

“One Step Too Far” Amos 1 & 2

INTRODUCTION (Background)

Amos

- not a professional preacher;
- a shepherd and fig tree farmer.

- He lived in Tekoa
(located about 18 km from the city of Jerusalem)



Israel and Judah

- enjoyed great prosperity, reached new political and military heights
- idolatry, extravagant living, immorality, and judicial corruption.



1. **Damascus** - northeast of Israel.
2. **Gaza** - southwest of Israel
3. **Tyre** - northwest of Israel
4. **Edom**; 5. **Ammon**; 6. **Moab** -
(southeast of Israel)

7. **Judah** - Amos' home country.
 - Israel's closest neighbor.
 - The other half of the divided kingdom



8. Israel

This is what the Lord says:

*“For three sins of Israel,
even for four, I will not turn back
my wrath.” (2:6a)*

1:3 – 2:16 - God’s pattern of judgment :

on the nations,

on Judah, and finally

on Israel.



I. The first part is God's grace.

“How can a loving God promise to burn and break and cut off and devour people?”

Amos 1:3a - *“For three sins..., even for four.”*

For **three** sins—*the max capacity of sinfulness.*

Even for **four**—*your overflowing iniquity.*



Amos 2:4 says that He gave them –
His Word...His Law...
His commandments.

Amos 2:9-11:

9 – *“I destroyed the Amorite before them, though he was tall as the cedars and strong as the oaks.*

I destroyed his fruit above and his roots below.

10 - *I brought you up out of Egypt and led you forty years in the desert to give you the land of the Amorites.*

11- *“I also raised up prophets from among your sons and Nazirites from among your young men. Is this not true, people of Israel?” declares the Lord.*



II. The second part is man's response

1:3 - **Damascus** - *cruel and violent*

1:6 - **Gaza** - *involved in human trafficking
and forced slave trading*

1:9 - **Tyre** - *involved in slave trading*

1:11 - **Edom** - *obsessed with attacking Israel*

1:13 - **Ammon** - *violated all sense of human dignity*



2:1- Moab - *full of hatred and revenge*

2:4 – Judah - *turned completely away
from God's Word*

2:6-8 - Israel - *violated God's people,
God's name, and God's altar*

2:12 - *“But you made the Nazirites drink wine and commanded
the prophets not to prophesy”*



III. The third part is man's conviction

Romans 2:1-3

2:1 – *You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.*

2:2 – *Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.*

2:3 – *So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?*



Damascus - they brutally killed their enemies

2 Samuel 12:31 –

“And he brought forth the people that were therein, and put them under saws, and under harrows of iron, and under axes of iron, and made them pass through the brickkiln: and thus did he unto all the cities of the children of Ammon. So David and all the people returned unto Jerusalem.” (KJV)

Ammonites—the ones who ripped open the women with child.

Israel - worship of idols (eg.Molech). Molech worship included mothers sacrificing their babies



IV. The final part is God's judgment

Amos 2:13 - *“Now then, I will crush you as a cart crushes when loaded with grain.”*

Many of God's judgments involved **fire**...

Other words He used: **break, cut off, devour, turn my hand against, send into captivity, slay, die.**

God's judgment of sin is serious. It's brutal. It's ugly.

Picture Jesus Christ on the cross. Picture the **beating** He took.

Picture the **crown of thorns**. Picture the **nails**.



APPLICATION

1. God requires more from those to whom He has given more

- Assurance of **Salvation**
- Relationship with **God**
- Knowledge of His **Word**

A New Commandment

(To love God and to love people)



2. God is more concerned that we confront our own sin than He is about us confronting the sins in others
- *Spend more time and energy to develop **our own character** and dealing with **our own sins***
 - *Do not go around pointing out the sins in **others** and trying to address them.*

Repent... *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says...”*

