

## Amos 2:1-8

The book of Amos is about the nation of Israel and surrounding gentile nations. The timeframe it's talking about - 750 B.C. - is parallel to what our nation is going through today. Most of the happenings today are not good. We need to take heed and wake up before terrible things happen. Too many people have the idea that we're too big to fail. That's not true. Anything can fail - size doesn't matter. Today we've seen GM, Citigroup, AIG insurance all fail, along with many banks.

Setting: Amos was a simple herdsman who came from a simple family and a simple life. God chose this simple man for a wonderful job. When "Israel" is mentioned in this book, it is not the nation of Israel but rather the 12 tribes of Israel. He comes from a small village about 10 miles south of Jerusalem. At that time, things were prospering for the people, and things had become so great and so corrupt that God decided to judge the people. God at that time never judged people without some warning beforehand. During the time of Amos, many prophets were warning people of pending judgment. Today there are many people warning others of pending judgment who are being ignored and stifled by corrupt people right here in America. The name "Jesus" is highly offensive to many, and this is very dangerous.

The first and second chapter of Amos is a warning to people to watch how they treat Jews, because they are still God's chosen people.

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### Amos 2:1-16

**1 ¶ Thus saith Jehovah: For three transgressions of Moab, yea, for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime:** The "three transgressions of Moab, yea, for four" means a person has committed sin after sin after sin and there is no more reprieve. It is time for judgment and punishment. Moab's hatred was so intense for Edom that they took the king and burned him so that no one could recognize him or worship him or honor him ever after. They took his ashes and burned him into the limestone.

**2 but I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth; and Moab shall die with tumult, with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet;** God's punishment will be like war on Moab - loud and deadly.

**3 and I will cut off the judge from the midst thereof, and will slay all the princes thereof with him, saith Jehovah.** This judge was probably the second most powerful man under the king. All the rulers will be cut down, slain.

**4 Thus saith Jehovah: For three transgressions of Judah, yea, for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have rejected the law of Jehovah, and have not kept his statutes, and their lies have caused them to err, after which their fathers did walk:** Up to this point, the warning is for the surrounding gentile nations. In this verse, the focus shifts to Judah (the Jews). They have rejected the Lord and will be punished for it. God reaches the end of His rope and it is now time for judgment and punishment. The southern two tribes turned away from God and his commandments. They were very corrupt in their government.

**5 but I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem.** The temples of Jerusalem will be destroyed. These Jews felt they were untouchable because they had the temple, the arc of the covenant, Moses, etc. But they are not. They must answer to God just like the rest of us.

**6 Thus saith Jehovah: For three transgressions of Israel, yea, for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have sold the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes —** Here is mention of slave trade: selling the righteous for silver and the poor for a pair of sandals. Now the focus is shifted to the northern tribes.

**7 they that pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek: and a man and his father go unto the same maiden, to profane my holy name:** The leaders of Israel have gotten so corrupt and greedy that they covet the

dust on the head of the poor people. That's how corrupt and calloused they are toward human beings. The meek people of this world will be our leaders one day, and these Israeli leaders have kicked aside the meek. Father and son sleep with the same temple prostitute. Every attitude, word, action, and behavior you chose reflects on Christ positively or negatively. People pay more attention to what you do than what you say.

**8 and they lay themselves down beside every altar upon clothes taken in pledge; and in the house of their God they drink the wine of such as have been fined.** Here's what the powerful corrupt people were doing: the poor would come ask for food, the wealthy person would say, sure, but give me your coat. The law said the coat must be given back at night so the poor person wouldn't be cold all night, even if they weren't paid back yet. But the wealthy were keeping the coats and laying them down under false idols as a bed and getting drunk while the poor people suffered.