OLD TESTAMENT · MINOR PROPHETS · BOOK 30 OF 66

Amos

Let judgment run down as waters (5:24)

9	Amos	c. 760 B.C.	722 B.C.
Chapters, 146 Verses	Herdman of Tekoa	Two Years Before the Earthquake	Israel Taken Captive

STRUCTURE

The Book in Three Parts

Amos circles the nations (1–2), speaks to Israel (3–6), and reports his visions (7–9).



Each bar shows that part's share of the 146 verses.

I 1–2 · 31 verses

The Nations

Eight messages close in on Israel.

II 3–6 · 69 verses

To Israel

"Hear this word" and "Woe."

III 7–9 · 46 verses

Visions and Hope

Five visions; David's tabernacle raised.

AMOS 2–8

Israel's Sins

Israel was rich and religious, but God saw how the poor were treated.

2:6

Selling the Poor

For a pair of shoes.

4:1

Crushing the Needy

The kine of Bashan.

5:12

Taking Bribes

Turning aside the poor in the gate.

6:4

Ease and Luxury

Beds of ivory, wine in bowls.

8:5

False Balances

The ephah small, the shekel great.

4:4; 5:21

Empty Worship

"I hate, I despise your feast days."

> *"But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."*
>
> Amos 5:24 (KJV)

For Three Transgressions, and for Four

MAP

For Three Transgressions, and for Four

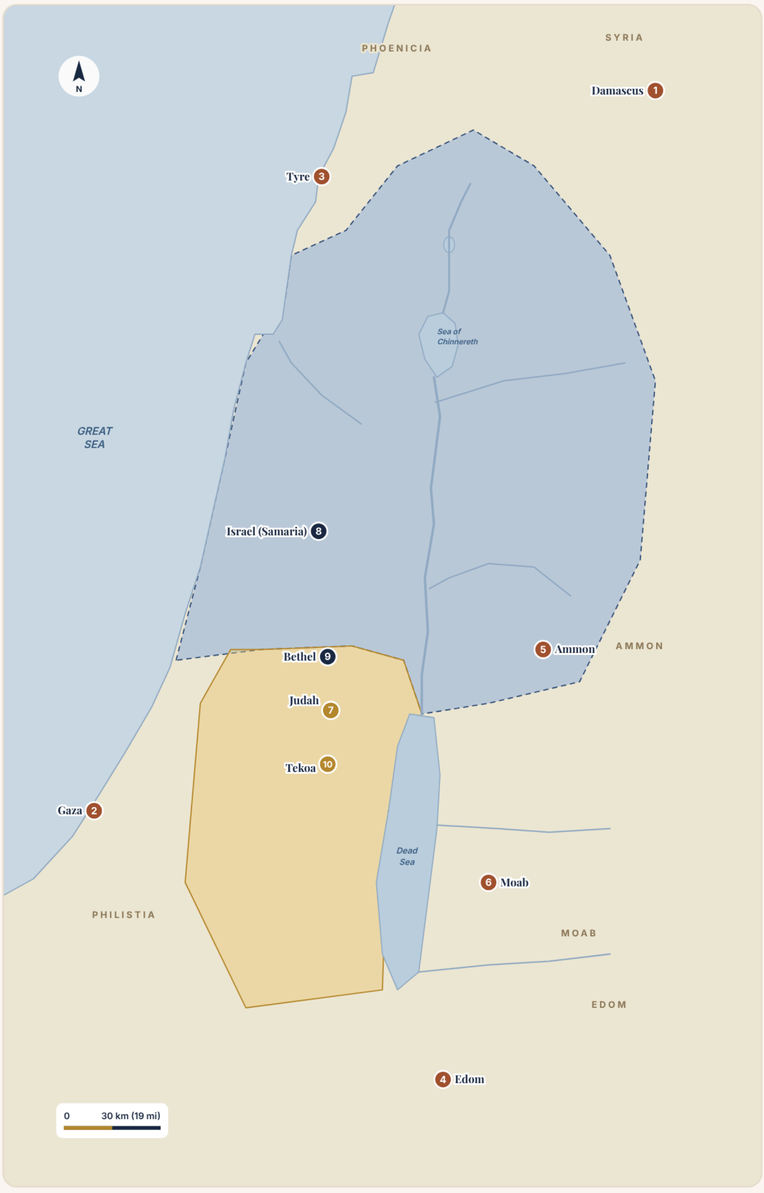
Amos's first messages circle Israel like a noose: the nations around first, then Judah, then Israel itself. Rust marks the nations, gold Judah and Tekoa, navy Israel. The numbers follow the order of the book.

AMOS 1–2

For Three Transgressions, and for Four

God's judgment circles in on Israel

c. 760 B.C. · Borders approximate



The nations around
Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, Moab

Judah
And Tekoa, Amos's home

Israel
Samaria and Bethel

Israel (blue), Judah (gold)
The two kingdoms

"Let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."

AMOS 5:24 (KJV)

The numbers follow the order of Amos 1–2: the nations first, then Judah, then Israel.

BibleStudyForAll.com · Map positions approximate · Scripture from the King James Version

1 1:3–5

Damascus

The nations. Syria "threshed Gilead with threshing instruments of iron."

2 1:6–8

Gaza

The nations. Philistia carried away whole peoples to deliver them to Edom.

3 1:9–10

Tyre

The nations. Tyre "remembered not the brotherly covenant."

4 1:11–12

Edom

The nations. Edom "did pursue his brother with the sword."

5 1:13–15

Ammon

The nations. Ammon was cruel in Gilead to enlarge their border.

6 2:1–3

Moab

The nations. Moab burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime.

7 2:4–5

Judah

Judah. Judah "despised the law of the LORD."

8 2:6–16; 3:9–4:1

Israel (Samaria)

Israel. Israel "sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes."

9 4:4; 7:10–13

Bethel

Israel. The king's chapel, where Amaziah the priest told Amos to flee.

10 1:1

Tekoa

Amos's home. Where Amos was a herdman and a gatherer of sycomore fruit.

Five Warnings and Five Visions

AMOS 4:6–12

Yet Have Ye Not Returned

Five times God sent trouble to turn Israel back. Five times they did not return.

1 4:6
Famine
Cleanness of teeth in all your cities.

2 4:7–8
Drought
Rain withheld three months before harvest.

3 4:9
Blight
Blasting, mildew and the palmerworm.

4 4:10
Pestilence and Sword
After the manner of Egypt.

5 4:11
Overthrow
As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

! 4:12
Prepare
“Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.”

AMOS 7–9

Five Visions

God showed Amos five pictures of judgment. For the first two, Amos prayed and God relented.

1 7:1–3
Grasshoppers
Amos prays; “It shall not be.”

2 7:4–6
Fire
Amos prays; “This also shall not be.”

3 7:7–9
A Plumbline
Israel measured and found crooked.

4 8:1–3
Summer Fruit
“The end is come.”

5 9:1–4
The Lord upon the Altar
No place to hide.

★ 9:11–15
Then Hope
The tabernacle of David raised up.

Seek and Live, and Christ in Amos

AMOS 5

Seek the LORD, and Ye Shall Live

In the middle of judgment, God still calls His people to come back to Him.

SEEK NOT	BUT SEEK
Beth-el, Gilgal and Beer-sheba 5:5	**“Seek ye Me, and ye shall live”** 5:4
SEEK NOT	**BUT SEEK**
Evil 5:14	**“Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live”** 5:14
SEEK NOT	**BUT SEEK**
The day of the LORD as a wish 5:18	**“Hate the evil, and love the good”** 5:15

LOOKING FORWARD

Christ in Amos

Amos ends with the promise of David’s fallen house raised up, fulfilled in Jesus, the Son of David.

9:11–12 · ACTS 15:14–17

David’s Tabernacle Raised

James quoted Amos when the Gentiles came to Christ.

8:9 · MATTHEW 27:45

Darkness at Noon

“There was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.”

5:24 · LUKE 4:18

Good News to the Poor

Christ came “to preach the gospel to the poor.”

8:11 · JOHN 6:68

The Words of Life

“Thou hast the words of eternal life.”

Key Themes and Key Verse

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

God Judges All Nations
For three, and for four.
1:3–2:16

Privilege and Responsibility
You only have I known.
3:2

Justice
Judgment as waters.
5:24

Care for the Poor
Not sold for shoes.
2:6; 8:6

Empty Worship
I hate your feast days.
5:21–23

False Security
At ease in Zion.
6:1

Prayer
O Lord GOD, forgive.
7:2–6

God's Word
A famine of hearing.
8:11

Restoration
David's tabernacle raised.
9:11–15

KEY VERSE

"But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream."

Amos 5:24 (KJV)