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The Chapters of Amos

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Amos

SECTION OUTLINE ONE (AMOS 1-2)

These chapters describe Amos's vision of God's judgment on Damascus, Philistia, Tyre, Ammon, Moab, Judah, and Israel.

I. THE REVELATION OF GOD'S JUDGMENT (1:1-2): In a vision Amos sees divine wrath falling upon certain nations.

II. THE RECIPIENTS OF GOD'S JUDGMENT (1:3-2:16)

A. Damascus (1:3-5)

1. Their sin (1:3): They have ravished the Israelite city of Gilead.
2. Their sentence (1:4-5): Damascus will be burned, and its people will be enslaved.

B. Philistia (1:6-8)

1. Their sin (1:6): They have sold God's people into slavery.
2. Their sentence (1:7-8): The Philistine cities will be torched, and the people will be killed.

C. Tyre (1:9-10)

1. Their sin (1:9): They have broken their treaty with the people of Israel and have betrayed them.
2. Their sentence (1:10): The city will be burned.

D. Edom (1:11-12)

1. Their sin (1:11): They have hounded Israel with the sword.
2. Their sentence (1:12): Their cities will be burned.

E. Ammon (1:13-15)

1. Their sin (1:13): They ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead.
2. Their sentence (1:14-15): Their cities will be burned, and their people will be enslaved.

F. Moab (2:1-3)

1. Their sin (2:1): They have desecrated tombs, showing no respect for the dead.
2. Their sentence (2:2-3): Their cities will be burned, and their people will be killed.

G. Judah (2:4-5)

1. Their sin (2:4): They have rejected the law of God.
2. Their sentence (2:5): Jerusalem will be destroyed.

H. Israel (2:6-16)

1. Their sins (2:6-12)
 - a. Bribery (2:6): They pervert justice with dishonest scales.
 - b. Cruelty to the poor (2:7a): They trample helpless people in the dirt.
 - c. Immorality (2:7b): Father and son sleep with the same woman.
 - d. Hypocrisy (2:8): They go to religious festivals in stolen clothing.
 - e. Tempting the godly to sin (2:9-12): They cause the Nazirites to sin by making them drink wine.
2. Their sentence (2:13-16)
 - a. They will groan as an overloaded wagon (2:13)
 - b. Their enemies will defeat them (2:14-16): The runners, the warriors, and those on horses will be unable to get away.

SECTION OUTLINE TWO (AMOS 3-6)

These chapters record for us three sermons preached by Amos.

I. AMOS'S FIRST SERMON (3:1-15)

A. The privileges of Israel (3:1-3): Amos reminds the nation that God treats them as a special

nation.

B. The perversions of Israel (3:10)

1. They do not know right from wrong (3:10a).
2. Their homes are full of loot they have stolen from others (3:10b).

C. The prophecy against Israel (3:4-9, 11-15)

1. God will roar out his wrath as a hungry lion (3:4-9): God warns the people, but they do not listen.
2. Their enemies will devour them (3:11-14): They will be torn into pieces.
3. Their beautiful homes will be destroyed (3:15).

II. AMOS'S SECOND SERMON (4:1-13)

A. He denounces the Israel of God (4:1-5).

1. Their godless women (4:1-3): They will be led away with hooks in their noses.
2. Their hypocrisy (4:4-5): They offer sacrifices to idols.

B. He defends the God of Israel (4:6-13).

1. The past patience of God (4:6-11): He has given Israel repeated opportunities to repent, all to no avail.
2. The future punishment from God (4:12-13): The nation will soon face him in judgment.

III. AMOS'S THIRD SERMON (5:1-6:14)

A. God's invitation to Israel (5:4-9, 14-15): Amos makes one final plea, urging his people to repent.

1. Seek God and live (5:4, 7-9): God is all-powerful.
2. Renounce your idolatry (5:5-6): They are to worship idols no longer.
3. Do what is good (5:14-15): The Lord will be their helper if they are obedient.

B. God's indictment of Israel (5:1-3, 10-13, 16-27; 6:1-14)

1. The nation's perversions (5:10-13, 25-26; 6:1-7, 12-13)
 - a. They hate the truth (5:10): They hate honest judges and people who tell the truth.
 - b. They oppose the good (5:11): They trample the poor and take what they have.
 - c. They are guilty of extortion and bribery (5:12-13): They oppress good people by taking bribes.
 - d. They are lazy and complacent (6:1-3): They lounge in luxury and think they are safe.
 - e. They are materialistic and indulgent (6:4-5): They lie on comfortable beds eating choice meat and singing idle songs.
 - f. They are a nation of drunkards (6:6-7): They drink wine by the bowlful.
 - g. They have turned justice into poison (6:12): They make bitter the sweet fruit of righteousness.
 - h. They are arrogant (6:13): They boast that they have made conquests on their own.
 - i. They worship idols (5:25-26): Their real interest is in the gods they have made themselves.
2. The nation's punishment (5:1-3, 16-24, 27; 6:8-11, 14)
 - a. To be broken and deserted (5:1-2): She will fall, never to rise again.
 - b. To lose 90 percent of her soldiers in battle (5:3)
 - c. To grieve (5:16-18): Weeping will be heard throughout the land.
 - d. To go from bad to worse (5:19-20): It will be a day without a ray of hope.
 - e. To have hypocritical offerings rejected by God (5:21-22)
 - f. To have her songs rejected (5:23-24): God wants to see a river of righteous living instead.
 - g. To go into slavery in exile (5:27; 6:14)
 - h. To lose their pride and glory (6:8-11): God will give every thing to their enemies.

SECTION OUTLINE THREE (AMOS 7-9)

These chapters describe Amos's visions of the future of God's people.

I. THE PLAGUES (7:1-9; 8:1-9:10): These verses describe five visions received by Amos, all dealing with God's judgment on Israel.

A. Vision of the locusts (7:1-3)

1. God's intention (7:1): He is preparing a vast locust plague to destroy Israel's crops.

- 2. Amos's intervention (7:2-3): The prophet prays, and this judgment is set aside.
- B. Vision of the fire (7:4-6)**
 - 1. God's intention (7:4): A great fire will soon devour the land.
 - 2. Amos's intervention (7:5-6): Again the prophet prays, and judgment is averted.
- C. Vision of the plumb line (7:7-9)**
 - 1. The revelation (7:7): Amos sees God measuring the "spiritual straightness" of Israel with a plumb line.
 - 2. The results (7:8-9): The moral crookedness of the nation demands divine judgment.
- D. Vision of the summer fruit (8:1-14)**
 - 1. The symbol (8:1-2): Israel is pictured as a basket of fruit, ripe for judgment because of sin.
 - 2. The sin (8:4-6)
 - a. The rich are robbing and enslaving the poor, buying and selling them for a pair of sandals (8:4a, 6).
 - b. The needy in the land are being trampled on (8:4b).
 - c. Gross dishonesty can be witnessed everywhere (8:5).
 - 3. The suffering (8:3, 7-14): Sin always results in sorrow, pain, and disaster! Amos now describes a fourfold judgment:
 - a. In regard to sinners (8:3, 10)
 - (1) Dead bodies will be scattered everywhere (8:3): Singing will turn to wailing.
 - (2) Sheer misery will replace mirth (8:10): Celebrations will become times of mourning, and songs of joy will become weeping.
 - b. In regard to the soil (8:7-8): The entire land will rise and fall like the Nile River.
 - c. In regard to the skies (8:9): The sun will go down at noon.
 - d. In regard to the Scriptures (8:11-14)
 - (1) The famine (8:11): God himself will send a famine of hearing the words of the Lord.
 - (2) The fruitless search (8:12-14): Men will wander everywhere attempting to find it!
- E. The vision of God at the altar (9:1-10):** Amos sees the Lord standing at the altar, and God tells Amos that he will destroy the people.

II. THE PRIEST (7:10-17)

- A. Amos's confrontation with Amaziah (7:10-13)**
 - 1. He slanders Amos (7:10-11): Amaziah tells King Jeroboam II that Amos is a traitor and a rebel.
 - 2. He scorns Amos (7:12-13): Amaziah tells Amos to take his foolish preaching back to Judah.
- B. Amos's clarification to Amaziah (7:14-15):** He acknowledges that he is neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet. But he then adds that:
 - 1. He feels unworthy (7:14): "I'm just a shepherd, and I take care of fig trees."
 - 2. He knows God has called him to prophesy (7:15).
- C. Amos's condemnation of Amaziah (7:16-17)**
 - 1. Amaziah's wife will become a prostitute (7:16-17a).
 - 2. Amaziah's sons and daughters will be killed (7:17b).
 - 3. Amaziah's land will be divided up (7:17c).
 - 4. Amaziah will die as a slave in a pagan land (7:17d).

III. THE PROMISES (9:11-15)

- A. Jerusalem will be rebuilt to its former glory (9:11-12):** The walls will be rebuilt.
- B. Israel will be restored to her former land (9:13-15):** The people will rebuild the ruined cities and will live in them.