

AMOS 1:3 – 2:5

^{1:3} Thus says the Lord:

“For three transgressions of Damascus,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because they have threshed Gilead
with threshing sledges of iron.

⁴ So I will send a fire upon the house of Hazael,
and it shall devour the strongholds of Ben-hadad.

⁵ I will break the gate-bar of Damascus,
and cut off the inhabitants from the Valley of Aven,
and him who holds the scepter from Beth-eden;
and the people of Syria shall go into exile to Kir,”
says the Lord.

⁶ Thus says the Lord:

“For three transgressions of Gaza,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because they carried into exile a whole people

to deliver them up to Edom.

⁷ So I will send a fire upon the wall of Gaza,

and it shall devour her strongholds.

⁸ I will cut off the inhabitants from Ashdod,

and him who holds the scepter from Ashkelon;

I will turn my hand against Ekron,

and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish,”

says the Lord God.

⁹ Thus says the Lord:

“For three transgressions of Tyre,

and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,

because they delivered up a whole people to Edom,

and did not remember the covenant of brotherhood.

¹⁰ So I will send a fire upon the wall of Tyre,

and it shall devour her strongholds.”

¹¹ Thus says the Lord:

“For three transgressions of Edom,

and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,

because he pursued his brother with the sword

and cast off all pity,

and his anger tore perpetually,

and he kept his wrath forever.

¹² So I will send a fire upon Teman,

and it shall devour the strongholds of Bozrah.”

¹³ Thus says the Lord:

“For three transgressions of the Ammonites,

and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,

because they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead,

that they might enlarge their border.

¹⁴ So I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah,

and it shall devour her strongholds,

with shouting on the day of battle,

with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind;

¹⁵ and their king shall go into exile,

he and his princes together,”

says the Lord.

^{2:1} Thus says the Lord:

“For three transgressions of Moab,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because he burned to lime
the bones of the king of Edom.

² So I will send a fire upon Moab,
and it shall devour the strongholds of Kerioth,
and Moab shall die amid uproar,
amid shouting and the sound of the trumpet;

³ I will cut off the ruler from its midst,
and will kill all its princes with him,”
says the Lord.

⁴ Thus says the Lord:

“For three transgressions of Judah,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because they have rejected the law of the Lord,
and have not kept his statutes,
but their lies have led them astray,

those after which their fathers walked.

⁵ So I will send a fire upon Judah,

and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem.”

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Take time to read the passage carefully for yourself. Notice and mark down its structure, repeated words, key movements, and anything that stands out or raises questions. The questions below are offered as tools to help you notice, reflect, and respond to the text—use those that are most helpful for you or your group.

EXPLORING THE PASSAGE

- Before addressing Israel, Amos first delivers judgment against seven neighboring nations:
 - Who are these nations, and what do we know about them?
 - What is their relationship with Israel?
 - What specific sins have they committed?
 - What punishment does God declare against them? How is each punishment fitting for their actions?
- Do you notice any patterns in how these judgments are presented? How does the repeated phrase, “For three transgressions, and for four...”, shape the message? Why do you think Amos delivers the message in this order? What effect might it have on his audience?
- When Amos turns to Judah, how is their judgment similar to or different from that of the other nations? What are the key similarities and differences? What is Judah’s sin, and how does it differ from the sins of the surrounding nations?
- As a prophet from Judah, how might Amos have felt when delivering this message?
- How might Israel have responded to Amos’ words up to this point? What emotions might they have felt when hearing judgment against their enemies? What assumptions might they have had about God’s justice? How does this passage challenge those assumptions?
- Looking at this oracle what do we learn about God? What does it reveal about His character and what He hates? Why does God act in judgment? What does His judgment against the nations show about His righteousness?
- Is there any good news in these words of judgment? How does God’s judgment on all nations reveal both His justice and His desire for mercy?
- Summary:
 - What do we learn about God in this passage?

- Write a one or two-sentence summary of the main point of this text. What is God's word for you from this passage? How will you respond?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- Do we love the things that God loves and hate the things that He hates? How can reading God's Word shape our hearts to reflect His?
- Are there ways that we participate in the things that He hates? Are there ways that our nations, corporations, etc., participate in the things that he hates? How can we actively resist and speak against these things?
- We are God's covenant people. Are there ways that we reject his word to us and live in unfaithfulness? What might you need to repent of? Who in your life can help you grow in faithfulness? What specific steps can you take to turn from unfaithfulness?
- Are the voices we are listening to helping us know God and follow him in faithfulness or are they drawing us from God and teaching us to follow the ways of the world? Are you paying attention to the voices shaping you? Why or why not?