

AMOS 1:1 – 2

^{1:1} The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. ²

And he said:

“The Lord roars from Zion
and utters his voice from Jerusalem;
the pastures of the shepherds mourn,
and the top of Carmel withers.”

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016.
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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

- What do these opening verses reveal about who Amos is, when he prophesied, and who his message was for? What is the significance of God calling a shepherd from Tekoa to deliver this message? What does this reveal about God’s ways and how He chooses His messengers?
- How does the historical context (2 Kings 14–15) help us understand this moment in Israel’s history? What do we learn about the political, economic, and spiritual conditions of the time?

- What does verse 2 tell us about God and His message? What do the images of the roaring lion and the withering land reveal about God's character and His actions? What does this verse suggest about God's relationship with His people?
- How should the people respond to this message? What does this passage suggest about the urgency or seriousness of God's warning?
- How do these verses set the stage for the rest of the book? Based on these opening words, what do you expect to read and learn from the book of Amos?
- 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

- God speaks and reveals Himself to His people. What are the ways that you can hear His word and will today? Are there people God may be using in your life to help you know and follow Him? Are you allowing God to use them in your life?
- How have you responded to God's calling to bring His message to others—whether through sharing the gospel, loving correction, or faithful service? What makes obedience difficult for you, and how might God help you grow in it?