egypt (provision – vs 10), destroyed their enemies (protection – vs 9), and gave them good standards (propriety – vs 11)
2. Yet they despised His standards to go their own way

Read 2:13-16

1. It's not that God is weighed down so much as the people are bringing Him down
 - a. The people that should be a joy to Him are returning to Him trouble instead of blessing
2. No number of personal qualifications are good enough to save Israel from the destruction coming

Conclusion

This simple ‘nobody’ shepherd was able to prophesy the devastation coming to all these foreign nations – all b/c He knew Yahweh!

When you know the truth, the truth will set you free!!

1. We learn from Damacus to be kind
2. We learn from Gaza to enrich others
3. We learn from Tyre to act like friends
4. We learn from Edom to act like family
5. We learn from Ammon to love children
6. We learn from Moab to respect your heritage
7. We learn from Judah to love God’s Truth
8. We learn from Israel to love the spiritual not the earthly

Yield to the Lord, so He can fill you with His Holy Spirit to produce the godly content in your character