

Encounter The Old Testament

Pages 445-447

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There were eight nations God singled out for judgment that the Prophet Amos had to address. Amos's message to the eight nations contained God reason for his judgment, His announcement of judgment, and the nature of his judgment. I find that to be fascinating. This proves that God really cared for these nations. Though they had reached a point of no return, they were totally aware of what God planned to do. Amos began his prophecy with Damascus and Philistia. He continued with his message of judgment against Tyre, Ammon, and Moab.

It is not known in its entirety what these nations did. However, what have concluded is Edom being the closest blood relative to Israel, consistently made war with Israel. Edom showed no compassion. Moab desecrated the bones of Edom's king. The unborn babies of Gilead were killed by Ammon. They cut the babies out of the womb. Judah's crime was spiritual in nature. Judah followed false gods and disobeyed the Mosaic Law. This was little more personal for Amos because he was from Judah. Seems like every generation sunk deeper into sin. I'm intrigued by the fact that Amos had to announce to Judah that they would be judged too. Though the people of Judah may have been suspicious of Amos in the beginning, they noticed they like his message because he was condemning their enemies. This tell me the people of Judah were prideful.

Amos's message took a turn. It is Israel's turn to be addressed. God dealt with Israel a lot more severely. Israel was guilty of committing a lot of sin. The people of power were guilty of oppressing the weak. They were out for their own personal gain. Sexual sin was prevalent with the Nation of Israel, and they gloated in the fruit of their wickedness in pagan temples. After God freed Israel from Egypt and brought them into Canaan, Israel proved they were an ungrateful people. Israel silenced God's prophets. They also mocked the Nazarites for dedicating themselves to the service of God.