

*“YHWH roars from Zion” (1:2)*

# Amos

## Injustice in Israel



# Introduction



- Amos: shepherd/farmer (7:14), Tekoa (s. Jerusalem) *'a southern boy (Judah) in Yankee country' (Israel)*
- Date: early 8<sup>th</sup> c. (Jeroboam II, 786-46, Uzziah, 783-42) [quake, Zech 14:5: Hazor, Gezer, Beersheva, Gath (760)]
- Theme: Injustice in Israel
- Message: *Because Israel's election (relationship with God) was an excuse for disobedience rather than an incentive for obedience (relationship with man), Amos foretold God's imminent, inescapable judgment, with a glimmer of future restoration.*

# Int'l Injustice(1-2)

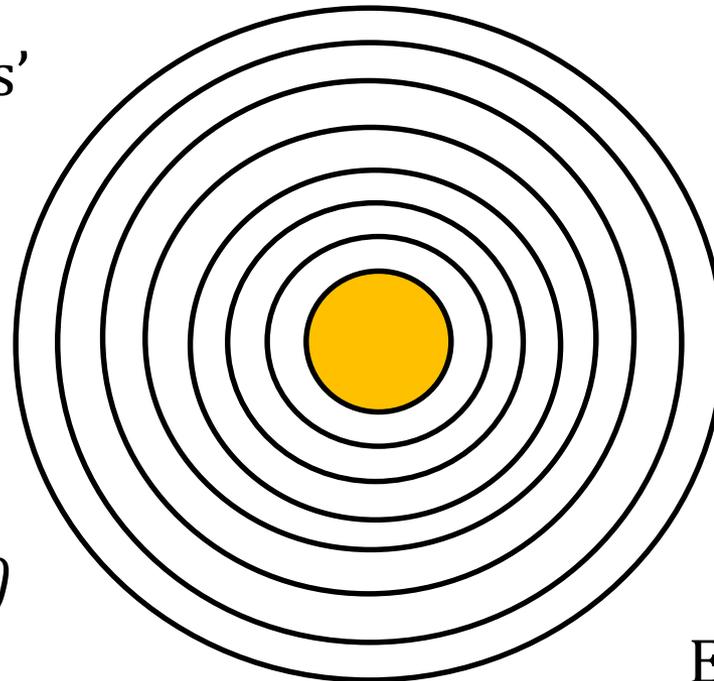


“YHWH roars from Zion”

Tyre: sold ‘brothers’  
into slavery (*fire*)

Israel: injustice,  
immorality,  
idolatry, oppose  
God’s servants  
(*no hope of escape!*)

Gaza: slave trade  
(*fire, annihilation*)



Judah: covenant  
violations, idols? (*fire*)

Damascus: ‘thresh’ Gilead  
(*fire, annihilate, exile*)

Ammon: violence to  
pregnant (*fire, exile*)

Moab: burned bones  
(*fire, royal line cut off*)

Edom: violence against  
‘brothers’ (*fire*)

# Israel Indicted (3)



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

You only have I known  
of all the families of the earth;  
therefore, I will punish you  
for all of your iniquities” (Amos 3:2)

**Doesn't God know everyone?**

**How does Amos' thesis reverse their expectation?**

# Israel Indicted (3)



- Election (1-2): ‘You only have I known’ (Lk. 12:48)
  - Responsibility: ‘Thus, I’ll punish you’ *Implications?*
- Expectation (3-15): Judgment from YHWH!
  - Rhetoric (3-6): no, no, no, no, no, no, no – *gotcha!*
  - Repent (7-8): YHWH reveals, hope-repent!  
[Rivals (9-10): Gentiles sit in judgment on Israel!]
  - Retribution (11-15): greedy oppressors will be oppressed, plundered; only a remnant to survive!

# Insistent in Iniquity (4)



- Retribution: ‘They shall take you away...’ (1-3)
  - Wealthy women (‘cows’) were becoming fat by oppression (**lords**), **LORD GOD** promised oppression
- Ritual: ‘For so you love to do, O Israel’ (4-5)
  - Until Israel rejects injustice, God rejects their “sin”  
*Is our worship an empty ritual, disconnected from life?*
- Rejection: ‘Yet you did not return to Me’ (6-13)
  - Covenant curses (Dt. 28) *Prepare to meet your God!*

# Imminent Ill (5-6)



- Lament (קִינָה): Israel is ‘as good as dead’ (1-17)
  - Death looms (1-3): fallen (virgin), forsaken, few
  - Repent (4-6): ‘seek & live,’ ironic reversal (Gilgal, Bethel)
  - Sin (7): social injustice
    - YHWH, sovereign creator and judge (8-9)**
    - Sin (10-13): social injustice & judicial corruption
    - Repent (14-15): ‘seek & live,’ establish justice
    - Death looms (16-17): lament (יָהּ), I’ll pass through (Ex. 12)
- Light? Day of YHWH = ruin not rescue (18-27)  
[rituals without righteousness will bring God’s retribution!]

# Imminent Ill (5-6)



- Woe (הוי): laments Israel's imminent death (1-7)
  - Complacent: leaders 'at ease in Zion,' 'feel secure' [Better than *these* nations? 2 Kgs. 14:28; 2 Chron. 26:6]
  - Carousing: luxuries (*food/wine/oil*) & leisure (*idle*)
  - Conclusion: 'first of the nation, first into exile'
- Warning: judgment is coming (8-14)
  - Pride: 'the pride of Jacob,' (8) 'by our strength' (13)
  - Punishment: 'I will deliver up the city' (8), 'I will raise up against you a nation, they shall oppress you [north-south].

# Images/Interlude (7)



- Dialogues: God reveals His judgments in visions
  - Relents (7:1-6): Seeing the planned devastation (locusts, fire), Amos interceded, God relents
  - Ruin (7:7-9; 8:1-3): With images of **lead** & **summer fruit**, YHWH declares **evaluation** & **end** of Israel
- Directive: Amos compelled to obey call (*2<sup>nd</sup> career*)
  - Retribution (7:10-17): Accused of conspiracy (*kings' temple*), Amos applies prophecy to priest (*sword/exile*)  
[*Amos: Oppose God's judgment, it will be applied to you*]

# Inescapable III (8-9)



- Justice? (8:4-6): ‘You trample the needy’ (2:6, 5:11)
  - Charges: dishonest business, slavery of brothers
- Judgment (8:7-9:10): ‘I will fix My eyes on them...’
  - Curses: quake (8:8, 9:1, 9), darkness, lamentation, divine silence, death, sword – *inescapable!*  
*Those who say, ‘Disaster shall not overtake us,’ 9:10*
  - Comfort: ‘I will destroy it from the surface of the ground... except that **I will not utterly destroy** the house of Jacob,’ declares the LORD (9:8)

# Israel's Restoration (9)



- Rebuilding (11-12): 'Raise up fallen tent' (*house*)
  - Restoration (covenant) & reunification (nation)  
"In that day, I will rebuild the fallen booth of David,  
repair its breaches, raise up its ruins,  
And rebuild it as in the days of old,  
that they may possess the remnant of Edom  
And all the nations called by My name."
- Restoration (13-15): 'I will restore their fortunes'
  - Return to land: 'I will plant them . . . never be uprooted [rebuild cities & inhabit them]
  - Richness: 'plowman overtake reapers...'

# Summary



Despite their belief that God's election provided a safeguard from judgment, Israel's insistent injustice and (empty) religious rituals brought the ire of God and His prophet. Imminent and inescapable ill was foretold, with only a glimmer of hope for the nation. Amos stressed the vital connection between one's relationship with God and his/her relationship with humanity.