



PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

*Prepared
to Meet
Your God*

A STUDY OF AMOS

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

KINGS AND PROPHETS SERIES

Course 6

PREPARED TO MEET YOUR GOD

A STUDY OF AMOS

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—English Standard Version

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013

Hebrew Word Study Tools

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

GAEBELIEN, FRANK E.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 4

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishers, 1990

WALVOORD, JOHN F., ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries, etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.



THE PROPHETS TO THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

When Solomon grew old, his many foreign wives turned his heart away from worshiping God alone, and he worshiped foreign gods, sacrificing to idols made with men's hands. That legacy of idolatry plagued God's people Israel from that day forward. After Solomon's death, the nation was divided into Northern and Southern Kingdoms, Israel and Judah.

The Northern Kingdom immediately instituted worship of golden calves and other gods, turning away from God's appointed worship system in Jerusalem at Solomon's temple. While the Southern Kingdom still had Jerusalem and the temple, people's hearts were pulled toward idol worship as well. High places and altars dotted the land.

Into this environment God sent prophets with messages from God for a particular audience and purpose. Each had a unique message.

In the same way that God had messages for the kings and nations then, He has a message for you to understand today. So examine your circumstances and your relationship to God to see how the message He gave Amos pierces your heart to instruct you, to shape your thinking, to impel you toward a life of worshiping Him. If you have strayed from loving, obeying, and worshiping God in spirit and truth, then pray that God's message will call you to return. That's our prayer for you!

Seek diligently, Beloved, to understand God's message to you. Meditate on the truths in His holy Word. Bow before your Father in humble adoration of His grace to those who love, obey, and serve Him.



NEWCOMERS TO PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT BIBLE STUDIES

Welcome to Precept Upon Precept Inductive Bible studies. We are excited that you will be studying with us! Inductive Bible study draws you into personal interaction with God and His Word, so that your beliefs are based on a prayerful observation and understanding of the Scriptures—truth that can transform your life. May the Lord bless you richly as you delve into the treasures of His Word.

The following will be helpful to you as you begin your studies:

Observing the Text

In these lessons, you will be asked to observe Scripture, marking key words or phrases in the particular passage you are observing. These key words or phrases will help unlock your understanding of the text.

For help on marking key words, read Step 7 of the chapter “Getting the Big Picture,” in *How to Study Your Bible* or Step 3 in the section “How to Use the Inductive Study Approach” at the beginning of the *New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)*.

There are suggested markings for key words in the *NISB* on page *NISB-26* which you may find beneficial also, but in any case, devise a marking system that works best for you.

- You will find it advantageous to keep your markings simple; colors and color combinations being the easiest as it does not put too many symbols on the page.
- When you have several things to mark, it is helpful to read the chapter more than once, marking a couple of words each time.
- You may make a bookmark, maybe using an index card, and list all the key words, marking them as you want to mark them in the text.

As you observe the text, you will also be asked to complete parts of an *At a Glance* chart. This chart provides space to list a theme for each chapter you study, as well as other main points concerning the book you are studying.

To learn how to do a word study, read chapter 5, “It’s All Greek to Me!” in *How to Study Your Bible*.

For help with your At a Glance chart, read Steps 9-11 of the chapter “Getting the Big Picture,” in *How to Study Your Bible* or Step 10 in the section “How to Use the Inductive Study Approach” at the beginning of the *New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)*.



When you have time, it would be beneficial for you to read the entire section on Observation, which is Part 1 in *How to Study Your Bible*. This will give you additional understanding of the principles of inductive Bible study.

We are so thankful you have joined us. You are about to begin a very exciting adventure that will help you discover truth for yourself as you have never done before. Just remember it takes time for these study skills to become “second” nature, but it will come with practice.

If you have any questions, call your Precept Leader for help. We are sure he/she will help you or connect you with another student who can. We also want to urge you to take our training workshops. They will teach you basic inductive study skills and give you an opportunity to practice them. There are also workshops to help prepare you to lead Precept should God so direct. You can find out more about the training workshops by going online to www.precept.org.

Blessings, Beloved. Welcome to the Precept family.



LESSON ONE

Amos One and Two

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following, located at in the Appendix
Observation Worksheets of Amos
“Amos at a Glance”
Map
Word studies
Cross-references

THE LORD HAS ROARED FROM ZION!

WHO will listen?

Listen and fear?

Listen and live accordingly?

DAY ONE

God spoke through Amos, a prophet whose message was to endure throughout time, a prophet whose words would not pass away until all was fulfilled (Matthew 5:17-18). How critical it is, then, that we study his prophecy and order our lives accordingly.

Before you open God’s Word, open your heart and mind in prayer to the One who gives His Spirit to His children that we, having the mind of Christ, might understand truth and be sanctified through it.

1. Read the book of Amos in one sitting. This will help you familiarize yourself with the basic content of the book. There are Observation Worksheets in the Appendix for your use.

Every time you come to “thus says the Lord,” “hear this word which the Lord has spoken,” “declares the Lord,” “the Lord God has sworn by His holiness”—any phrase that indicates the Lord speaking, color-code it, for example, in yellow.

2. Now read Amos again. This time do the following:
 - a. Watch for references that will give you the historical context of the book—references to people, to events, to timing.



- b. There are three sections in this book. You can see these by marking the repeated phrases in each section. Mark numbers 1 and 3 below using a different color or symbol for each:
 - 1) Thus says the LORD, “For three transgressions . . .”
 - 2) You’ve already marked “Hear the word which the LORD has spoken” or “Hear this word”
 - 3) “This is what the Lord GOD showed me” and “I saw the Lord”
 - c. Now, flip through Amos again. Look at the markings you’ve made and notice the divisions in the book. Mark them on the “Amos at a Glance” chart which is just after the Observation Worksheets.
3. If you have time today, Beloved, it would be good to read Amos through a third time—maybe even just before you go to bed. Go to a place where you can be quiet and alone, ask God to speak to your heart in the stillness of the evening, to let you sense Him . . . His heart . . . His holiness. Read Amos. Then talk with God about what you need.

DAY
TWO

1. What did you learn about Amos from chapter 1? Look for his hometown on the map.
2. List everything you observed from the text of Amos that puts us into its historical setting—the timing of Amos’s prophecy.
3. To better appreciate the times and God’s word through Amos, let’s go to Kings and Chronicles and find out what we can about these men. (Those of you who are studying through this series will get a sneak preview of what is to



come when we return to 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles.) Because we have more to read in connection with Uzziah, let's look at Jeroboam first.

a. Read 2 Kings 14:23-29. As you read, observe his genealogy since there was another Jeroboam before him. Who was this Jeroboam's father?

b. What kingdom did both these Jeroboams rule over?

c. List everything you learn about him and about the times.

d. According to what you read, would the time of Jeroboam's reign have been good or bad in general for the Northern Kingdom? Give the reason for your answer.

4. Now let's turn our attention to the reign of Uzziah. What was it like for Judah under his rule?

a. Read 2 Kings 15:1-7. Although Uzziah is called Azariah in 2 Kings, he is Uzziah in Chronicles and in Isaiah. As you observe the text, note his genealogy and what it was like for the Southern Kingdom under his reign.



- b. Second Chronicles 25:27–26:23 gives us the account of Uzziah’s reign and how he came to the throne. Record your observations. Note what the times were like for the people of the Southern Kingdom under Uzziah’s reign.

5. Obviously times were good when Amos delivered his message from the Lord. Both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms were prospering. Their armies were strong, so there was no threat from the enemy. So why Amos’s message? Why is God so upset with His people? If you haven’t yet picked it up from your readings of Amos, you will when you begin observing the text more closely.

However, for now let’s turn to Isaiah. The opening chapters of his prophecy give us a sense of the moral and spiritual climate of Israel and Judah during the reigns of Jeroboam (the second) and Uzziah.

Read Isaiah 1.

- a. Note the timing of Isaiah’s prophecy by reading Isaiah 1:1 and 6:1.

- b. Watch for references to their spiritual condition in this chapter. If you have a pencil, you might want to underline those references or record them. You can cover these broadly.



DAY
THREE

1. We'll begin today by observing Amos 1 and 2 since they are a unit. By now, you understand how to observe the text. Since Amos is nine chapters long, it would be wise to make a bookmark with key words and phrases on it that you would mark in more than one or two chapters.
 - a. It will be important to mark time phrases and geographical locations.
 - b. Mark the various countries that are mentioned. As you do, look them up on the map so you understand where they are and their geographical relationship to the Northern and Southern Kingdoms.
 - c. Watch for a key phrase in these first two chapters. Mark it accordingly.
2. As you read Amos 1 and 2 and watched Amos's messages, did you see a pattern in the content of each message? If so, what was it?
3. Look up the Hebrew words Amos uses for *transgressions* and *strongholds*.
4. Record your insights.
5. As you observed the first two chapters of Amos, marking key words and phrases, you saw that "for three transgressions and for four" the Lord would punish certain nations. Let's look at each one of these, developing the biblical background of each, to understand who they were, their relationship to Israel, and why the Lord would punish them. Our focus for today will be **Damascus/Syria**.

Read the scriptures listed, and record your insights about each:

- a. Isaiah 7:8



b. 2 Kings 13:1-5

5. Because God said it would happen, we know it will come to pass. We'll study the fulfillment of this particular prophecy against Damascus when we get to 2 Kings 16 in Course 7 of our Kings and Prophets Series.

We'll continue this tomorrow. Just remember, Beloved, these are real countries inhabited by real people whom God holds accountable. Keep this in mind; whether they acknowledge Him or not, God is over the nations. His sovereignty rules over all.

DAY FOUR

Let's continue our study of God's word to the nations because of their transgressions. We'll begin with:

Gaza/Philistines

1. Read the following verses. Record your insights regarding the relationship of the Philistines to Israel and God's reason for judging them.

a. Joshua 13:1-3

b. Judges 10:6-7

c. 1 Samuel 4:1-2

Tyre

2. Again, record your insights from the following verses regarding Tyre and the prophecy through Amos about God's judgment.

a. Psalm 83:1-8



b. Judges 11:12-15,21-23,27

c. 1 Kings 11:7

Moab

5. As you saw in your study of Ammon, many of the Scriptures which deal with Ammon also deal with Moab, so the following will not repeat any of those, but only the ones about Moab that do not mention Ammon:

a. Numbers 25:1-2

b. 2 Chronicles 20:5-6,10-12

c. Isaiah 16:6

Good job! You've looked up a lot of Scriptures and we know you've learned much about these nations. It will help you appreciate all you learn when we come to Jeremiah, the prophet God raised up to prophesy regarding the nations.

DAY FIVE

It was one thing to hear Amos's pronouncement of judgment on the enemies of Israel, and yet another to hear "your name" mentioned—especially when you were the "apple of God's eye"!

The apple had some bad spots—decay had set in. And what was the problem? This is what we want to look at a little more closely in our final day of study for this week. Remember, begin your study in prayer. The purpose of Bible study is



- d. In the Law, the Torah, God has made it clear the way He intended His people to live under His leadership. When they first heard it, they received it, said they believed it, and would obey it. But then they abandoned it. According to verse 4, what had they turned to instead that led them astray? And who had also walked in the same way?

 - e. What does this show you about the effect of the ways of one generation on another? Have you seen this in your days? What will break the cycle—and what if it's not broken? Where are your generation and their children headed?
3. The footnote in the New American Standard for *lies* says, “Or *false gods*.” Lies are destructive because they distort truth. According to Jesus, it is truth that sanctifies us in an evil world.
 - a. Look up John 17:14-19. What do you learn from these verses? List the main points.

 - b. What is the origin of lies and where do they lead? Look up John 8:44 and record your insights.



4. Now look around you. Mentally take a survey of the morals and mores¹ of the United States of America. A country who once had at least a fear of God has virtually lost all respect for Him and for His Word. Even a majority of those who profess to believe in Christ have done the same.

What many (note we said “many,” not all) want in their Bible studies, preaching, and teaching is a “fix” for their problems taught by people who messed up and will share their stories, but don’t challenge the listeners to think, reason, or work their way through the Bible. They protest, “It is too hard. Life is too busy.” They don’t have time. They want someone whom they can relate to and who will tell them in an entertaining way what to do and how to get out of the mess they are in. Period. No more.

And do you know what, faithful one, if this continues we will have a generation who will be subject to lies . . . hear them . . . and won’t even recognize them for what they are! This is why you must in turn convince others to study God’s Word for themselves.

What does Hebrews 5:11-14 say to these people who, in the midst of hard times, are shaky in their faith? Look it up and list the main points. Then you’ll understand why we are so thankful for you. O valiant warrior, do all you can to see that the next generation is getting the message and the study skills they need to go on to maturity.

5. Now, let’s move on to some scriptures that help us see the alternative translation for lies. Obviously this is important, since we too are children of God and will, like Judah, be held accountable. Look up the following verses and briefly note what they teach:

- a. Deuteronomy 8:19; 11:16

¹ Mores are the customs and/or manners that prevail within a group—be it a social, religious, ethnic group, etc.—or a nation. It’s what the group or people hold to be right, acceptable, obligatory.



- b. Habakkuk 2:18,19

- c. Romans 1:20-25

- 6. Read Amos 2:6-16. It forms the last segment of these messages of chapters 1 and 2.
 - a. What is the indication that this message differs from the ones that follow? To answer that, look at the pattern of the messages to the various people groups in chapters 1 and 2 and then what happens in chapter 3. (Maybe you already saw that in your overview of the book. If so, good for you. This is review!)

 - b. Read Amos 2:6-16 again. This is the longest of the “Thus says the LORD” messages. Is there a change of direction in the message?
 - 1) What happens in verses 9-12?

 - 2) What happens in verses 13-16?

- 7. When you look at Israel’s sin as set forth in verses 6-8, in what ways was their sin manifested?



- b. Now how did Israel dishonor the Nazirites?
- c. Possibly you need to ask yourself if you have ever dishonored one of God's children by trying to persuade them to do something against their conscience and/or the Word of God, or watched someone else do it? What did you do? Why?
- d. And what about the prophets? He's not talking about people who declare themselves prophets and speak from their own understanding, vision, or dream. Rather God is speaking of genuine prophets raised up by Him who spoke His Word. As we study the lives and messages of these men as we move through Old Testament history, you'll observe this again. However for today, just answer the following questions:
- 1) Why don't the people want the prophets to speak?
 - 2) Is it the same today with respect to the Word of God (which is the complete revelation of God)?
10. Now read Amos 2:13-16 and we will call it a good week of study.
- a. According to verse 13, what had their sin done?



Fulfillment of Prophecy of Punishment on the Nations in Amos 1 and 2

Amos 1:3 through 2:3 prophesies judgment on six nations who had transgressed by their treatment of God's people, Israel. The following paragraphs summarize the fulfillment of these prophecies:

Damascus (Amos 1:3-5)

The dynasty of King Hazael ended; his son Ben-hadad was defeated; Damascus lost its power (business was done at the city gate, Amos 1:5); and "the house of Eden" (delight, paradise) became a ruin. King Joash defeated Ben-hadad three times (2 Kings 13:25), and finally Damascus fell to Assyria under Tiglath-pileser III in 732 B.C. when they were taken into captivity. (cf. 2 Kings 16:7-9).

Gaza (Amos 1:6-8)

Ashkelon was conquered by Tiglath-pileser III in 734 B.C. Some sources say that Gaza was captured at the same time. In 701 B.C., Sennacherib conquered Ashkelon and carried off the king of Ashkelon to Assyria. In later years Ashkelon was overrun by the Scythians, Chaldeans, and Persians. Esarhaddon and Ashurbanipal of Assyria required tribute of Ekron, which continued to exist until the time of the Crusades. Ashdod suffered at the hands of the Assyrians in 711 B.C. and was conquered by Nebuchadnezzar who ruled Babylon from 605-562 B.C. and carried their kings captive to Babylon.

It is possible that Gath was not mentioned in Amos because it had been destroyed earlier by Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:6).

Tyre

Tyre became tributary to Assyria, then later surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar (585-573 B.C.), never fully recovering. It fell to Alexander the Great in 332-330 B.C. after he laid siege to it for seven months. Six thousand people were slain outright, 2,000 were crucified, and 30,000 were sold as slaves.

Edom

Teman and Bozrah were strong cities that no longer exist. The Edomites lived "in the clefts of the rock" and had their "nest among the stars" (Obadiah 3-4), boasting that their fortresses were impregnable; but the Lord destroyed their nation so thoroughly that nothing is left today except ruins. Edom was subjugated by the Assyrians under Tiglath-pileser III in 732 B.C., and was turned into a desolate wasteland by the fifth century B.C. (Malachi 1:3). It was then overtaken by the Nabateans, an Arabian tribe, around 400-300 B.C., and when the Romans attacked Jerusalem in A.D. 70, they destroyed what was left of the Edomite people, then called Idumeans.



Ammon

The Assyrians under Tiglath-pileser III conquered Ammon in 734 B.C. Later, Nebuchadnezzar sacked the city of Rabbah and took many citizens captive, opening the way for Arab invaders to occupy the territory of Ammon.

Moab

Moab, like Ammon, fell to the Assyrians under Tiglath-pileser III in 734 B.C. Later, Moab was involved in a rebellion against Assyrian domination that was quelled by Sennacherib. Later still, during the period of Babylonian supremacy, Moab was forced to pay tribute to Babylon. The Moabites rebelled against Babylon shortly after 598 B.C. and, according to Josephus (Antiq. X, 181-82 [ix.7]), were conquered by Nebuchadnezzar. This allowed Arab tribes to occupy Moabite territory like they did to the Ammonites.

Sources:

D. A. Carson, D. A., *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition* (electronic edition) (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994)

Frank E. Gaebelin, General Ed. *Expositor's Bible Commentary, Old Testament* (electronic edition) (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976-1992).

John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible* (Nashville, Tennessee: Word Publishing, 1997)

J. F. Walvoord, R.B. Zuck, and Dallas Theological Seminary, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (electronic edition) (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books 1983-c1985).

Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Concerned* (Colorado Springs, Colorado: Victor Books, 1996)



AMOS 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THE words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

2 And he said:

“The LORD roars from Zion
and utters his voice from Jerusalem;
the pastures of the shepherds mourn,
and the top of Carmel withers.”

3 Thus says the LORD:

“For three transgressions of Damascus,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because they have threshed Gilead
with threshing sledges of iron.

4 “So I will send a fire upon the house of Hazael,
and it shall devour the strongholds of Ben-hadad.

5 “I will break the gate-bar of Damascus,
and cut off the inhabitants from the Valley of Aven,
and him who holds the scepter from Beth-eden;
and the people of Syria shall go into exile to Kir,”

says the LORD.



6 Thus says the LORD:

“For three transgressions of Gaza,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because they carried into exile a whole people
to deliver them up to Edom.

7 “So I will send a fire upon the wall of Gaza,
and it shall devour her strongholds.

8 “I will cut off the inhabitants from Ashdod,
and him who holds the scepter from Ashkelon;
I will turn my hand against Ekron,
and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish,”
says the Lord GOD.

9 Thus says the LORD:

“For three transgressions of Tyre,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because they delivered up a whole people to Edom,
and did not remember the covenant of brotherhood.

10 “So I will send a fire upon the wall of Tyre,
and it shall devour her strongholds.”

11 Thus says the LORD:

“For three transgressions of Edom,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because he pursued his brother with the sword
and cast off all pity,
and his anger tore perpetually,
and he kept his wrath forever.

12 “So I will send a fire upon Teman,
and it shall devour the strongholds of Bozrah.”



13 Thus says the LORD:

“For three transgressions of the Ammonites,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead,
that they might enlarge their border.

14 “So I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah,
and it shall devour her strongholds,
with shouting on the day of battle,
with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind;

15 and their king shall go into exile,
he and his princes together,”

says the LORD.



AMOS 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THUS says the LORD:

- “For three transgressions of Moab,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because he burned to lime
the bones of the king of Edom.
- 2 “So I will send a fire upon Moab,
and it shall devour the strongholds of Kerioth,
and Moab shall die amid uproar,
amid shouting and the sound of the trumpet;
- 3 “I will cut off the ruler from its midst,
and will kill all its princes with him,”
- says the LORD.
- 4 Thus says the LORD:
- “For three transgressions of Judah,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because they have rejected the law of the LORD,
and have not kept his statutes,
but their lies have led them astray,
those after which their fathers walked.
- 5 “So I will send a fire upon Judah,
and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem.”



6 Thus says the LORD:

“For three transgressions of Israel,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because they sell the righteous for silver,
and the needy for a pair of sandals—

7 those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth
and turn aside the way of the afflicted;
a man and his father go in to the same girl,
so that my holy name is profaned;

8 they lay themselves down beside every altar
on garments taken in pledge,
and in the house of their God they drink
the wine of those who have been fined.

9 “Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them,
whose height was like the height of the cedars
and who was as strong as the oaks;
I destroyed his fruit above
and his roots beneath.

10 “Also it was I who brought you up out of the land of Egypt
and led you forty years in the wilderness,
to possess the land of the Amorite.

11 “And I raised up some of your sons for prophets,
and some of your young men for Nazirites.
Is it not indeed so, O people of Israel?”

declares the LORD.

12 “But you made the Nazirites drink wine,
and commanded the prophets,
saying, ‘You shall not prophesy.’



- 13 “Behold, I will press you down in your place,
as a cart full of sheaves presses down.
- 14 “Flight shall perish from the swift,
and the strong shall not retain his strength,
nor shall the mighty save his life;
- 15 he who handles the bow shall not stand,
and he who is swift of foot shall not save himself,
nor shall he who rides the horse save his life;
- 16 and he who is stout of heart among the mighty
shall flee away naked in that day,”
- declares the LORD.



AMOS 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

HEAR this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt:

- 2 “You only have I known
 of all the families of the earth;
 therefore I will punish you
 for all your iniquities.
- 3 “Do two walk together,
 unless they have agreed to meet?
- 4 “Does a lion roar in the forest,
 when he has no prey?
 Does a young lion cry out from his den,
 if he has taken nothing?
- 5 “Does a bird fall in a snare on the earth,
 when there is no trap for it?
 Does a snare spring up from the ground,
 when it has taken nothing?
- 6 “Is a trumpet blown in a city,
 and the people are not afraid?
 Does disaster come to a city,
 unless the LORD has done it?
- 7 “For the Lord GOD does nothing
 without revealing his secret
 to his servants the prophets.



- 8 “The lion has roared;
who will not fear?
The Lord GOD has spoken;
who can but prophesy?”
- 9 Proclaim to the strongholds in Ashdod
and to the strongholds in the land of Egypt,
and say, “Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria,
and see the great tumults within her,
and the oppressed in her midst.”
- 10 “They do not know how to do right,” declares the LORD,
“those who store up violence and robbery in their strongholds.”
- 11 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:
“An adversary shall surround the land
and bring down your defenses from you,
and your strongholds shall be plundered.”
- 12 Thus says the Lord: “As the shepherd rescues from the mouth of the
lion two legs, or a piece of an ear, so shall the people of Israel who
dwell in Samaria be rescued, with the corner of a couch and part of a
bed.
- 13 “Hear, and testify against the house of Jacob,”
declares the Lord GOD, the God of hosts,
- 14 “that on the day I punish Israel for his transgressions,
I will punish the altars of Bethel,
and the horns of the altar shall be cut off
and fall to the ground.
- 15 “I will strike the winter house along with the summer house,
and the houses of ivory shall perish,
and the great houses shall come to an end,”
declares the LORD.



AMOS 4

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- “HEAR this word, you cows of Bashan,
who are on the mountain of Samaria,
who oppress the poor, who crush the needy,
who say to your husbands, ‘Bring, that we may drink!’
- 2 “The Lord GOD has sworn by his holiness
that, behold, the days are coming upon you,
when they shall take you away with hooks,
even the last of you with fishhooks.
- 3 “And you shall go out through the breaches,
each one straight ahead;
and you shall be cast out into Harmon,”
declares the LORD.
- 4 “Come to Bethel, and transgress;
to Gilgal, and multiply transgression;
bring your sacrifices every morning,
your tithes every three days;
- 5 offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened,
and proclaim freewill offerings, publish them;
for so you love to do, O people of Israel!”
declares the Lord GOD.
- 6 “I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities,
and lack of bread in all your places,
yet you did not return to me,”
declares the LORD.



- 7 “I also withheld the rain from you
when there were yet three months to the harvest;
I would send rain on one city,
and send no rain on another city;
one field would have rain,
and the field on which it did not rain would wither;
8 so two or three cities would wander to another city
to drink water, and would not be satisfied;
yet you did not return to me,”
declares the LORD.
- 9 “I struck you with blight and mildew;
your many gardens and your vineyards,
your fig trees and your olive trees the locust devoured;
yet you did not return to me,”
declares the LORD.
- 10 “I sent among you a pestilence after the manner of Egypt;
I killed your young men with the sword,
and carried away your horses,
and I made the stench of your camp go up into your nostrils;
yet you did not return to me,”
declares the LORD.
- 11 “I overthrew some of you,
as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah,
and you were as a brand plucked out of the burning;
yet you did not return to me,”
declares the LORD.
- 12 “Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel;
because I will do this to you,
prepare to meet your God, O Israel!”



13 For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind,
and declares to man what is his thought,
who makes the morning darkness,
and treads on the heights of the earth—
the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!



AMOS 5

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

HEAR this word that I take up over you in lamentation, O house of Israel:

- 2 “Fallen, no more to rise,
is the virgin Israel;
forsaken on her land,
with none to raise her up.”
- 3 For thus says the Lord GOD:
“The city that went out a thousand
shall have a hundred left,
and that which went out a hundred
shall have ten left
to the house of Israel.”
- 4 For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel:
“Seek me and live;
5 but do not seek Bethel,
and do not enter into Gilgal
or cross over to Beersheba;
for Gilgal shall surely go into exile,
and Bethel shall come to nothing.”
- 6 Seek the LORD and live,
lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph,
and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel,
- 7 O you who turn justice to wormwood
and cast down righteousness to the earth!



- 8 He who made the Pleiades and Orion,
and turns deep darkness into the morning
and darkens the day into night,
who calls for the waters of the sea
and pours them out on the surface of the earth,
the LORD is his name;
- 9 who makes destruction flash forth against the strong,
so that destruction comes upon the fortress.
- 10 They hate him who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor him who speaks the truth.
- 11 Therefore because you trample on the poor
and you exact taxes of grain from him,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not dwell in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.
- 12 For I know how many are your transgressions
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and turn aside the needy in the gate.
- 13 Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time,
for it is an evil time.
- 14 Seek good, and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,
as you have said.
- 15 Hate evil, and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.



16 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the Lord:

“In all the squares there shall be wailing,
and in all the streets they shall say, ‘Alas! Alas!’
They shall call the farmers to mourning
and to wailing those who are skilled in lamentation,

17 and in all vineyards there shall be wailing,
for I will pass through your midst,”

says the LORD.

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why would you have the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, and not light,

19 as if a man fled from a lion,
and a bear met him,

or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,
and a serpent bit him.

20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 “I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

22 “Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.

23 “Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

24 “But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

25 “Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings during the forty years in
the wilderness, O house of Israel?



- 26 “You shall take up Sikkuth your king, and Kiyyun your star-god—your
images that you made for yourselves,
27 and I will send you into exile beyond Damascus,” says the LORD,
whose name is the God of hosts.



AMOS 6

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- “WOE to those who are at ease in Zion,
and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria,
the notable men of the first of the nations,
to whom the house of Israel comes!
- 2 “Pass over to Calneh, and see,
and from there go to Hamath the great;
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.
Are you better than these kingdoms?
Or is their territory greater than your territory,
- 3 O you who put far away the day of disaster
and bring near the seat of violence?
- 4 “Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and stretch themselves out on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the midst of the stall,
- 5 who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David invent for themselves instruments of music,
- 6 who drink wine in bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
- 7 “Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile,
and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.”



8 The Lord GOD has sworn by himself, declares the LORD, the God of hosts:

“I abhor the pride of Jacob
and hate his strongholds,
and I will deliver up the city and all that is in it.”

9 And if ten men remain in one house, they shall die.

10 And when one’s relative, the one who anoints him for burial, shall take him up to bring the bones out of the house, and shall say to him who is in the innermost parts of the house, “Is there still anyone with you?” he shall say, “No”; and he shall say, “Silence! We must not mention the name of the LORD.”

11 For behold, the LORD commands,
and the great house shall be struck down into fragments,
and the little house into bits.

12 Do horses run on rocks?
Does one plow there with oxen?
But you have turned justice into poison
and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood—

13 you who rejoice in Lo-debar,
who say, “Have we not by our own strength
captured Karnaim for ourselves?”

14 “For behold, I will raise up against you a nation,
O house of Israel,” declares the LORD, the God of hosts;
“and they shall oppress you from Lebo-hamath
to the Brook of the Arabah.”



AMOS 7

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THIS is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, he was forming locusts when the latter growth was just beginning to sprout, and behold, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings.

2 When they had finished eating the grass of the land, I said,

“O Lord GOD, please forgive!

How can Jacob stand?

He is so small!”

3 The LORD relented concerning this:

“It shall not be,” said the LORD.

4 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, the Lord GOD was calling for a judgment by fire, and it devoured the great deep and was eating up the land.

5 Then I said,

“O Lord GOD, please cease!

How can Jacob stand?

He is so small!”

6 The LORD relented concerning this:

“This also shall not be,” said the Lord GOD.

7 This is what he showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand.

8 And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said,

“Behold, I am setting a plumb line

in the midst of my people Israel;

I will never again pass by them;



- 9 the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”
- 10 Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel,
saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of
Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words.
- 11 “For thus Amos has said,
‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.’ ”
- 12 And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah,
and eat bread there, and prophesy there,
13 but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it
is a temple of the kingdom.”
- 14 Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a
prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs.
- 15 “But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to
me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’
- 16 “Now therefore hear the word of the LORD.
You say, ‘Do not prophesy against Israel,
and do not preach against the house of Isaac.’
- 17 “Therefore thus says the LORD:
‘Your wife shall be a prostitute in the city,
and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword,
and your land shall be divided up with a measuring line;
you yourself shall die in an unclean land,
and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land.’ ”



AMOS 8

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THIS is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, a basket of summer fruit.

2 And he said, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A basket of summer fruit.” Then the LORD said to me,

“The end has come upon my people Israel;
I will never again pass by them.

3 “The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day,”
declares the Lord GOD.

“So many dead bodies!”
“They are thrown everywhere!”
“Silence!”

4 Hear this, you who trample on the needy
and bring the poor of the land to an end,
5 saying, “When will the new moon be over,
that we may sell grain?

And the Sabbath,
that we may offer wheat for sale,
that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great
and deal deceitfully with false balances,

6 that we may buy the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and sell the chaff of the wheat?”

7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
“Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.



- 8 “Shall not the land tremble on this account,
and everyone mourn who dwells in it,
and all of it rise like the Nile,
and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?”
- 9 “And on that day,” declares the Lord GOD,
“I will make the sun go down at noon
and darken the earth in broad daylight.
- 10 “I will turn your feasts into mourning
and all your songs into lamentation;
I will bring sackcloth on every waist
and baldness on every head;
I will make it like the mourning for an only son
and the end of it like a bitter day.
- 11 “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD,
“when I will send a famine on the land—
not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water,
but of hearing the words of the LORD.
- 12 “They shall wander from sea to sea,
and from north to east;
they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD,
but they shall not find it.
- 13 “In that day the lovely virgins and the young men
shall faint for thirst.
- 14 “Those who swear by the Guilt of Samaria,
and say, ‘As your god lives, O Dan,’
and, ‘As the Way of Beersheba lives,’
they shall fall, and never rise again.”



AMOS 9

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and he said:

- “Strike the capitals until the thresholds shake,
and shatter them on the heads of all the people;
and those who are left of them I will kill with the sword;
not one of them shall flee away;
not one of them shall escape.
- 2 “If they dig into Sheol,
from there shall my hand take them;
if they climb up to heaven,
from there I will bring them down.
- 3 “If they hide themselves on the top of Carmel,
from there I will search them out and take them;
and if they hide from my sight at the bottom of the sea,
there I will command the serpent, and it shall bite them.
- 4 “And if they go into captivity before their enemies,
there I will command the sword, and it shall kill them;
and I will fix my eyes upon them
for evil and not for good.”
- 5 The Lord GOD of hosts,
he who touches the earth and it melts,
and all who dwell in it mourn,
and all of it rises like the Nile,
and sinks again, like the Nile of Egypt;



- 6 who builds his upper chambers in the heavens
 and founds his vault upon the earth;
 who calls for the waters of the sea
 and pours them out upon the surface of the earth—
 the LORD is his name.
- 7 “Are you not like the Cushites to me,
 O people of Israel?” declares the LORD.
 “Did I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt,
 and the Philistines from Caphtor and the Syrians from Kir?
- 8 “Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom,
 and I will destroy it from the surface of the ground,
 except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob,”
 declares the LORD.
- 9 “For behold, I will command,
 and shake the house of Israel among all the nations
 as one shakes with a sieve,
 but no pebble shall fall to the earth.
- 10 “All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword,
 who say, ‘Disaster shall not overtake or meet us.’
- 11 “In that day I will raise up
 the booth of David that is fallen
 and repair its breaches,
 and raise up its ruins
 and rebuild it as in the days of old,
- 12 that they may possess the remnant of Edom
 and all the nations who are called by my name,”
 declares the LORD who does this.



- 13 “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when the plowman shall overtake the reaper
and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed;
the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
and all the hills shall flow with it.
- 14 “I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel,
and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine,
and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.
- 15 “I will plant them on their land,
and they shall never again be uprooted
out of the land that I have given them,”
says the LORD your God.



AMOS AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

| Segment Divisions | | Chapter Themes |
|-------------------|--|----------------|
| | | 1 |
| | | 2 |
| | | 3 |
| | | 4 |
| | | 5 |
| | | 6 |
| | | 7 |
| | | 8 |
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