

LESSON FIVE

Amos
755 B.C

Introduction

- Amos lived in the village of **Tekoa**, about 10 miles south of Jerusalem.
- He traveled north to Bethel and preached against Israel's idolatry and paganism.



http://www.citizenphilosophy.net/Voegelin_and_Ancient_Israel.html

- Amos told the people to **repent** and escape imminent judgment.
- The nation of Israel had experienced prosperity. They should have worshiped God and followed His laws (Matthew 5:45).
- Amos was not a professional prophet, but a layman, a shepherd, and possibly a master shepherd.
- Amos was a **foreigner** and came from the land of Judah.
- Due to extreme opposition, Amos went back to Judah where he continued his ministry through writing.

Chapters-1-2

1:1-2- Prophecies Concerning The Surrounding Nations

- **Uzziah** reigned as king over Judah during the days of Amos. Both Judah and Israel experienced times of prosperity. Jeroboam II, a wicked king of Israel, had a powerful influence over Judah.
- God used the **locusts** of Joel to symbolize God's punishment upon Judah and God used the **earthquake** in verse 1 to symbolize His judgment against Israel.
- Zechariah (Zechariah 14:5) and Josephus referenced the earthquake in verse 1.
- Mt. Carmel in vs. 2 means "garden land," thus referring to a beautiful watered area.

- Possible archaeological site of the earthquake





<https://shalomisrael.com/mount-carmel/>

- Because of Israel's sins, the area would soon be dry and desolate.

1:3-5-Concerning Damascus

- Damascus, the capital of Aram, was a very strong and powerful city. It was located northeast of Israel. The Arameans acted wickedly with much cruelty.

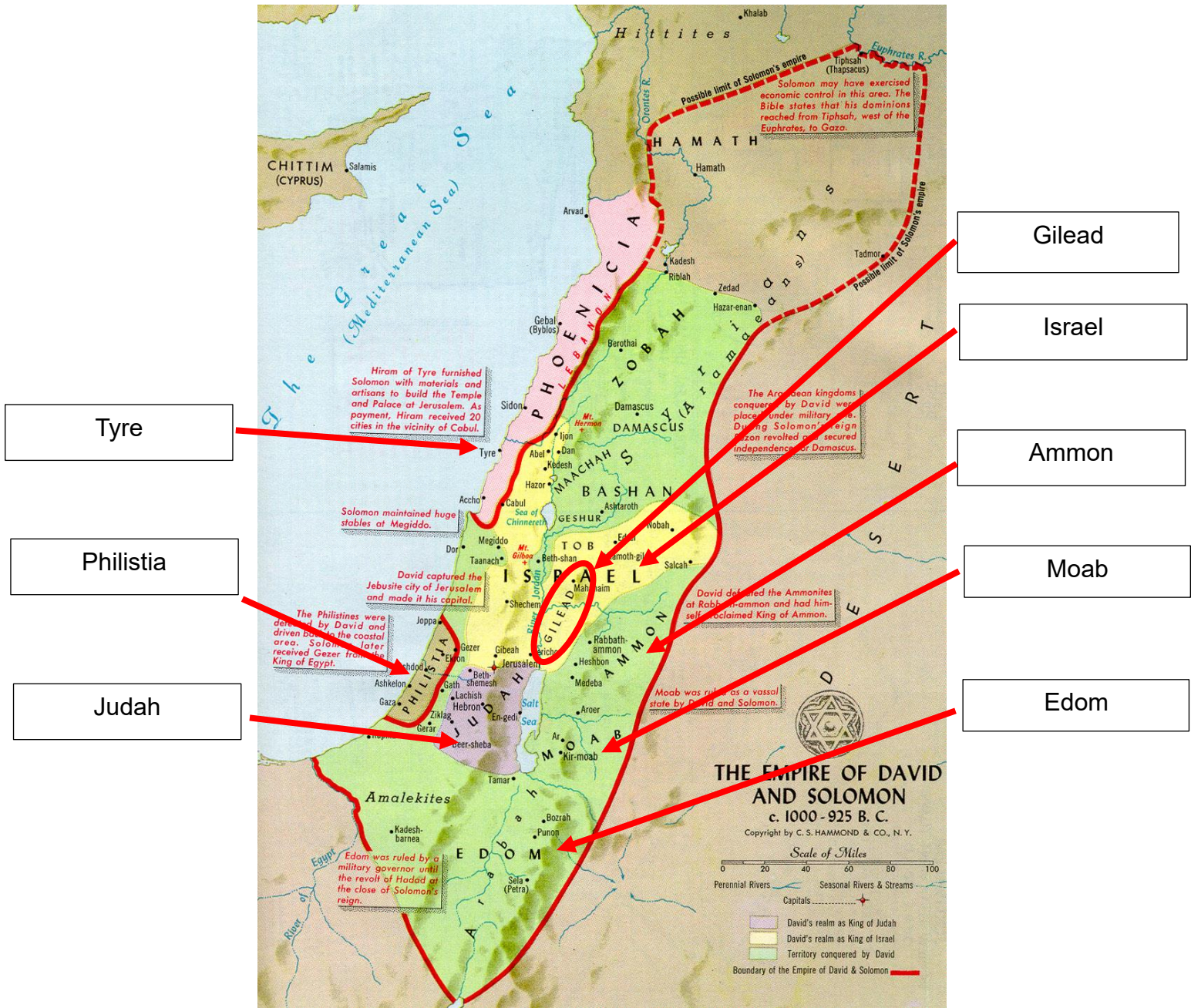


Ruins of Damascus



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/506021708109145002/>

- It is noted the Arameans would crush and mangle the bodies of **prisoners** under heavy studded threshing sledges. Due to this act, God invoked punishment upon Damascus.
- Hazael was the founder of the Aramean dynasty and Ben-hadad was Hazel's son. He tried to destroy Samaria, the capital of Israel.
- Amos prophesied against Ben-hadad and the city of Damascus. This prophecy of doom came true in 2 Kings 16:9.



<http://joshua-biblestudy.blogspot.com/2012/02/joshua-15.html>

1:6-8-Concerning Philistia

- Philistia was the region west of Judah and encompassed the Philistine cities.
- The Philistines descended from **Ham**, the oldest son of Noah. God cursed Ham and his son Canaan for Ham's evil behavior toward Noah (Genesis 9:20-27).

- Amos 1:8 speaks about God's judgment upon Philistia since they **sold** Israelite slaves to the Edomites, Israel's bitterest enemy.
- King Nebuchadnezzar (605 B.C.) eventually destroyed the Philistine cities.

1:9-10-Concerning Tyre

- David and Solomon made a covenant with the inhabitants of **Tyre**.
- This covenant protected the Hebrews from slavery (2 Samuel 5:11; 1 Kings 5:1-12; 9:13).
- According to Amos 1:9-10, this covenant was broken.
- God promised judgment upon Tyre since they broke the covenant.
- **Alexander the Great** Conquered Tyre in 332 B.C.

1:11-12-Concerning Edom

- The Edomites were descendants of **Esau** and lived southeast of Judah (1:11-12).
- Amos prophesied against Edom for its wicked behavior toward the Israelites after they entered the **Promised Land**.
- The Israelites asked Edom for a rite of passage through their land.
- The Edomites denied passage thus forcing them to take a much longer route.
- Other references demonstrated Edom's wicked behavior toward Israel (Numbers 20:14-21; 2 Chronicles 28:17; Obadiah 10-12).

1:13-15-Concerning Ammon

- The Ammonites (1:13-15) were descendants of Lot's **younger** daughter who conceived Ammon through Lot (Genesis 19:37).
- Ammon acted wickedly and cruelly to those in Gilead (2 Kings 15:16).

2:1-3-Concerning Moab

- The Moabites were descendants of Lot's **oldest** daughter who conceived Moab through Lot.
- The king of Moab acted wickedly when he sacrificed his son by fire (2 Kings 3:26-27).

2:4-5-Concerning Judah

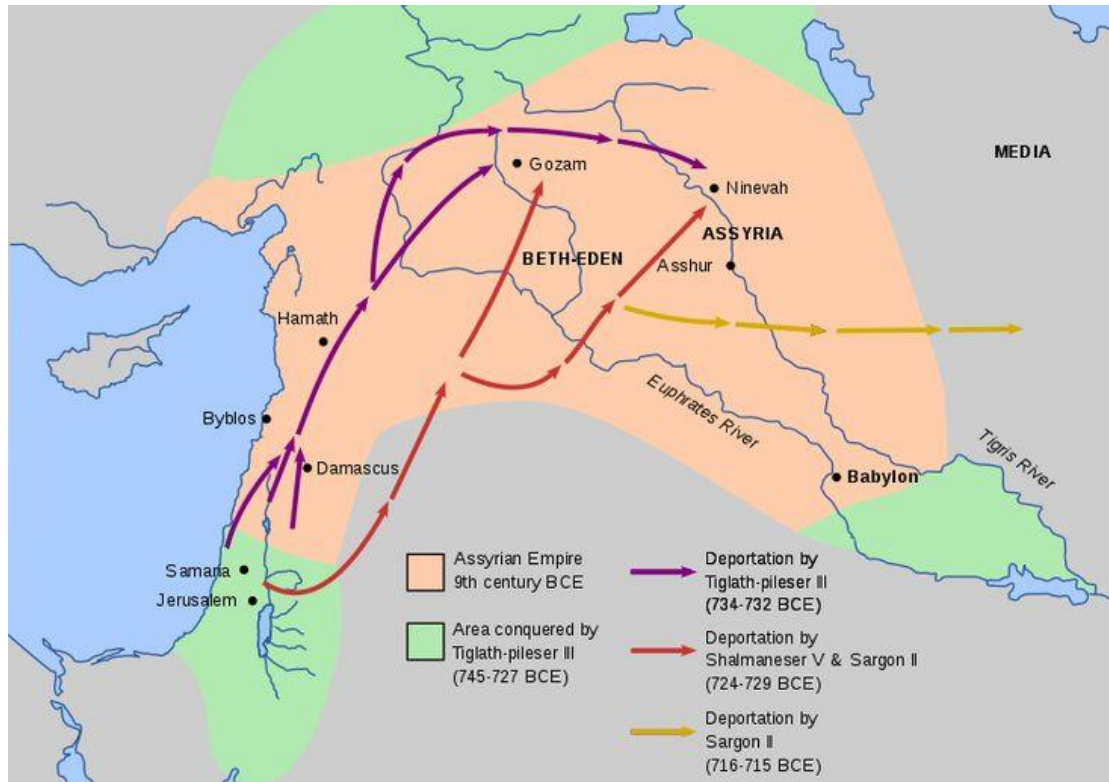
- Amos prophesied against Judah for its wickedness.
- This prophecy was fulfilled when **Nebuchadnezzar** destroyed Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

2:6-16-Concerning Israel

- Amos lists the sins of Israel (26-8; 12).
- God's judgment toward Israel came true when the king of **Assyria** captured Israel in 722 B.C.

Chapters 3-6-The Sermons of Amos

Israel's Captivity and Dispersion by Assyria



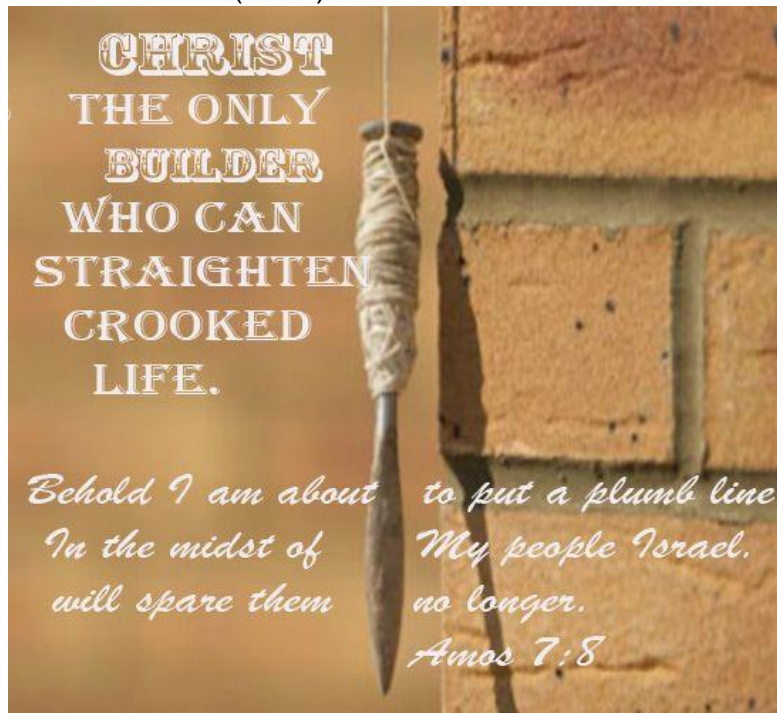
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- Amos prophesied against Israel and Judah (3:1-2).
- Notice the judgment God gave to Samaria, the capital of Israel (3:9).
- Only a **remnant** of Israel would remain after its destruction.
- Amos verbalized judgment upon the women of Samaria (4:1).
- Amos prophesied concerning Israel's captivity. The Assyrians led the Israelites away by **meat** and **fish** hooks (4:2).
- God sent hardships upon Israel to make them turn from their wicked ways (4:6-12).
- God can give no harsher punishment than stated in 4:12-"Prepare to meet your **God**, O Israel."
- Chapter 5 is a dirge given by Amos over the fate of Israel.

- Verse 3 states **90%** of Israel's population would go into captivity.
- Time after time, God told Israel to **repent** (vs. 4; 6).
- God sternly warned Israel against following other gods (5:5).
- Amos 5:27 stated Israel's captivity would take them to a far-away land beyond the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (2 Kings 17:6).
- Amos 6:14 outlines the boundaries Assyria would take.

Chapters 7-9-The Visions of Amos

- Amos 7:1-3 references God's impending judgment upon Israel through a **locust** infestation.
- Amos pleads for the nation and God halts judgment.
- God pronounced a judgment of **fire** (7:4-6).
- Again, Amos pleaded for God to withhold judgment.
- God measured Israel with a **plumb line**. He found Israel seriously off plumb in accordance with the Law (7:7-9).



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/a-plumbline-prophet-behold-i-will-set-a-plumbline-in-the-midst-of-my-people-israelamos-78--441015782161005824/>

- Amos 7:10-17 states how Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, told Amos to leave Israel.
 - God gave a curse through Amos.
- The summer fruit Amos saw in his vision symbolized the end of the fruit season (8:1-3).

- Amos saw the fruit fully ripe, edible, and ready for picking.
- This vision symbolized Israel's soon **demise**.
- Amos gave an apparent analogy (8:8-9) of a total **eclipse** that occurred in Asia Minor in 763 B.C.
- God used this eclipse to symbolize God's imminent judgment upon Israel.
- Amos told the people they would **thirst** for the word of God when in captivity (8:11).
- Amos gave Israel another warning of doom (9:8-9).
- Amos ends his book with a wonderful prophecy concerning Israel's reign during the Millennium (9:11-15).

Summary

- God gave repeated warnings for Israel to repent and turn from their sins.
- However, each warning was rebuffed and not taken seriously.
- As with Israel, God warns us today of sin through His Word, other believers, and our conscience.
- It is up to everyone to heed God's warnings.
- God corrects us for good and not for demise.
- God has given each of us "free-choice" to follow His instructions or to disobey them.
- Trust God for the best in your life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson Five

1. Amos lived in the village of Tekoa, about 10 miles south of Jerusalem. God told him to travel north to Bethel and preach against Israel's idolatry and paganism. Israel and Judah were separate countries even though both were of Jewish descent.
 - A. Why did God call Amos to preach in a foreign country?
 - B. Did the people listen to his message? Explain.
 - C. Have you ever witnessed to someone only for them to reject what you had to say? Explain. How did you respond?

2. Amos was not a professional prophet, but a layman, a shepherd, and possibly a master shepherd.
 - A. Why did God choose Amos, a non professional, to preach in a foreign land?
 - B. Have you ever felt unqualified to start a task? Explain. How did you feel? How did you react to this task?
 - C. Read Zechariah 3:6. How might this help when we feel inadequate?

3. During the time of Amos, both Judah and Israel were experiencing times of prosperity.
 - A. Why did Israel turn from God during this prosperous time?
 - B. Do Israel and our nation have similar characteristics?
 - C. How can Amos' life be an example of Christian living?