

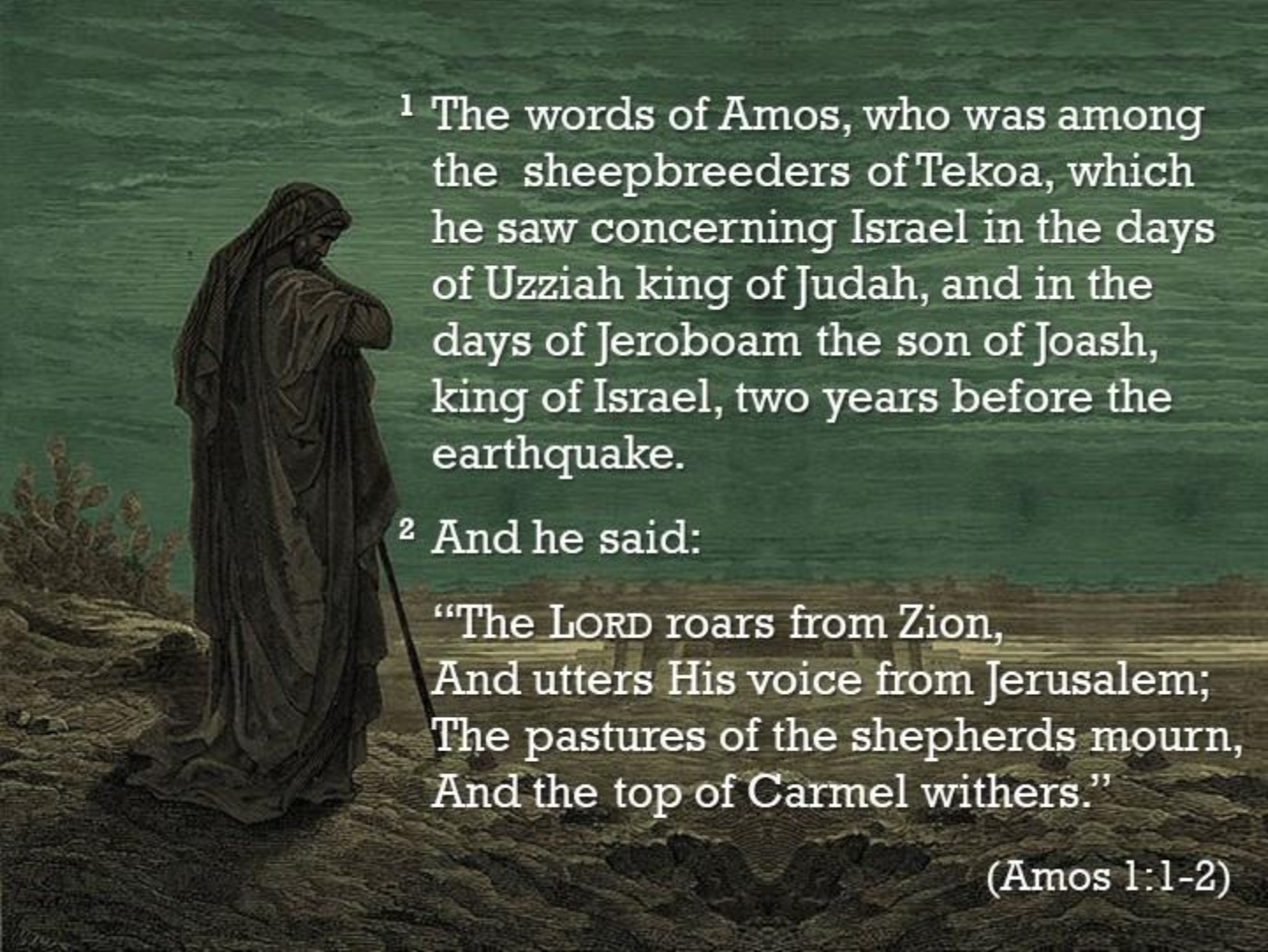


WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
IS ABOUT



2021  
SESSION  
4  
TERM 4

The book of  
*Amos*

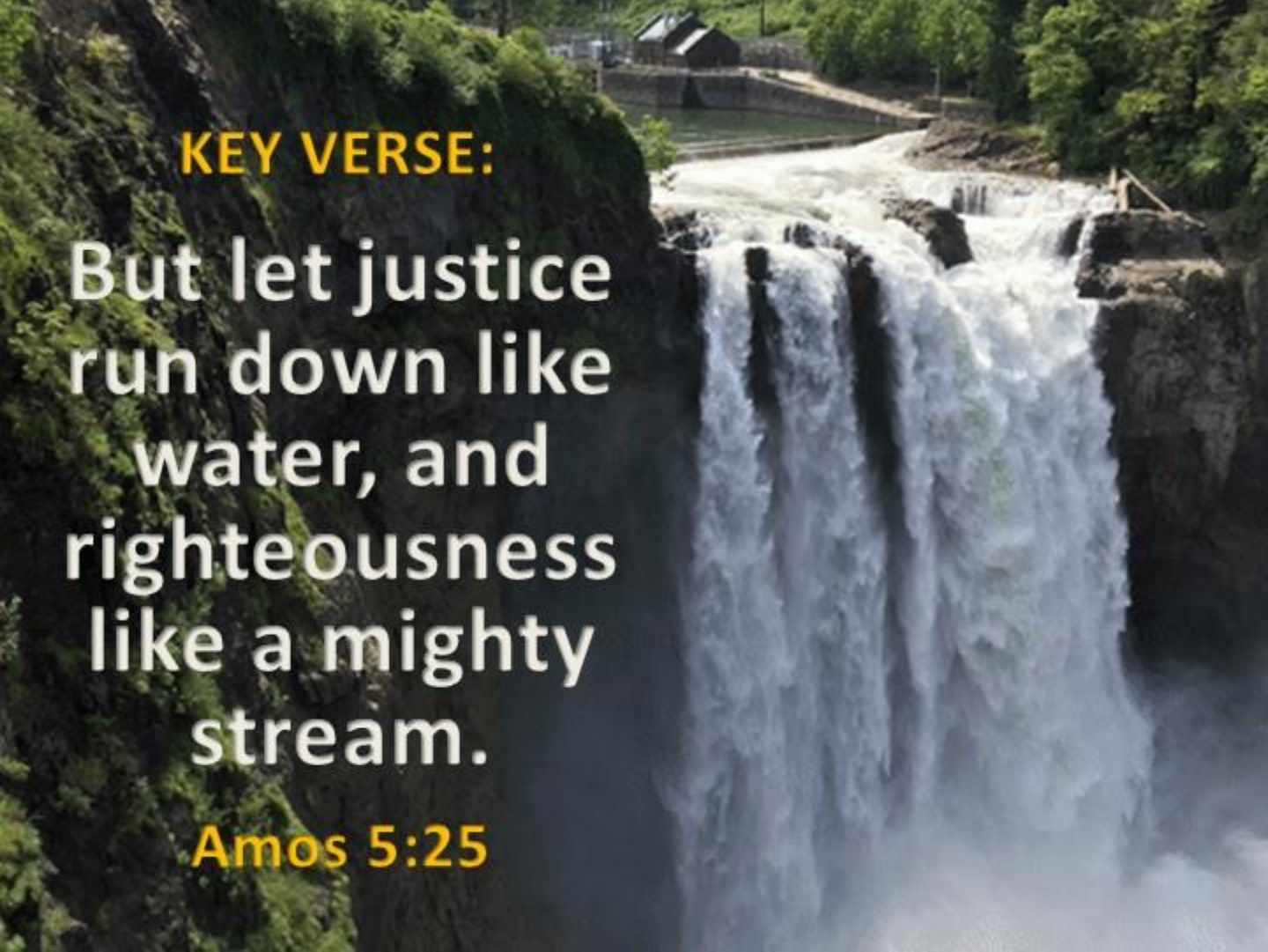


<sup>1</sup> The words of Amos, who was among the sheepbreeders of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

<sup>2</sup> 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.”

(Amos 1:1-2)



**KEY VERSE:**

But let justice  
run down like  
water, and  
righteousness  
like a mighty  
stream.

**Amos 5:25**

“And he said,  
‘The Lord will roar from Zion, and  
utter his voice from Jerusalem....’”

A majestic lion with a thick, golden-brown mane is perched on a dark, jagged rock. The lion's mouth is wide open in a powerful roar, with its tongue and teeth visible. The background is a vast, hazy landscape under a bright, golden sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall tone is dramatic and powerful.

Old Testament  
Prophets

# Prophets in the Bible

- There are 42 prophets (*navi*) in the Old Testament, including five women (*neviah*)<sup>1</sup>.
- Sixteen prophets are accorded large sections (books):
  - Four have longer books (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and Ezekiel). They are called “major prophets”.
  - Twelve have smaller books. The Hebrew Bible treats these as a single book called “The Book of the Twelve Prophets”.
- John the Baptist was the last prophet of the Old era. Jesus Christ brought in a new age of prophetic truth.

1. Isaiah's wife; Huldah; Miriam; Deborah; Noadiah



JPS  
HEBREW-ENGLISH  
TANAKH  
תנ"ך

תנ"ך  
JPS

JPS

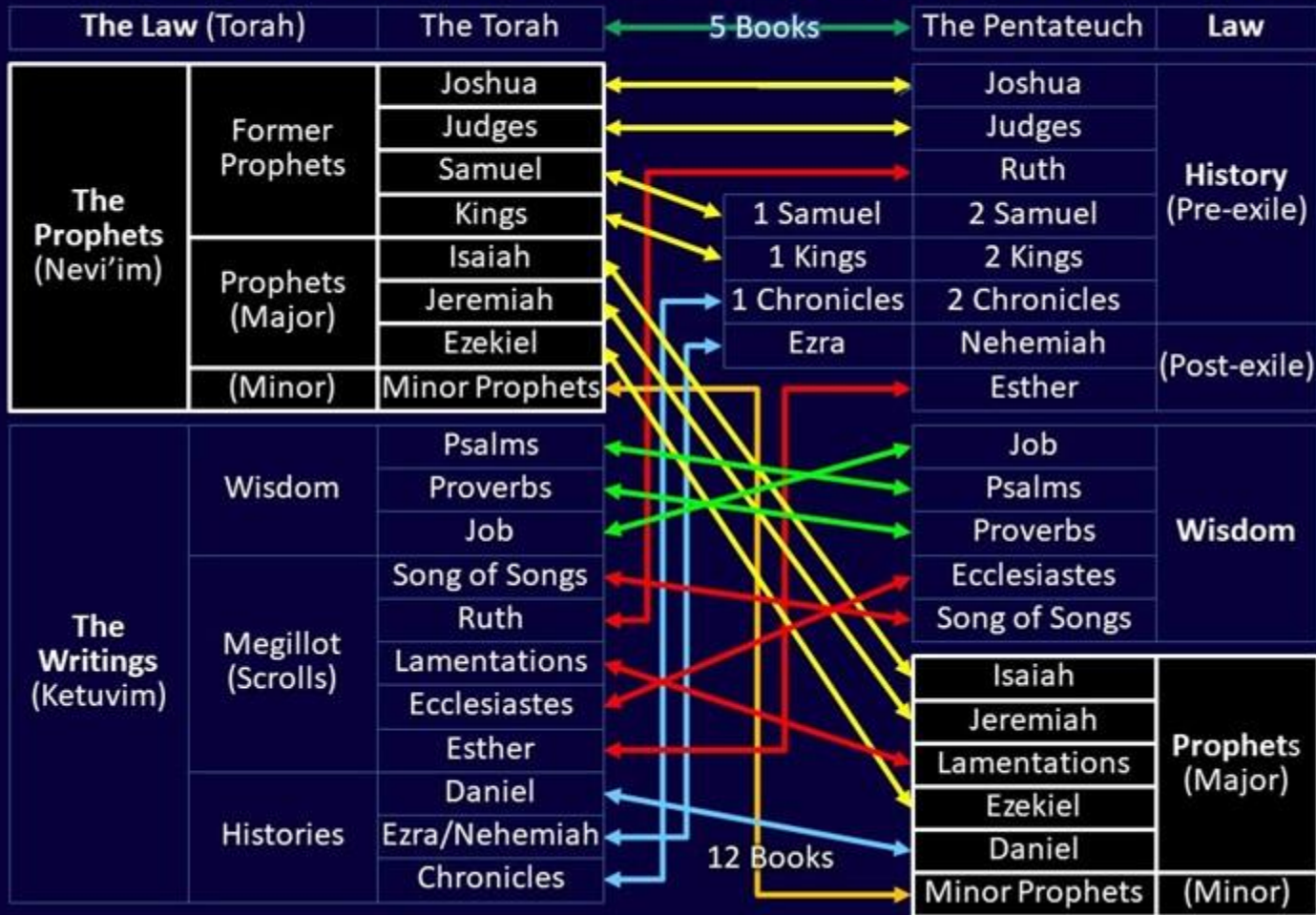
# Jewish Tenakh vs. Christian Old Testament

The Law (Torah)		The Torah	← 5 Books →	The Pentateuch	Law	
The Prophets (Nevi'im)	Former Prophets	Joshua	↔	Joshua	History (Pre-exile)	
		Judges	↔	Judges		
		Samuel	↔	Ruth		
	Prophets (Major)	Kings	↔	1 Samuel		2 Samuel
		Isaiah	↔	1 Kings		2 Kings
		Jeremiah	↔	1 Chronicles		2 Chronicles
	(Minor)	Minor Prophets	↔	Ezra	Nehemiah	(Post-exile)
		↔		Esther		
The Writings (Ketuvim)	Wisdom	Psalms	↔	Job	Wisdom	
		Proverbs	↔	Psalms		
		Job	↔	Proverbs		
	Megillot (Scrolls)	Song of Songs	↔	Ecclesiastes		
		Ruth	↔	Song of Songs		
		Lamentations	↔	Isaiah	Prophets (Major)	
		Ecclesiastes	↔	Jeremiah		
	Esther	↔	Lamentations			
	Histories	Daniel	↔	Ezekiel		
		Ezra/Nehemiah	↔	Daniel		
Chronicles		↔	Minor Prophets	(Minor)		

12 Books



# Jewish Tenakh vs. Christian Old Testament



# The Prophetic Books

Major Prophets

DANIEL

EZEKIEL

LAMENTATIONS

JEREMIAH

ISAIAH

Minor Prophets

These titles are unfortunate and give many people the **wrong** ideas of **worth!** They represent book size only!

HOSEA

JOEL

AMOS

OBADIAH

JONAH

MICAH

NAHUM

HABAKKUK

ZEPHANIAH

HAGGAI

ZECHARIAH

MALACHI

# The Major Prophets



Jeremiah,  
Lamentations

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Ezekiel

Daniel

# The Minor Prophets

- These books are called "The Minor Prophets" solely because of size, not relevance to our lives.
- Don't be tricked into missing these overwhelmingly rich studies

HOSEA

JOEL

AMOS

OBADIAH

JONAH

MICAH

NAHUM

HABAKKUK

ZEPHANIAH

HAGGAI

ZECHARIAH

MALACHI

## ... and the Minor Prophets



**Hosea** was chosen as an example to the people of Israel. His wife was unfaithful, but just like God he did not stop loving her and always looked for her whenever she left him.



**Joel** prophesied during a time when the land of Israel suffered from a great plague of locusts. Joel proclaims this is a sign from God as a precursor to the Day of the Lord.



**Amos** was a sheep breeder and a tender of fig trees by trade, but God used him to bring a powerful word of correction to Israel and the surrounding nations.



**Obadiah** is the shortest Old Testament book with 21 verses. It proclaims judgment against Edom for aiding the Babylonians in their siege against Jerusalem.



**Jonah** is the best known because a giant sea animal set him back on course after he went astray. His job was to tell the people of Nineveh to repent. They did and he sulked.

**Micah** stripped off to demonstrate severity of the destitution in the coming captivity. This popular method was also used by Isaiah at times (Isaiah 20:2-3).



**Nahum** predicted Nineveh's destruction 100 years after Jonah, and ten years later, Nineveh burned down and the Assyrian Empire collapsed.



**Habakkuk** was a psalmist and musician who ended his book with a hymn of grace and redemption to be played on stringed instruments by the temple worship leaders.



**Zephaniah** issued stern judgments directed against Israel, Judah, and their neighbours for permitting idolatry and other sins in the land.



**Haggai** makes his chief concern restoring the temple of the Lord. Despite the Hebrews return from captivity, the temple had not yet been fully rebuilt.



**Zechariah** like Ezekiel received vivid prophecy in symbolic visions. His visions included flying scrolls, olive trees, and angels. He predicted the First and Second Comings of the Messiah.



**Malachi** was a reformer who directed his message toward corrupt priests and those who withheld their offerings from the Lord. Malachi is the last book before the New Testament.

# Chronological Order of the Prophets

<b>• Before the Exile – (before 606 BC)</b>	<b>Propheesied</b>
• Obadiah to Edom	887 B.C.
• Jonah to Nineveh	862 B.C.
• Joel to Judah	800 B.C. (835-756?)
• Amos to Northern Kingdom	787 B.C.
• Hosea to Northern Kingdom	785 - 725 B.C.
• Isaiah to Judah	760 - 698 B.C.
• Micah to Judah	750 – 710 B.C.
• Nahum to Nineveh	713 B.C.
• Zephaniah to Judah	630 B.C.
• Habakkuk to Judah	626 B.C.
• Jeremiah to Judah	629 – 588 B.C.
<b>• During the Exile (606 – 538 BC)</b>	
• Jeremiah	629 – 588 B.C.
• Ezekiel	595 – 574 B.C.
• Daniel	607 – 534 B.C.
<b>• After the Exile (after 538 BC)</b>	
• Haggai	520 B.C.
• Zechariah	520 – 518 B.C.
• Malachi	397 B.C.

(All dates approximate)

# Timeline of the Prophets

950 900 850 800 750 700 650 600 550 500 450 400

Egypt

Assyria

Babylon

Persia

N & S Kingdoms

Judah alone

Exile

Post-exile



Solomon dies



Israel falls



Judah falls



1<sup>st</sup> captives return

**Major Prophets**

Isaiah

Jeremiah/Lam.

Daniel

Ezekiel

**Minor Prophets**

Obadiah

Joel

Jonah

Amos

Hosea

Micah

Nahum

Zephaniah

Habakkuk

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

**Other Prophets and OT Books**

Elijah

Elisha

Esther

Ezra

Nehemiah

• AMOS • PROPHETA •  
SVPER • TRIBVS • SCALERIBV  
S • ET • SVPER • QVATVOR • NŌ •  
CŌVERTĀ • EV • PROEO • QVOD •  
VĒDIDERIT • PRO ARGĒTO • IV  
STV • ET PAVPERĒ • PROCAL  
CIAMĒTIS •





# Map of the Levant circa 830 BC



**“It was the best  
of times,  
it was the worst  
of times.”**



'Solomon and the Queen of Sheba' by Giovanni De Min, 1846.



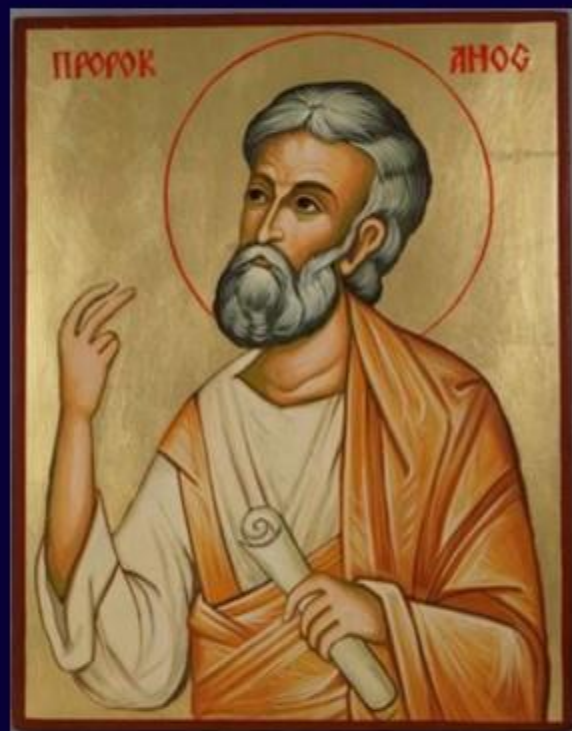
'Jeroboam sacrificing idols' by Jean-Honoré Fragonard, 1752.



**So He chose a rural  
herdsman named Amos  
to convey His message.**

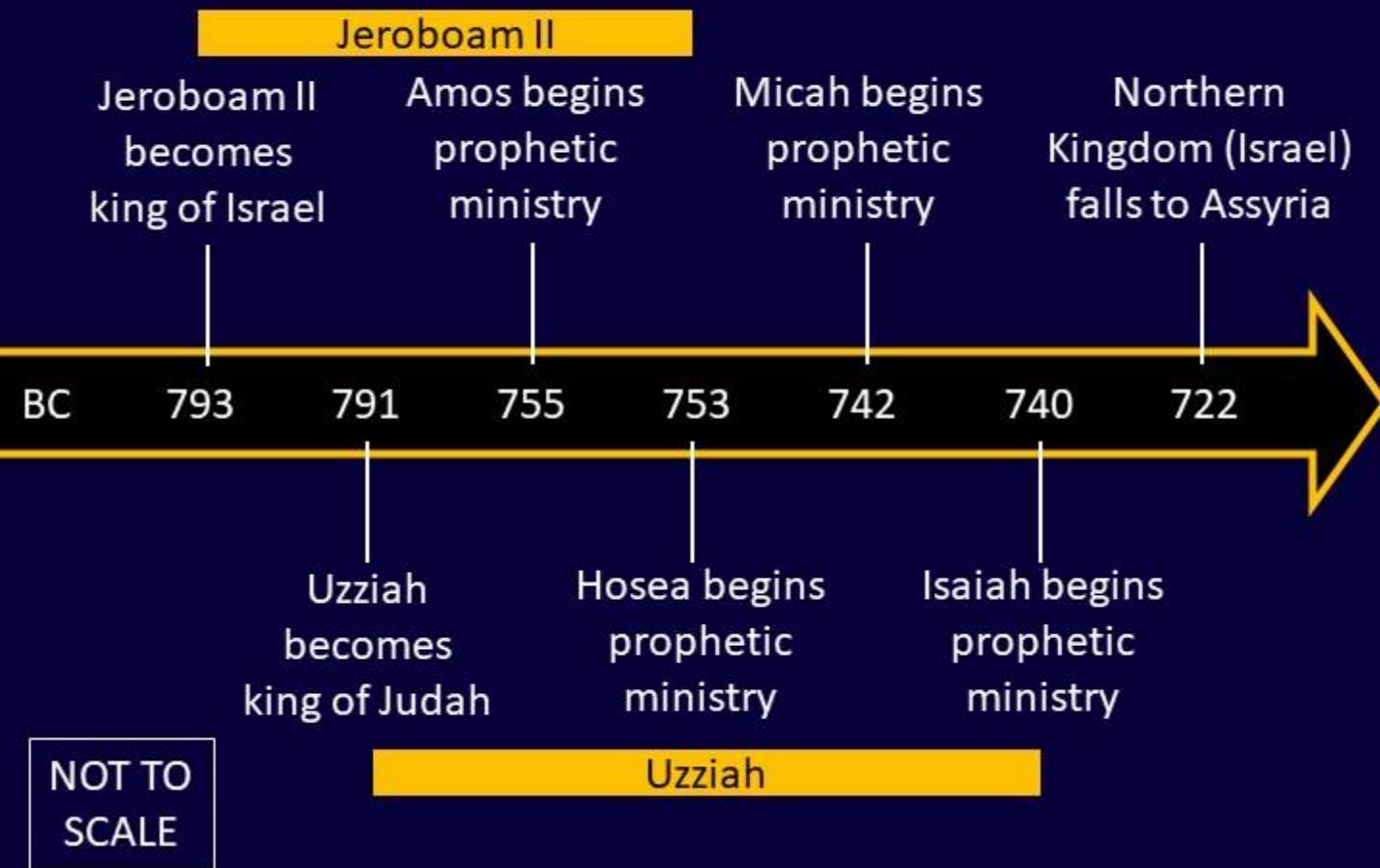
# AMOS, AN UNLIKELY PROPHET

- Amos (“burden bearer”) was a herdsman and cultivator of sycamore trees when called to prophesy from 760-755 BC. He was not a member of the Jewish religious or political elite.
- He lived in the Judean village of Tekoa during the reigns of Uzziah in Judah (790–740 BC) and Jeroboam II in the northern kingdom of Israel (793–753).
- Amos was called to prophesy about the social injustices and eventual destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel. He moved to Bethel, then the royal residence of Jeroboam II.
- Vilified, he was expelled from the Northern Kingdom. Upon return to Judea, Amos wrote his message so that it could still be heard, becoming the first prophet to do so. He died in 745 BC.





# THE TIMELINE OF AMOS



# Tekoa Settlement, 17 Nov 2020





# Tekoa Canyon National Park



# View of Tekoa from Herodium



# View of Herodium from Tekoa



# Aerial View of Herodium



# Inside Herod's hilltop palace-fortress





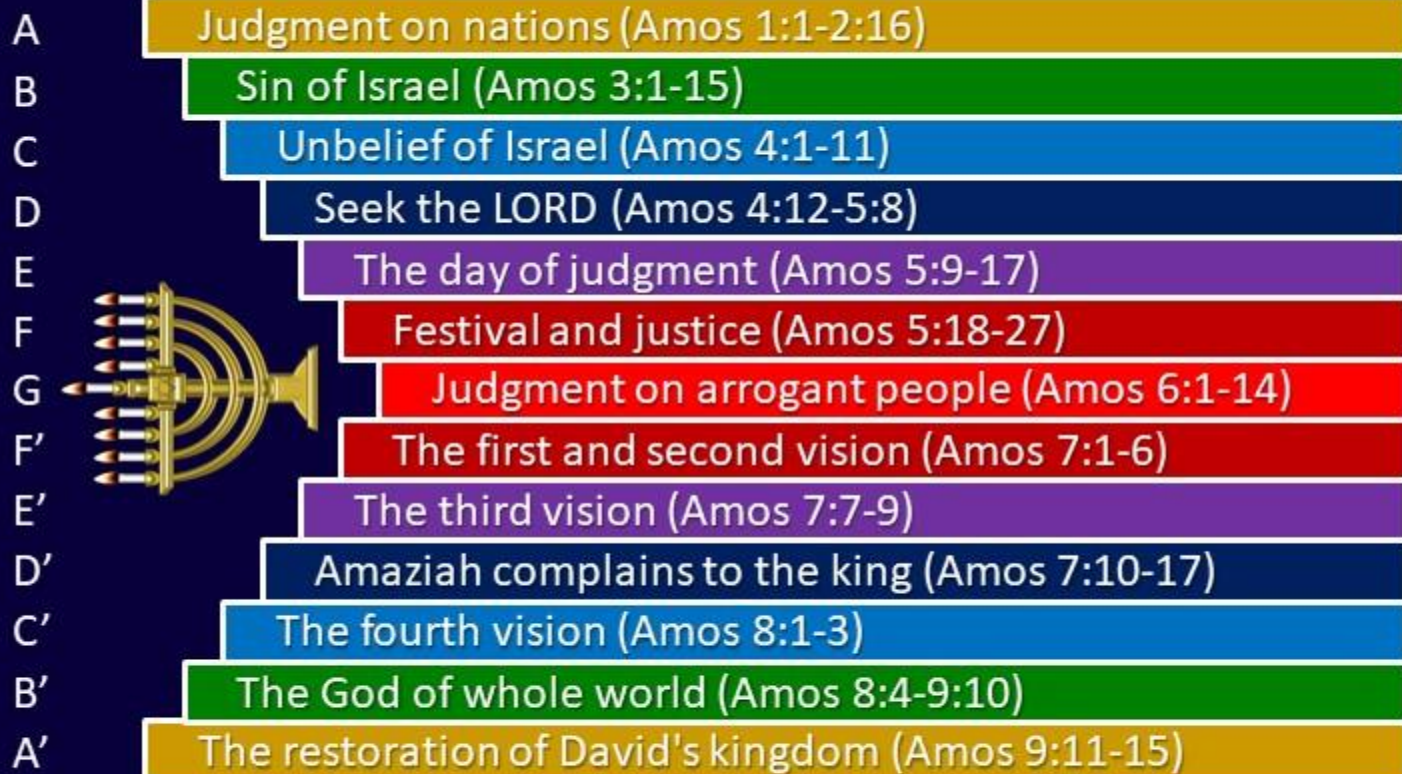








# The Literary Structure of Amos



A: Wither like plant.

B: Exodus.

C: Day of the LORD.

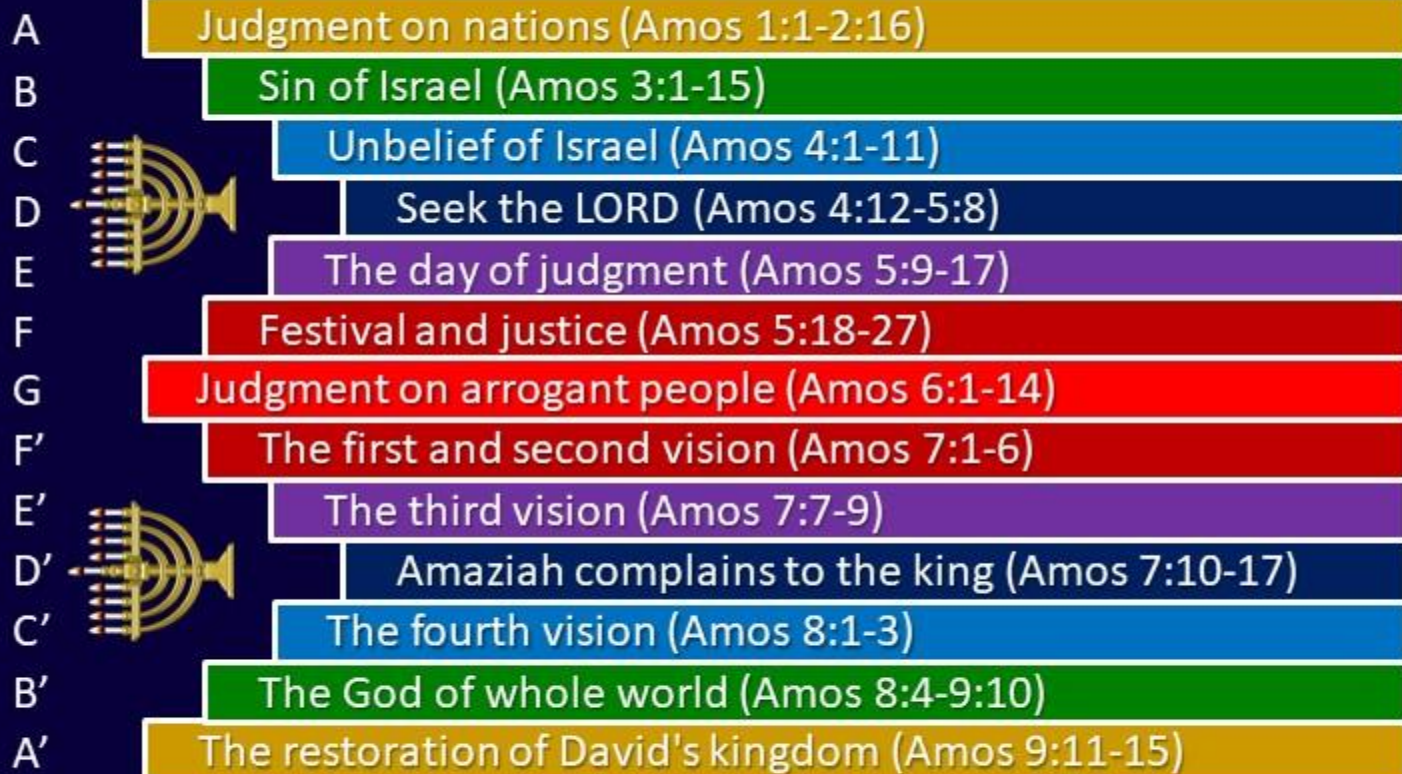
D: Hear this word.

E: Midst of the people.

F: Escaping from danger.

G: Judgement on arrogant people.

# The Literary Structure Divided by 2



A: Wither like plant.

B: Exodus.

C: Day of the LORD.

D: Hear this word.

E: Midst of the people.

F: Escaping from danger.

G: Judgement on arrogant people.

# The Literary Structure Divided by 4

A	Judgment on nations (Amos 1:1-2:16)
B 	Sin of Israel (Amos 3:1-15)
C	Unbelief of Israel (Amos 4:1-11)
D	Seek the LORD (Amos 4:12-5:8)
E 	The day of judgment (Amos 5:9-17)
F	Festival and justice (Amos 5:18-27)
G	Judgment on arrogant people (Amos 6:1-14)
F' 	The first and second vision (Amos 7:1-6)
E' 	The third vision (Amos 7:7-9)
D' 	Amaziah complains to the king (Amos 7:10-17)
C'	The fourth vision (Amos 8:1-3)
B'	The God of whole world (Amos 8:4-9:10)
A'	The restoration of David's kingdom (Amos 9:11-15)

A: Wither like plant.

B: Exodus.

C: Day of the LORD.

D: Hear this word.

E: Midst of the people.

F: Escaping from danger.

G: Judgement on arrogant people.

# The Literary Structure Divided by 3



A: Wither like plant.

D: Hear this word.

G: Judgement on arrogant people.

B: Exodus.

E: Midst of the people.

C: Day of the LORD.

F: Escaping from danger.

A	Introductory oracles (Amos 3:9-14)
B	Heartless indolence in Samaria (Amos 4:1-3)
C	Rejection of Israel's cult (Amos 4:4-5)
D	The final judgment (Amos 4:6-12)
E	Lamentations for Israel (Amos 5:1-3)
F	Seek Yahweh! (Amos 5:4-6)
G	The corruption of justice (Amos 5:7, 10)
H	Hymn to Yahweh (Amos 5:8-9)
G'	The corruption of justice (Amos 5:11-13)
F'	Seek Yahweh! (Amos 5:14-15)
E'	Lamentations for Israel (Amos 5:16-17)
D'	The final judgment (Amos 5:18:20)
C'	Rejection of Israel's cult (Amos 5:21-27)
B'	Heartless indolence in Samaria (Amos 6:1, 3-7)
A'	Concluding oracles (Amos 6:2, 8-14)



A: Wither like plant.

B: Exodus.

C: Day of the LORD.

D: Hear this word.

E: Midst of the people.

F: Escaping from danger.

G: Judgement on arrogant people.

H: Hymn to Yahweh

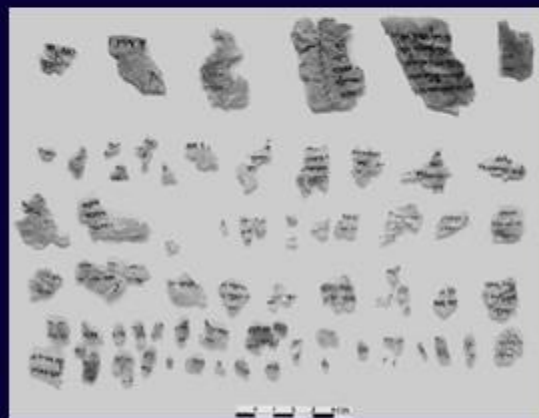
# The book of Amos



POxy 846 - Amos 2



4Q82 - Amos 7:17 - 8:1



5Q4 - Amos 1



Wadi Muraba'at 12

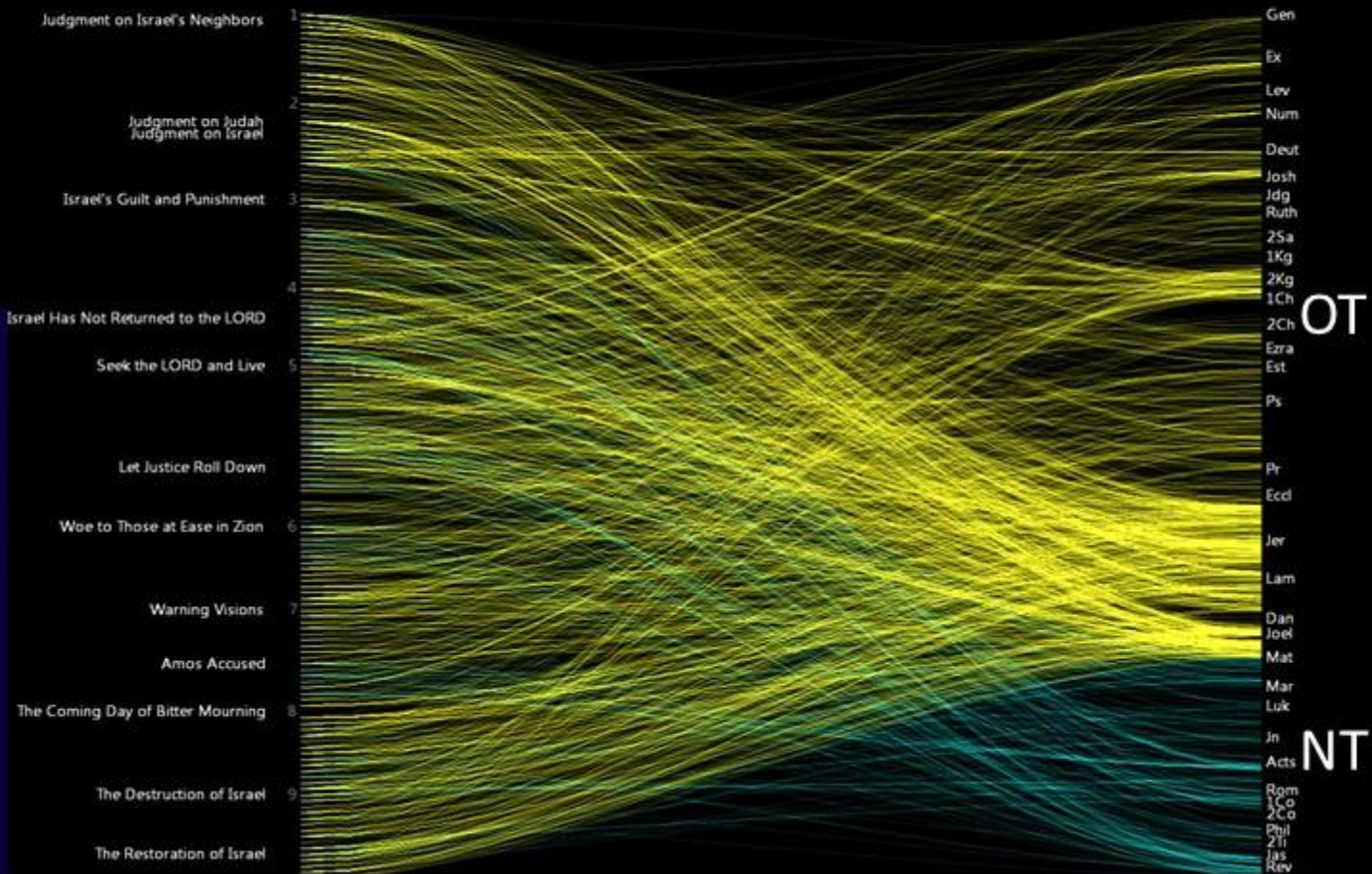
**NOT TO SCALE**

Fragment No.	Location	Contents
POxy 846 or E3074	Oxyrhynchus, Egypt	Amos 2 (LXX) copied c. 550 AD
4Q78	Cave 4, Qumran	Amos 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
4Q82	Cave 4, Qumran	Amos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
5Q4	Cave 5, Qumran	Amos 1
Wadi Muraba'at XII	Nahal Darga 18 km s	Amos 1, 2, 7, 8, 9

# Cross-references with the Bible

## Amos

## Bible





## Look around and see God's Judgment

(Amos 1-2)

### Eight nations judged:

- Six Gentile nations condemned—1:1–2:3
- Judah condemned—2:4–5
- Israel condemned—2:6–16

## Look within and see the Corruption

(Amos 3-6)

### Three sermons to the people of Israel:

- Message #1: Israel's judgment certain—3:1–15
- Message #2: Israel's sins denounced—4:1–13
- Message #3: Israel's doom lamented—5:1–6:14

## Look ahead and see the End coming

(Amos 7-9)

### Five visions of judgment—7:1–9:10

- 1. The locusts—7:1–3
- 2. The fire—7:4–6
- 3. The plumb line—7:7–9
- Historical interlude: Amos at Bethel—7:10–17
- 4. The basket of summer fruit—8:1–14
- 5. The ruined temple—9:1–10

**Restoration: a vision of the glorious kingdom—9:11–15**



Part I

# Amos

Look around and see  
God's Judgment



WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
IS ABOUT

AMOS

Chapter 1

<sup>1</sup> The words of Amos, who was among the sheep-breeders of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah [r. 791-740 BC], and in the days of Jeroboam [II, r. 793-753 BC] the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before [762 BC] the earthquake [of 760 BC].



## A Time of Two Kings



**King Uzziah**

Judah

Reign 791-740BC, 52 yr

Son of Amaziah



**King Jeroboam II**

Northern Kingdom

Reign 793-753BC, 41 yr

Son of Joash

## A Time of Two Kings



### King Uzziah

Judah

Reign 791-740 BC, 52 yr

Son of Amaziah

- Son of Amaziah; Uzziah ruled Judah for 52 years.
- Uzziah was righteous as Amaziah had been but did not take away the high places and allowed the people to sacrifice and burn incense to idols.
- He conquered the Philistines and the Arabians; received tribute from the Ammonites; refortified Judah; built an army of 300,000; and focused on agriculture. He ruled over the largest realm of Judah since Solomon.
- But when Assyrian Tiglathpileser III conquered nineteen districts in northern Syria which had belonged to Uzziah, he usurped the power of the priesthood by burning incense in the Temple.
- God smote him with leprosy, and he dwelt in a leper's house until he died while Jotham, his son, ruled in his stead.

## A Time of Two Kings

- Son of Joash; Jeroboam II ruled the Northern kingdom for forty-one years.
- Jeroboam II did evil in the eyes of the LORD. Hosea, Joel, Amos and Jonah criticized the materialism and selfishness of his elites.
- A man of great energy, his foreign policy was very successful. He restored the original borders of the Northern Kingdom, winning back Damascus and Hamath.
- His religious policy saw YHWH worshiped at Dan, Bethel, Gilgal and Beersheba using images, such as the golden calf. Foreign cults over time had corrupted the old Israelite religion of YHWH.
- Triumphs engendered a haughty spirit. Powerful elites oppressed and exploited the poor, lived in luxury, and craved amusements.



### **King Jeroboam II**

Northern Kingdom

Reign 793-753 BC, 41 yr

Son of Joash

# A Time of Two Kings

**King Jeroboam II**  
Northern Kingdom



0 (km) 20

Ashdod  
Ashkelon  
Gaza

**ISRAEL**  
(NORTHERN KINGDOM)

★ Samaria

Shechem  
Jerash  
Jafa  
Beit El  
Jericho

★ Jerusalem  
Lachish  
Tekoa  
Hebron  
**JUDAH**  
Beersheba

**King Uzziah**  
Judah





# EARTHQUAKE!! 760 BC

- A major earthquake is “in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam son of Joash king of Israel” (1:1), c. 760 BC. Geologists found evidence of this earthquake in sites throughout Israel and Jordan:

“Masonry walls best display the earthquake, especially walls with broken ashlars, walls with displaced rows of stones, walls still standing but leaning or bowed, and walls collapsed with large sections still lying course-on-course. Debris at six sites (Hazor, Deir ‘Alla, Gezer, Lachish, Tell Judeideh, and ‘En Haseva) is tightly confined stratigraphically to the middle of the eighth century BCE, with dating errors of  $\pm 30$  years.... The earthquake was at least magnitude 7.8, but likely was 8.2... This severe geologic disaster has been linked historically to a speech delivered at the city of Bethel by a shepherd-farmer named Amos of Tekoa.”























## 1. The **call** of **Amos**!

<sup>2</sup> 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.”

# Judgments on the Nations!

The words of Amos, a shepherd from Tekoa (1:1-2)

- Damascus (1:3-5)
- Gaza (1:6-8)
- Tyre (1:9-10)
- Edom (1:11-12)
- Ammon (1:13-15)
- Moab (2:1-3)
- Judah (2:4-5)
- Israel (2:6-16)



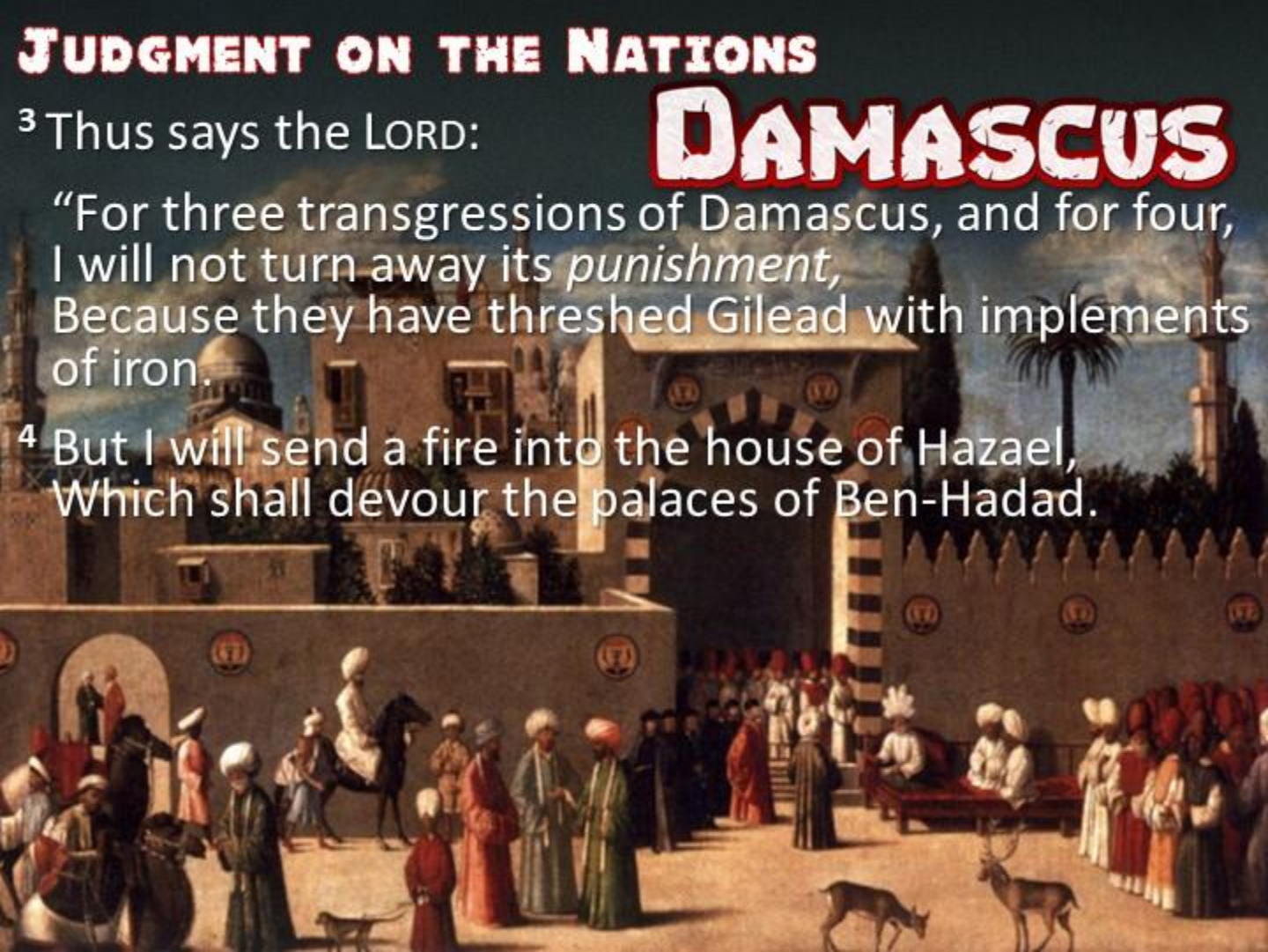
# JUDGMENT ON THE NATIONS

## DAMASCUS

<sup>3</sup> Thus says the LORD:

“For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four,  
I will not turn away its *punishment*,  
Because they have threshed Gilead with implements  
of iron.

<sup>4</sup> But I will send a fire into the house of Hazael,  
Which shall devour the palaces of Ben-Hadad.



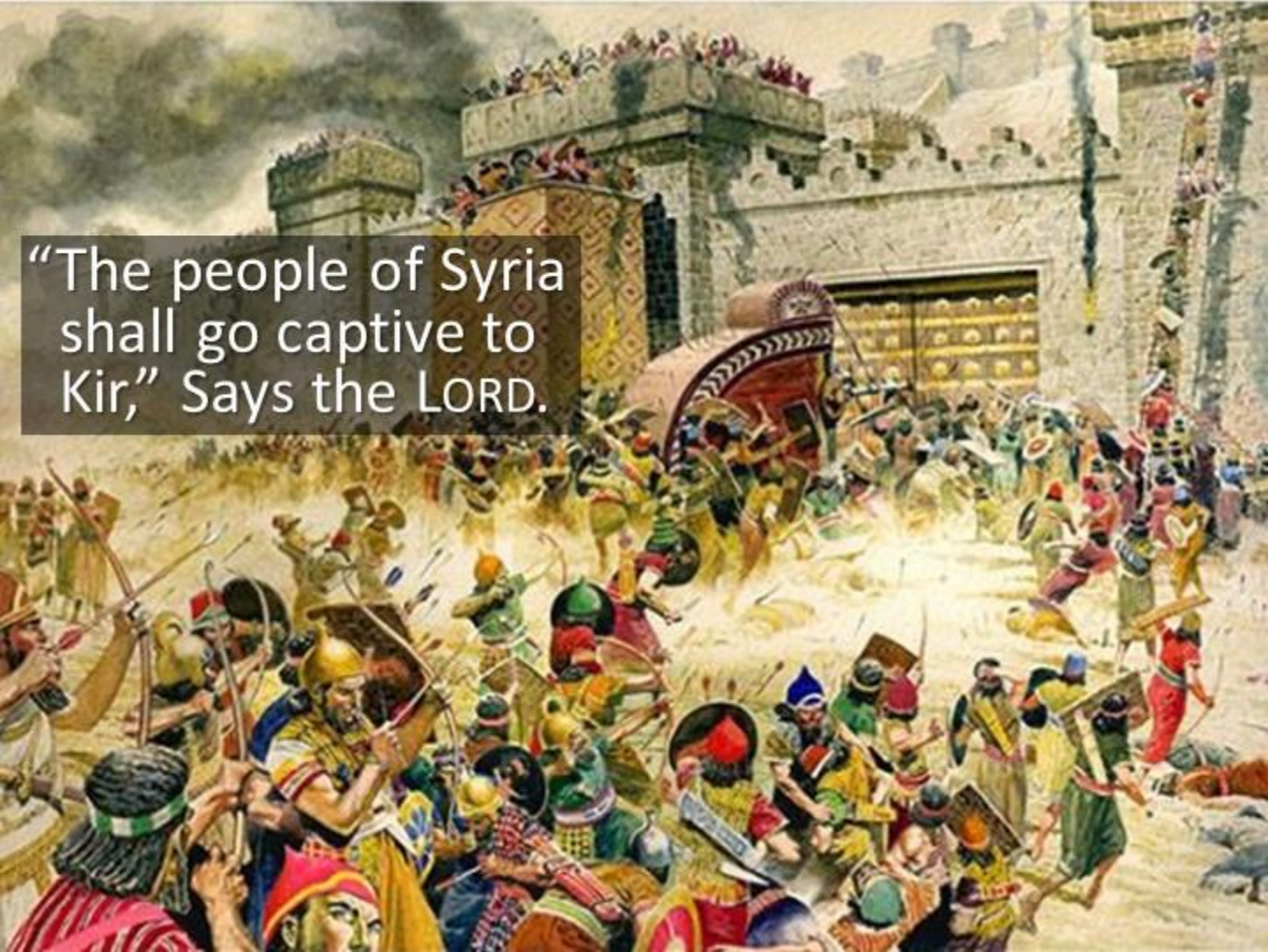
<sup>5</sup> I will also break the *gate* bar of Damascus,



<sup>5</sup> I will also break the *gate* bar of Damascus,  
And cut off the inhabitant from the Valley of Aven,  
And the one who holds the scepter from Beth Eden.



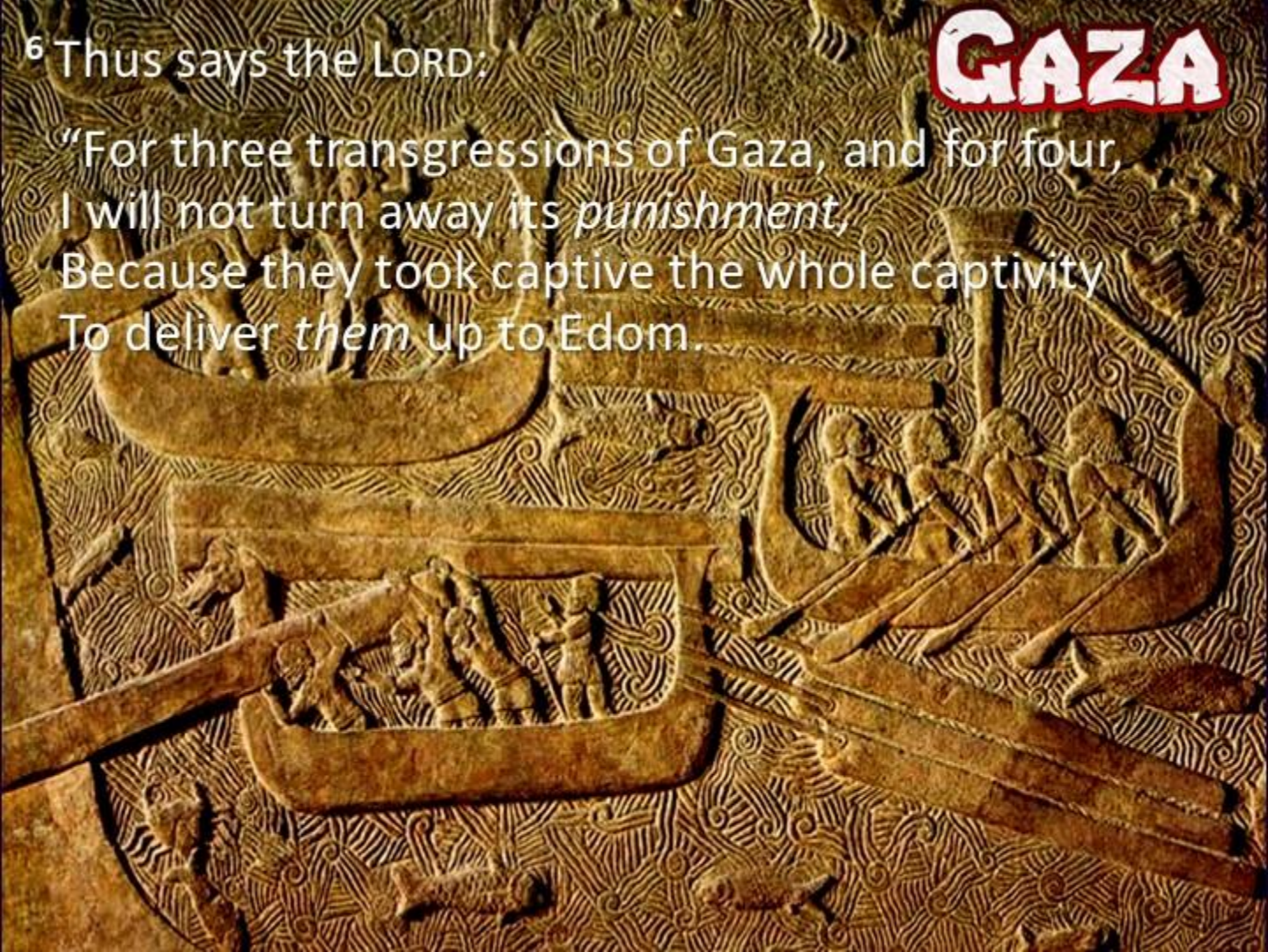
“The people of Syria shall go captive to Kir,” Says the LORD.



<sup>6</sup> Thus says the LORD:

**GAZA**

“For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four,  
I will not turn away its *punishment*,  
Because they took captive the whole captivity  
To deliver *them* up to Edom.





7 But I will send a fire upon the wall of Gaza,  
Which shall devour its palaces.



Excavation of ancient houses at Tel Es-Sakan (Gaza) in 2000.

<sup>8</sup> I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod,  
And the one 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.

**GAZA**

Philistine Ashdod



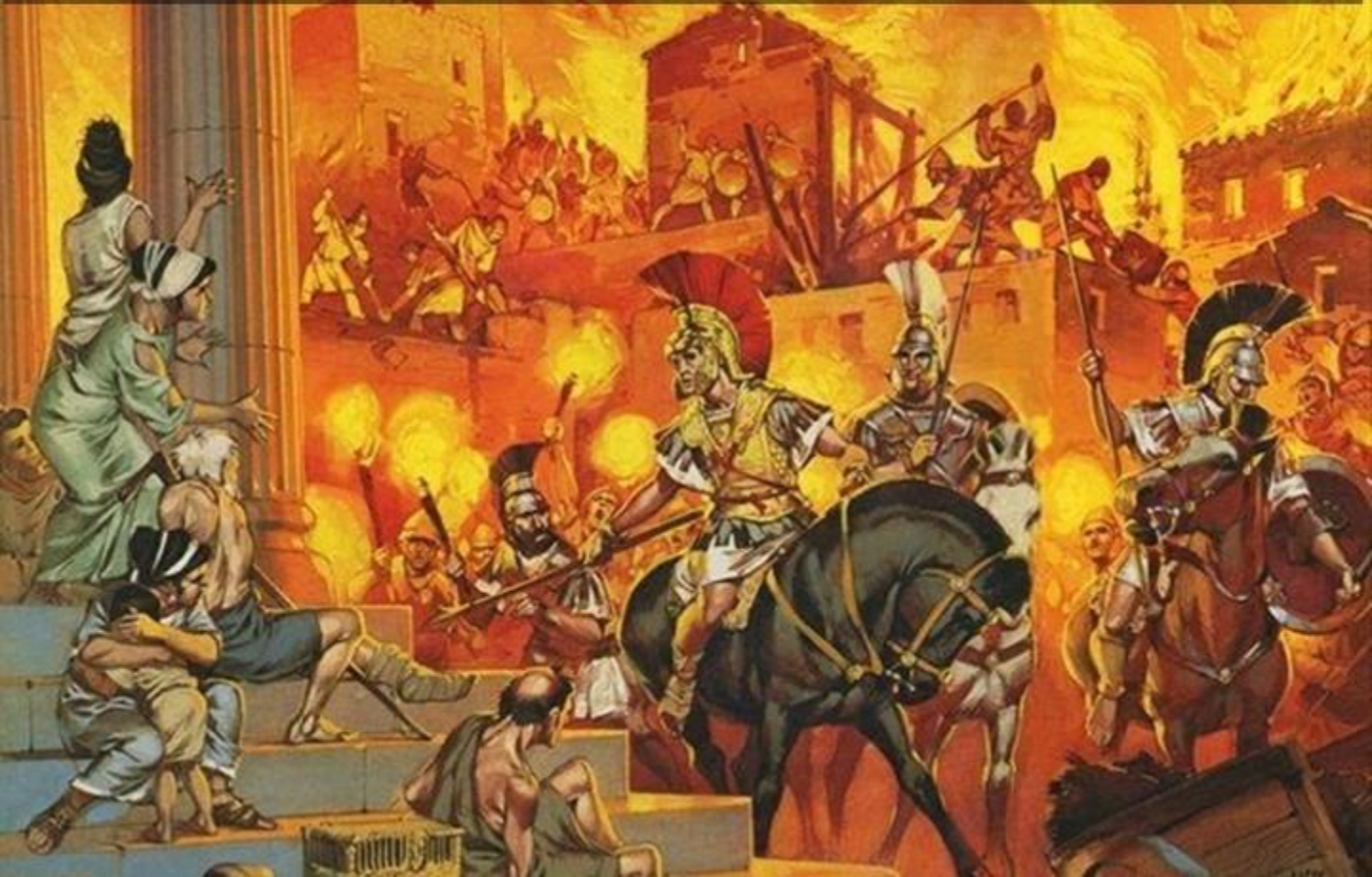
# TYRE

<sup>9</sup> Thus says the LORD:

“For three transgressions of Tyre, and for four,  
I will not turn away its *punishment*,  
Because they delivered up the whole captivity to Edom,  
And did not remember the covenant of brotherhood.

<sup>10</sup> But I will send a fire upon the wall of Tyre, Which shall devour its palaces."

# TYRE



<sup>11</sup> Thus says the LORD:

“For three transgressions of Edom,  
and for four, I will not turn away its *punishment*,  
Because he pursued his brother with the sword,  
And cast off all pity; His anger tore perpetually,  
And he kept his wrath forever.

# EDOM

Ruins at Bozra (modern-day Bouseira in Jordan), the capital of Edom

# EDOM

<sup>12</sup>But I will send a fire upon Teman,  
Which shall devour the palaces of Bozrah.”



‘The Edge of Doom’ by Samuel Coleman, 1838.

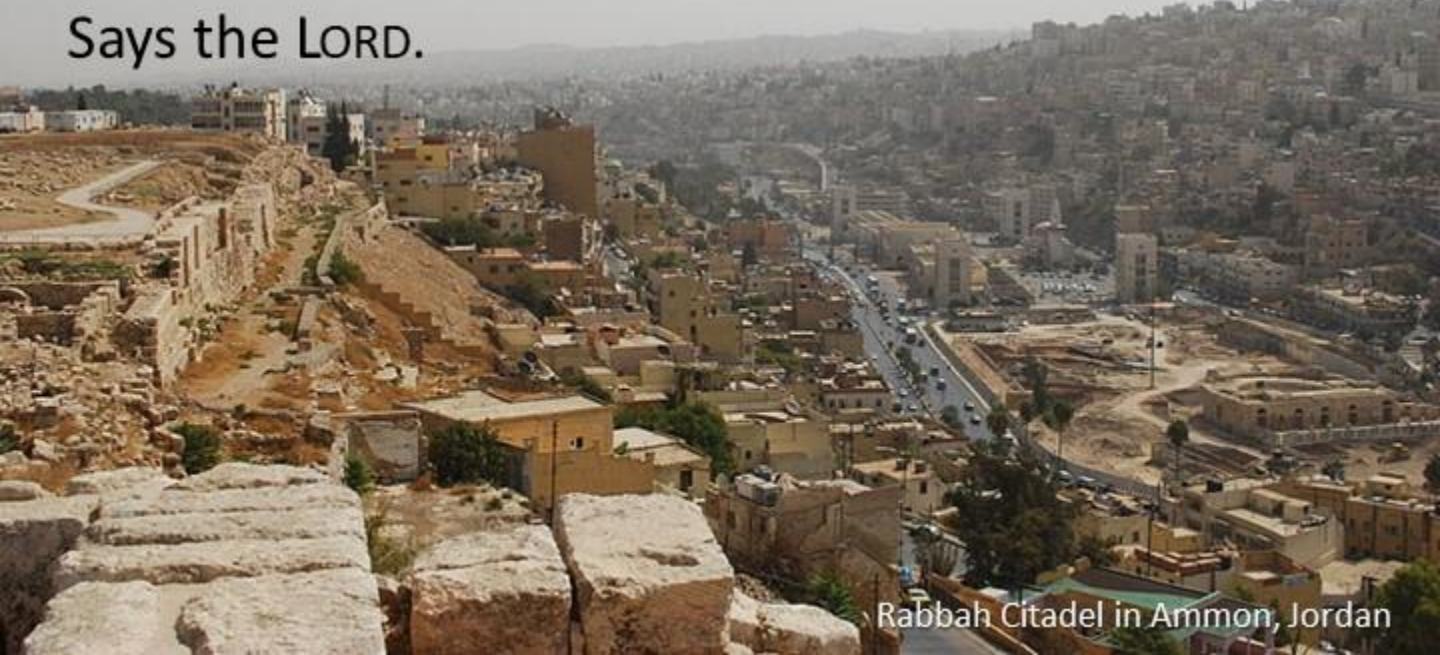
<sup>13</sup> Thus says the LORD:

# AMMON

“For three transgressions of the people of Ammon,  
and for four,  
I will not turn away its *punishment*,  
Because they ripped open the women with child in  
Gilead, That they might enlarge their territory.

<sup>14</sup>But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah,  
And it shall devour its palaces,  
Amid shouting in the day of battle,  
And a tempest in the day of the whirlwind.

<sup>15</sup>Their king shall go into captivity,  
He and his princes together,"  
Says the LORD.



Rabbah Citadel in Ammon, Jordan





WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
IS ABOUT

AMOS

Chapter 2

# MOAB

2 Thus says the LORD:

“For three transgressions of Moab, and for four,  
I will not turn away its *punishment*,  
Because he burned the bones of the king of Edom  
to lime.



The Plain of Moab is on a high plateau.

# MOAB

2 But I will send a fire upon Moab,  
And it shall devour the palaces of  
Kerioth; Moab shall die with tumult,  
With shouting *and* trumpet sound.

3 And I will cut off the judge from its midst,  
And slay all its princes with him,"  
Says the LORD.

The ruins of Ar, Moab.