

AMOS 2:6 – 2:16

^{2:6} Thus says the Lord:

“For three transgressions of Israel,

and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,

because they sell the righteous for silver,

and the needy for a pair of sandals—

⁷ those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth

and turn aside the way of the afflicted;

a man and his father go in to the same girl,

so that my holy name is profaned;

⁸ they lay themselves down beside every altar

on garments taken in pledge,

and in the house of their God they drink

the wine of those who have been fined.

⁹ Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them,

whose height was like the height of the cedars

and who was as strong as the oaks;

I destroyed his fruit above

and his roots beneath.

¹⁰ Also it was I who brought you up out of the land of Egypt

and led you forty years in the wilderness,

to possess the land of the Amorite.

¹¹ And I raised up some of your sons for prophets,

and some of your young men for Nazirites.

Is it not indeed so, O people of Israel?"

declares the Lord.

¹² "But you made the Nazirites drink wine,

and commanded the prophets,

saying, 'You shall not prophesy.'

¹³ Behold, I will press you down in your place,

as a cart full of sheaves presses down.

¹⁴ Flight shall perish from the swift,

and the strong shall not retain his strength,

nor shall the mighty save his life;

¹⁵ he who handles the bow shall not stand,

and he who is swift of foot shall not save himself,

nor shall he who rides the horse save his life;

¹⁶ and he who is stout of heart among the mighty

shall flee away naked in that day,”

declares the Lord.

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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

- How is this oracle similar to and different from the previous oracles against the nations? What literary and thematic connections link this to what came before?
- What do we learn about Israel in this section? What exactly are they doing wrong? How would you summarize or characterize their sinfulness?
- In what ways is God’s holy name being profaned by the people’s actions?
- In verses 9–12, God recounts His past relationship with Israel. What is the significance of this? What expectations might God have had for them based on their story—and how have they failed those expectations?
- How is Israel’s sin uniquely connected to their covenant relationship with God? How does this shape their accountability?
- As with the previous section, how would you finish the sentence: “This passage shows that God hates...” What do these verses reveal about God’s character and values?
- What is Israel’s punishment, and how is it fitting to their sin? What does this tell us about God’s justice and purposes?
- 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—and now against Israel—show about His righteousness?
- 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

- In what ways has God worked in your life—or in the life of your community—in the past? How should this shape the way you live today? What practices can help you regularly remember God’s kindness, faithfulness, and Word so that you live in response to Him?
- Are there ways you might be—intentionally or unintentionally—participating in sins that resemble those of Israel? How can you bring these to God in repentance? What new ways of living, aligned with God’s character and revelation, do you want to adopt?
- How can you become someone who actively listens and responds to God’s Word? What helps you keep a soft and responsive heart?