



WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

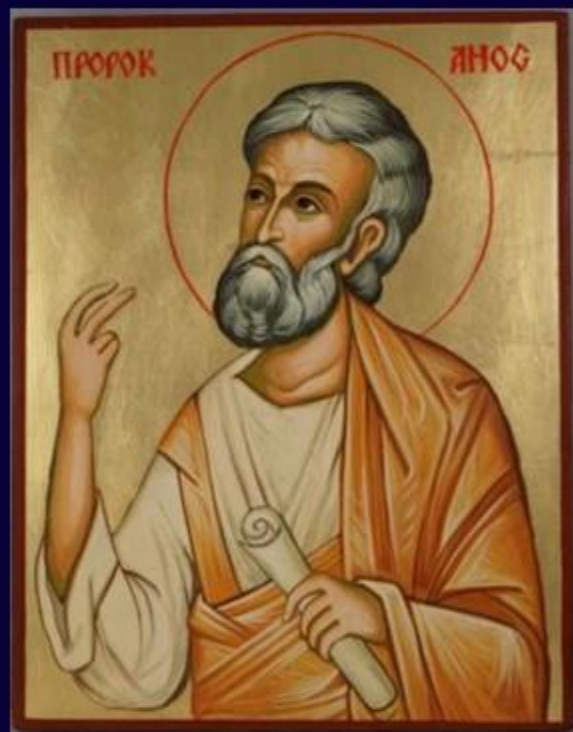


2021
SESSION
8
TERM 4

The book of
Amos

AMOS, AN UNLIKELY PROPHET

- Amos (“burden bearer”) was a herdsman and cultivator of sycamore trees when called to prophesy from 762-755 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 Jereboam 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.



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

The Thirteen Pericopes of Amos

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 2



A: Wither like plant.

B: Exodus.

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The Literary Structure Divided by 4



A: Wither like plant.

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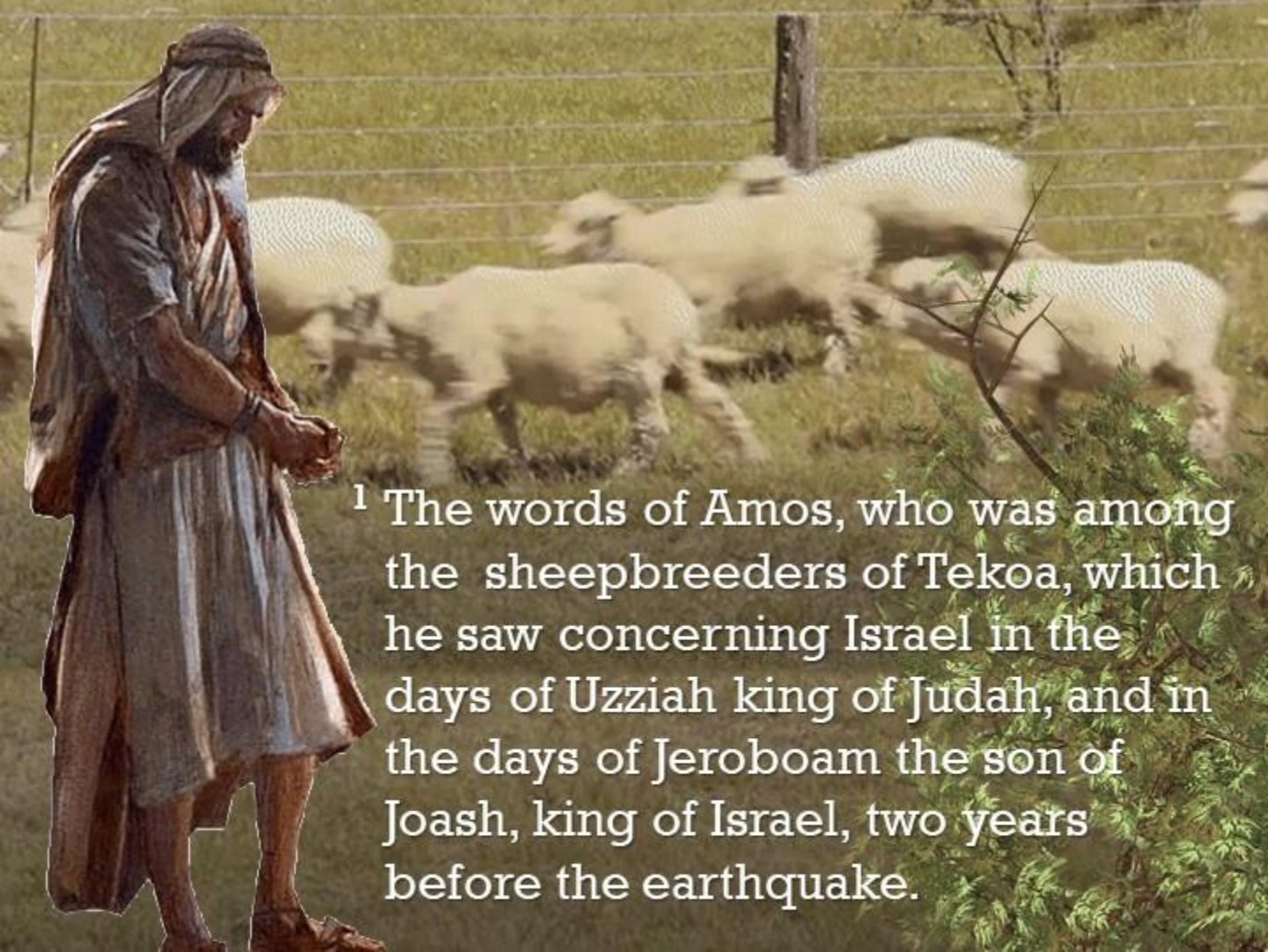
F: Escaping from danger.

G: Judgement on arrogant people.

Part I

Amos

Look around and see
God's Judgment

A man with a beard, wearing a long, light-colored robe and a head covering, stands in the foreground on the left. He is looking down at his hands. In the background, a flock of sheep is grazing in a green field. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a fence visible in the distance.

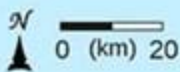
¹ The words of Amos, who was among the sheepbreeders of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.



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

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.”





DAMASCUS

DAMASCUS

(CAPITAL OF SYRIA)

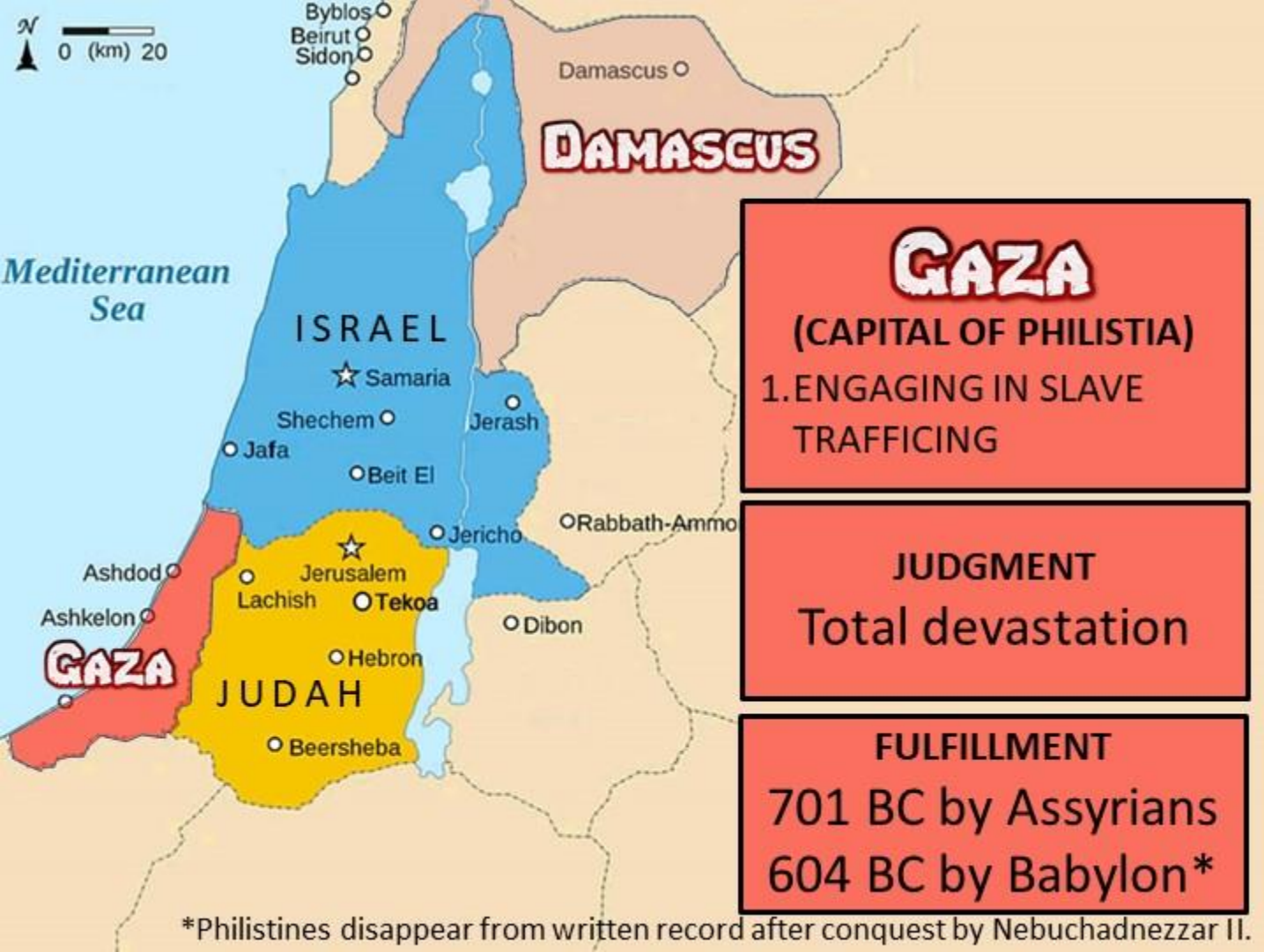
1. CRUELTY TOWARD
GILEAD AND ATROCITIES

JUDGMENT

Destruction and
captivity

FULFILLMENT

2 Kings 16:1-9
732 BC to Assyrians





TYRE

DAMASCUS

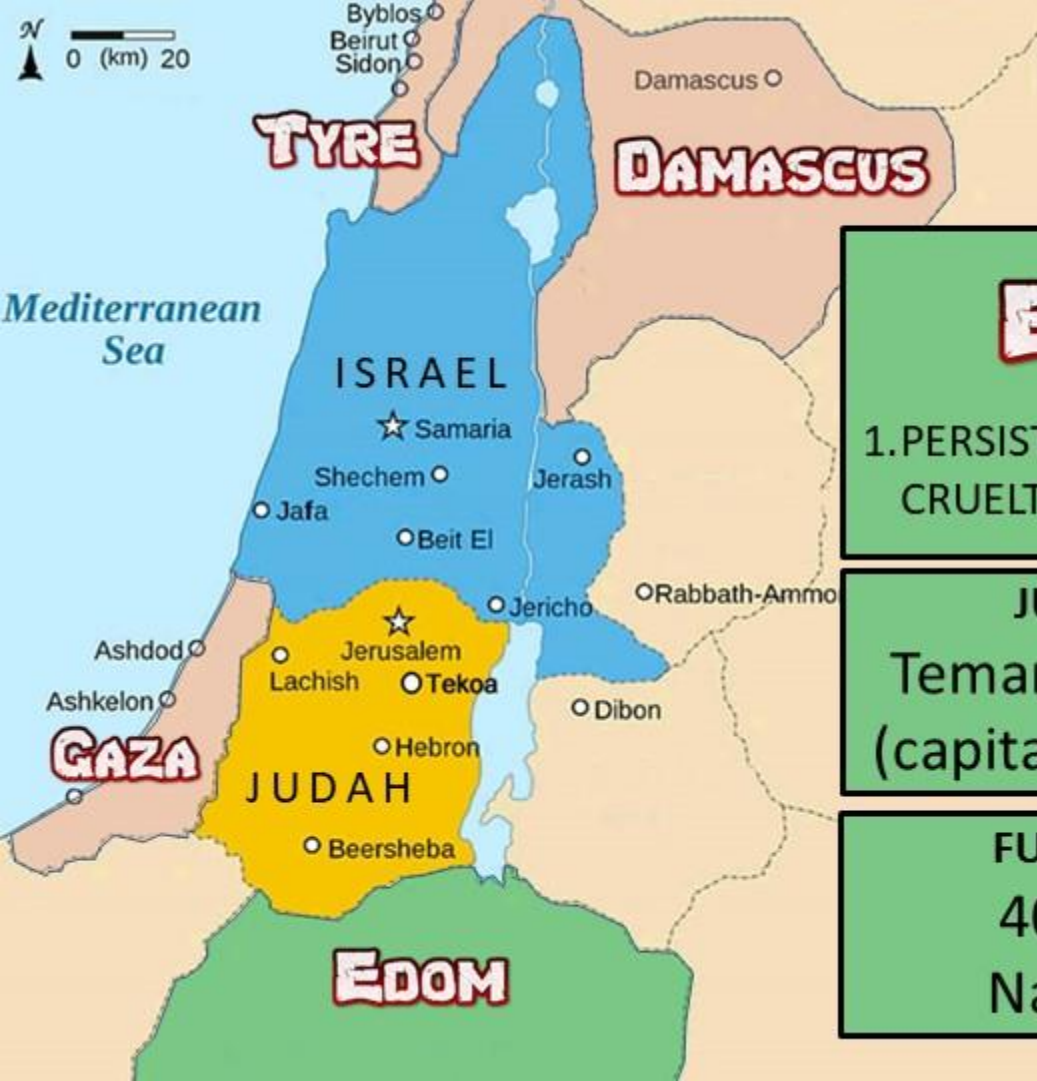
TYRE

(CAPITAL OF PHOENICIA)

1. SLAVERY DESPITE
BROTHERLY COVENANT

JUDGMENT
Destruction

FULFILLMENT
322 BC by
Alexander the Great



EDOM

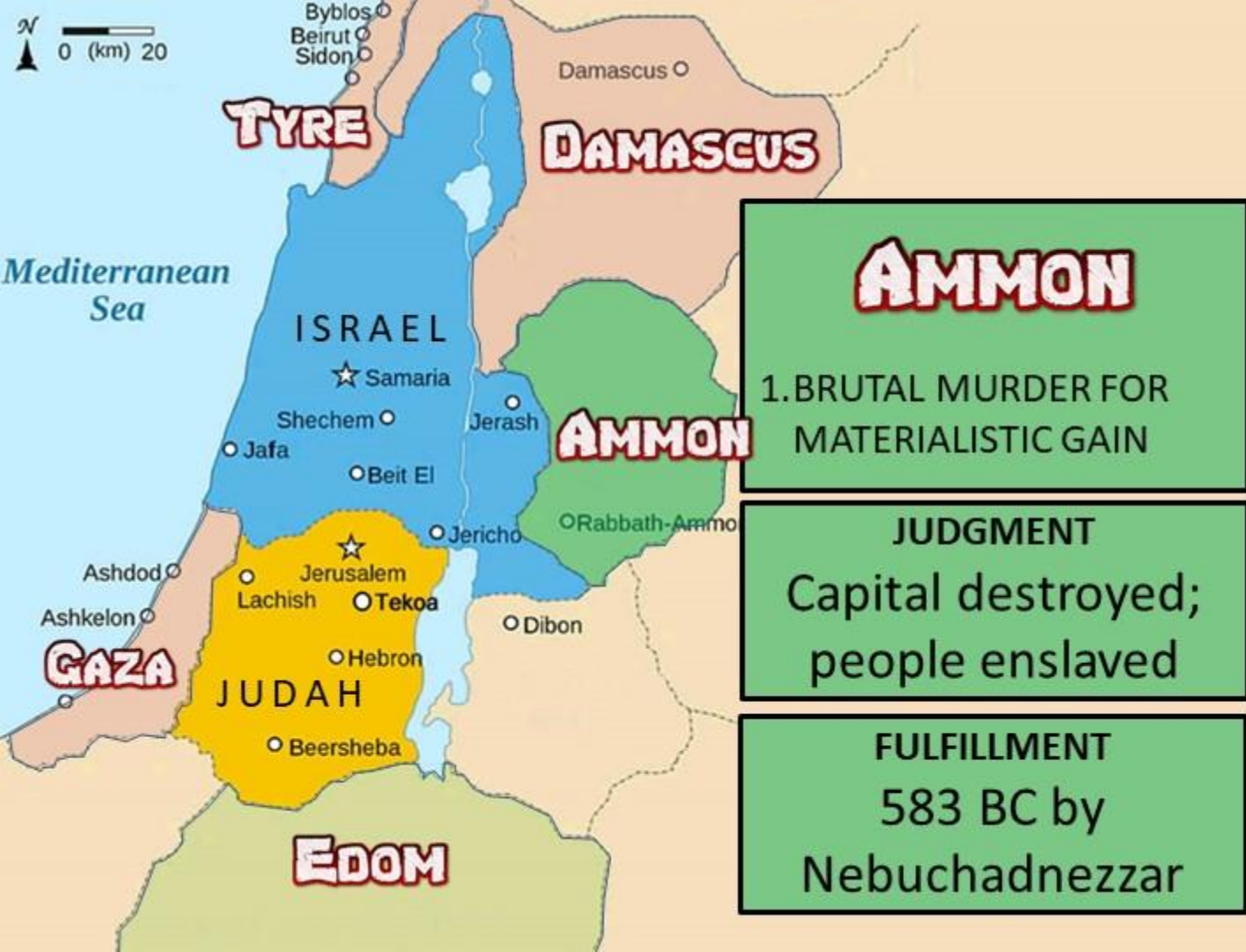
1. PERSISTENT HATRED AND CRUELTY TO BRETHREN

JUDGMENT

Temán and Bozrah (capitals) destroyed

FULFILLMENT

400 BC by Nabateans



AMMON

1. BRUTAL MURDER FOR
MATERIALISTIC GAIN

JUDGMENT

Capital destroyed;
people enslaved

FULFILLMENT

583 BC by
Nebuchadnezzar



MOAB

1. DISHONOURED DEAD
 - a. DISHONORING GOD

JUDGMENT

Capital destroyed;
royalty killed

FULFILLMENT

581 BC by
Nebuchadnezzar



JUDAH

1. BROKE COVENANT

- a. REJECTED GOD'S LAWS
- b. IDOLATRY

JUDGMENT

Jerusalem (capital)
to be destroyed

FULFILLMENT

586 BC by
Nebuchadnezzar



ISRAEL

1. SOCIAL INJUSTICE
2. ABUSE OF POWER AND OPPRESSION
3. OPEN IMMORALITY
4. THEOLOGICAL ERRORS
BREAKING GOD'S LAW
5. OPEN IDOLATRY
6. DEFIANCE AGAINST GOD
7. INGRATITUDE AGAINST
GOD



Part 2

Amos

Look within and
see the Corruption



WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

AMOS

Chapter 3

Sermon 1
Israel's Present

The Sin of Israel (Amos 3:1-15)

A

Hear this word!

You only have I known of all the families of the earth.

B

Therefore I will punish you for all your crimes.

C

Surely the **LORD GOD** does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.
A lion has roared! Who will not fear?

D



They do not know to do right who store up violence and robbery in their palaces.

C'

As a shepherd takes from the mouth of a lion, so shall you be taken out (of Samaria).

B'

In the day I punish Israel for their transgressions, I will also visit *destruction* on the altars of Bethel.

A'

The great houses of Israel (Northern Kingdom) shall have an end, **says the LORD.**

Sermon on Israel's Present

- Amos concludes a sermon on the Northern Kingdom's present days:
 - The people are enslaved or in body parts
 - The temples at Dan and Bethel are in ruins
 - The great palaces are in rubble.
- God does not judge a nation without warnings.
 - In Chapter 3, **Hear the Word** was addressed to the Sons of Israel.
 - In the next chapter, **Hear the Word** will be addressed to the women of Samaria.



WHAT THE
BIBLE
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AMOS

Chapter 4

Sermon 2
Israel's Past

The Unbelief of Israel (Amos 4:1-13)

A

Hear this word! You love religion but not God.
You act as if you are religious but you are not moral.

B

I saved you through famine, yet
you returned not to me, says the LORD.

C

I saved you through drought, yet
you returned not to me, says the LORD.

D

I saved you through crop failure, yet
you returned not to me, says the LORD.

C'

I saved you through plagues, yet
you returned not to me, says the LORD.

B'

I saved you through natural disasters, yet
you returned not to me, says the LORD.

A'

Therefore, **prepare to meet your God!**
The Lord God of hosts is His name





**PREPARE
TO MEET
THY GOD**

AMOS 4:12

Sermon on Israel's Past

- Amos calls out the depraved women of Israel:
 - Fat and lustful cows immersed in indulgences
 - Crying out for wine (at the expense of the poor)
 - Oppressors would become the oppressed.
- God sent warnings which they rejected:
 - Famine, drought, pestilence, plagues and war
 - The earthquake of Amos (two years later)
 - They failed to repent
- Therefore, **prepare to meet your God!**



WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

AMOS

Chapter 5

Sermon 3
Israel's Future

A LAMENT FOR ISRAEL

5 **Hear this word** which I take up against you,
a lamentation, O house of Israel:

2 The virgin of Israel has fallen;
She will rise no more.
She lies forsaken on her land;
There is no one to raise her up

Israel's **doom** is **lamented!**

3 For thus says the Lord GOD:

“The city that goes out by a thousand
Shall have a hundred left,
And that which goes out by a hundred
Shall have ten left to the house of Israel.”

DECIMATED

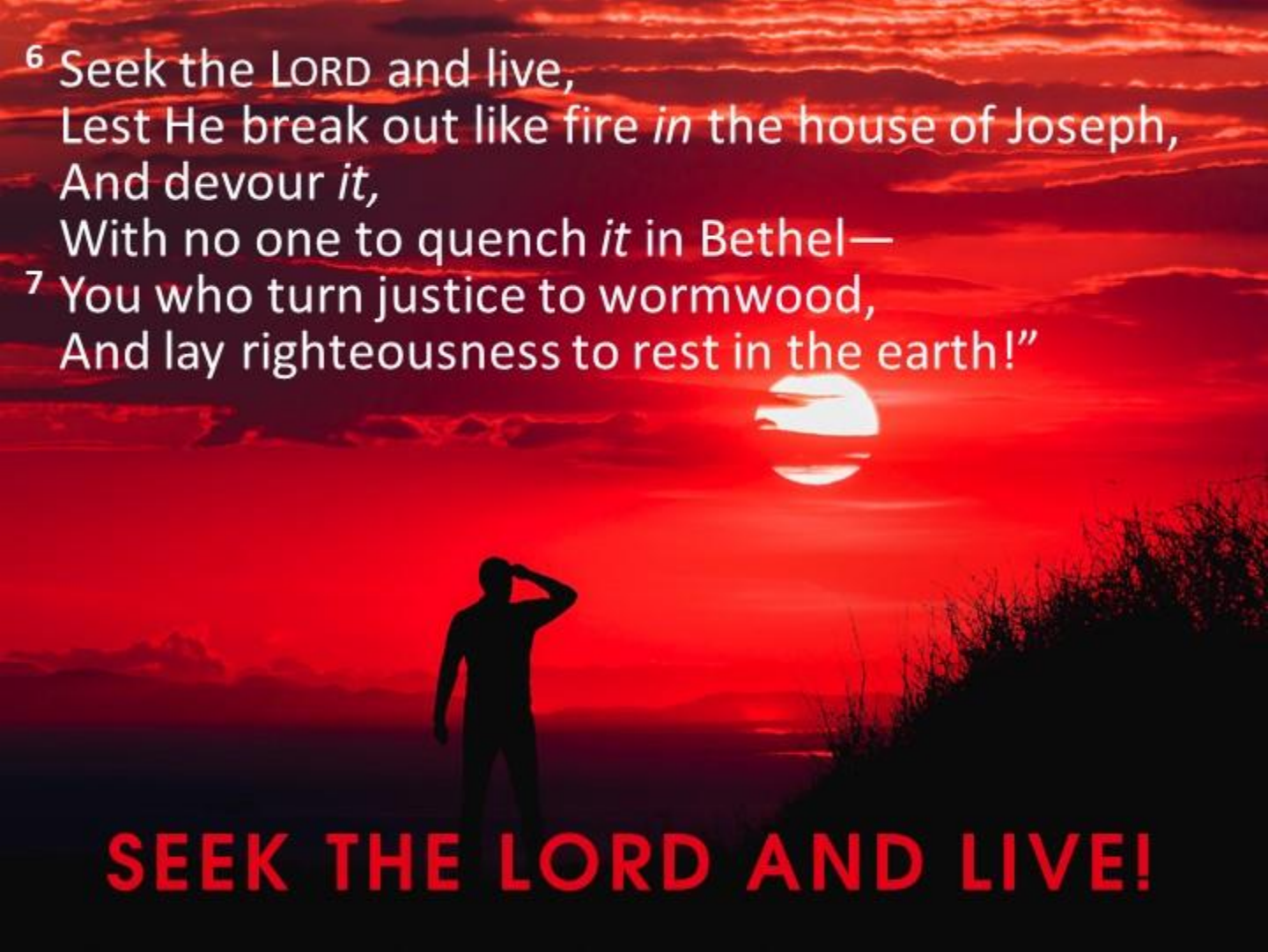
The background of the image is a photograph of ancient ruins, likely the city of Jericho. In the foreground, there are stone walls and a path leading through the ruins. The word "DECIMATED" is overlaid in large, white, bold letters with a red, blood-splattered effect. The sky is clear and blue.

A CALL TO REPENTANCE



⁴ Nor pass over to Beersheba;
For Gilgal shall surely go into
captivity, And Bethel shall
come to nothing.

Tel Be'er Sheva archaeological site



⁶ Seek the LORD and live,
Lest He break out like fire *in* the house of Joseph,
And devour *it*,
With no one to quench *it* in Bethel—
⁷ You who turn justice to wormwood,
And lay righteousness to rest in the earth!”

SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE!

⁸ He made the Pleiades and Orion;
He turns the shadow of death into morning
And makes the day dark as night;



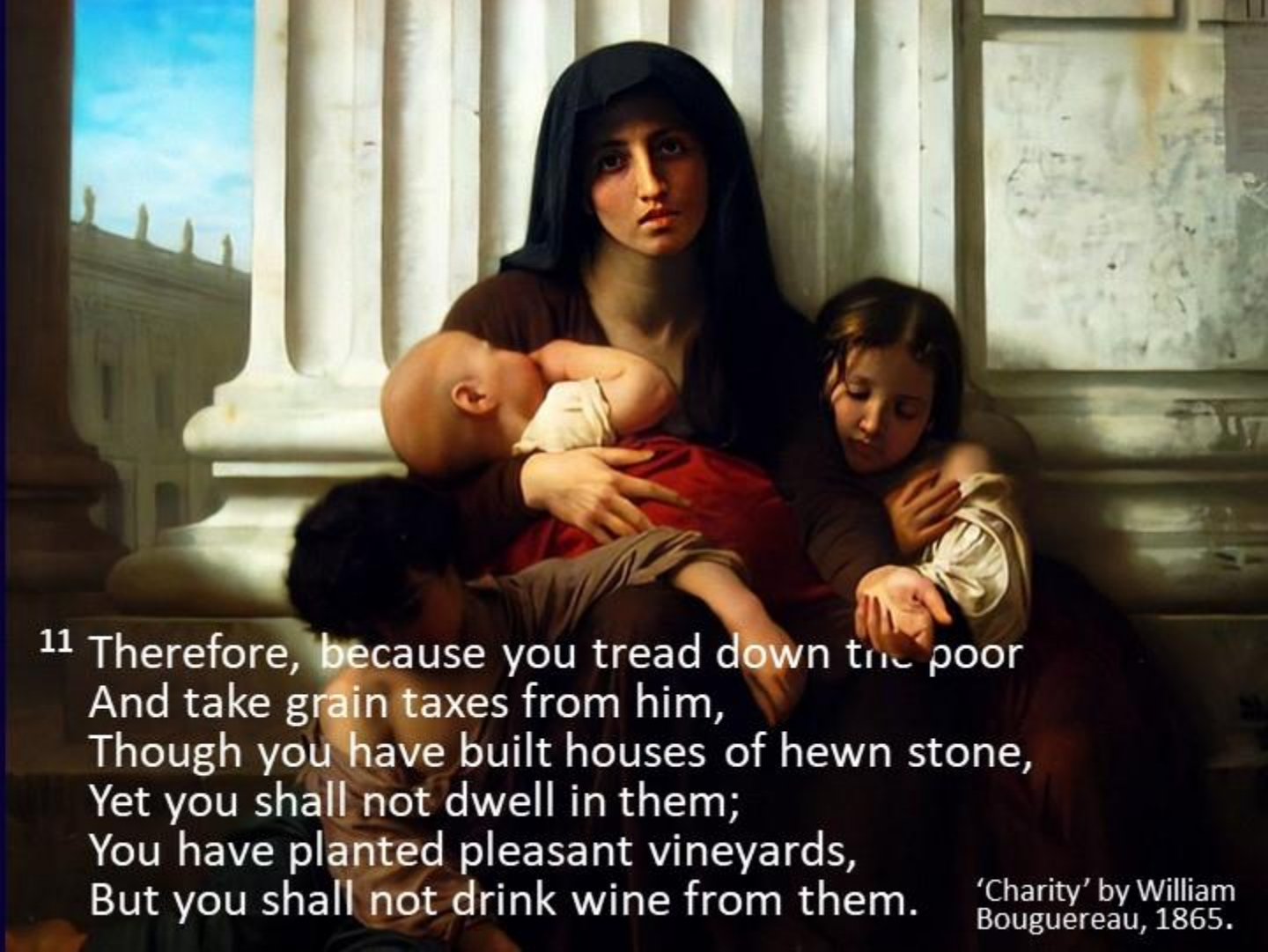


He calls for the waters of the sea
And pours them out on the face of the earth;
The LORD *is* His name.

- ⁹ He rains ruin upon the strong,
So that fury comes upon the fortress.
- ¹⁰ They hate the one who rebukes in the gate,
And they abhor the one who speaks uprightly.

'Elders at the Gate' by James Tissot.





11 Therefore, because you tread down the poor
And take grain taxes from him,
Though you have built houses of hewn stone,
Yet you shall not dwell in them;
You have planted pleasant vineyards,
But you shall not drink wine from them.

'Charity' by William
Bouguereau, 1865.

¹² For I know your manifold transgressions
And your mighty sins:
Afflicting the just and
taking bribes;

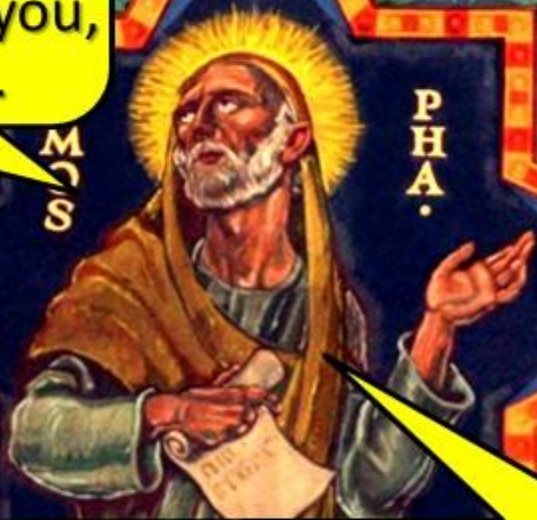
Diverting the poor *from*
justice at the gate.

¹³ Therefore the prudent
keep silent at that time,
For it *is* an evil time.

'The Little Beggar' by William
Adolphe Bouguereau, 1880.



¹⁴ Seek good and not evil,
That you may live;
So the LORD God of
hosts will be with you,
As you have spoken.



¹⁵ Hate evil, love good;
Establish justice in the gate.
It may be that the LORD God of hosts
Will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

THE DAY OF THE LORD



¹⁶ Therefore the LORD God of hosts, the Lord, says this:

*“There shall be wailing in all streets,
And they shall say in all the highways,
‘Alas! Alas!’*

They shall call the farmer to mourning,
And skillful lamenters to wailing.

¹⁷ In all vineyards *there shall be wailing,*
For I will pass through you,”

Says the LORD.

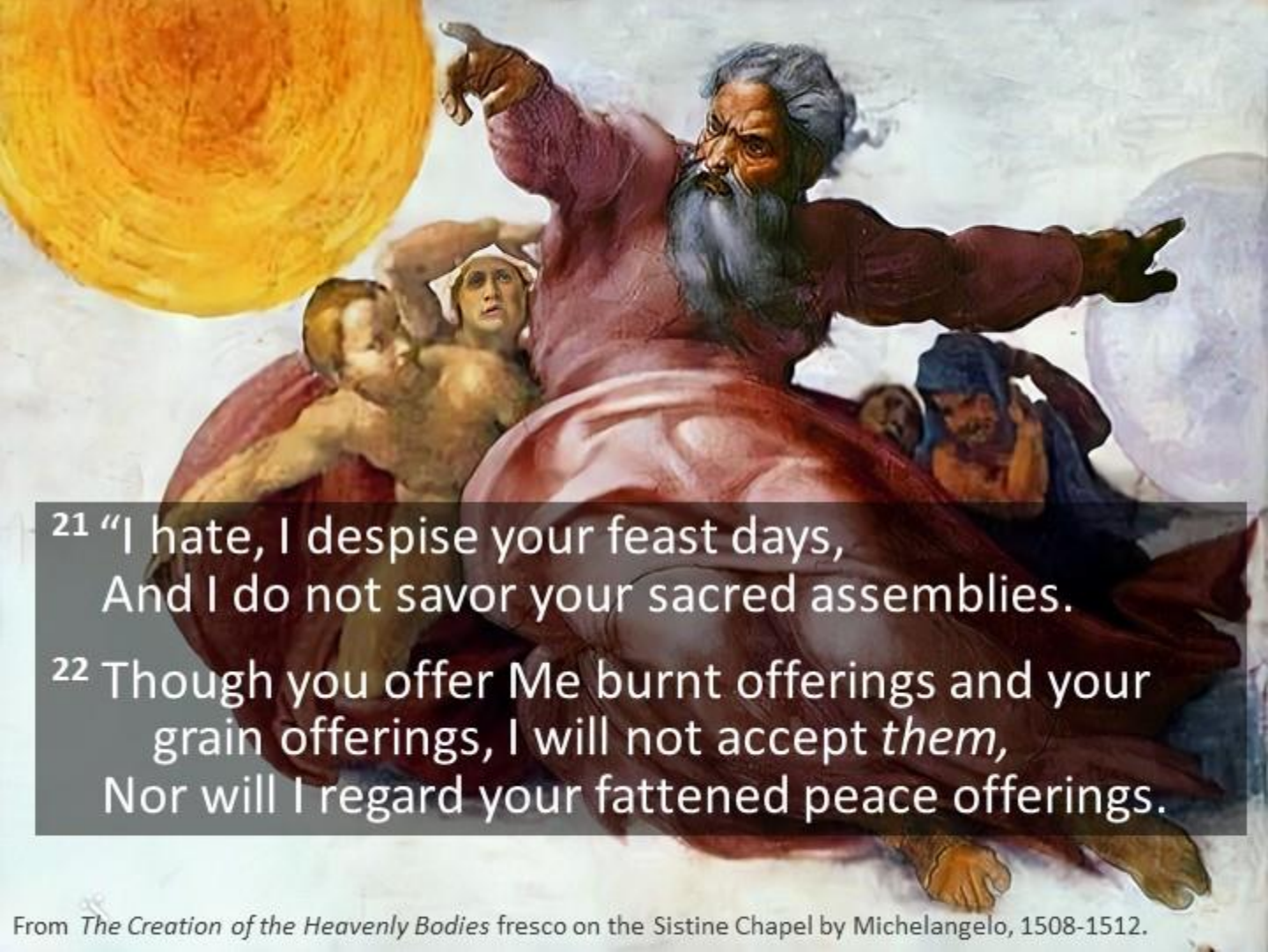
18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
For what good *is* the day of the LORD to you?
It *will be* darkness, and not light.



Woe to you who **desire**
the day of the LORD!

¹⁹ *It will be* as though a man fled from a lion,
And a bear met him!
Or as though he went into the house,
Leaned his hand on the wall,
And a serpent bit him!

²⁰ *Is not* the day of the LORD darkness, and not light?
Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?



²¹ "I hate, I despise your feast days,
And I do not savor your sacred assemblies.

²² Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your
grain offerings, I will not accept *them*,
Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings.

23 Take away from Me the
noise of your songs,
For I will not hear the
melody of your
stringed instruments




²⁴ But let justice run
down like water,
And righteousness
like a mighty stream.



25 "Did you offer Me sacrifices and offerings
In the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel?"



²⁶ You also carried Sikkuth (*tent*) your king (*of Moloch*) and Chiun (*pillar/statue of Priapus/Baal-Peor*), your idols, the star (*prince*) of your gods (*Saturn*), Which you made for yourselves.



You also carried the tents of Moloch and Chien, your idols, the princes of Saturn, which you made for yourselves.

27 Therefore I will send you into captivity beyond
Damascus,”
Says the LORD, whose name *is* the God of hosts.



The Assyrian Capitol Nineveh



WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

AMOS

Chapter 6

Sermon 3
Israel's Future
— CONTINUATION —

WARNINGS TO ZION AND SAMARIA



6 Woe to you *who are* at ease in Zion,
And trust in Mount Samaria,
Notable persons in the chief nation,
To whom the house of Israel comes!

'Woe unto You, Scribes and Pharisees' by James Tissot

² Go over to Calneh and see;
And from there go to Hamath the great;
Then go down to Gath of the Philistines.
Are you better than these kingdoms?
Or is their territory greater than your territory?



Calneh, Mesopotamia.

Conquered by
Tiglath-pileser III in 738 BC

Hamath,
Syria.
Conquered by
Shalmaneser III in
Tiglath-pileser III in 730 BC
Sargon II in 720 BC



Gath, Philistia.

Conquered by
Joshua c. 1266 BC
Hazeal of Aram in 830 BC
Uzziah of Judah c. 763 BC
Sargon II in 721 BC



- ³ *Woe to you who put far off the day of doom,
Who cause the seat of violence to come near;*
- ⁴ *Who lie on beds of ivory, Stretch out on your couches,
Eat lambs from the flock
And calves from the midst of the stall;*
- ⁵ *Who sing idly to the sound of stringed instruments,
And invent for yourselves musical instruments like David;*

Woe to you
who **put off** the
day of doom!

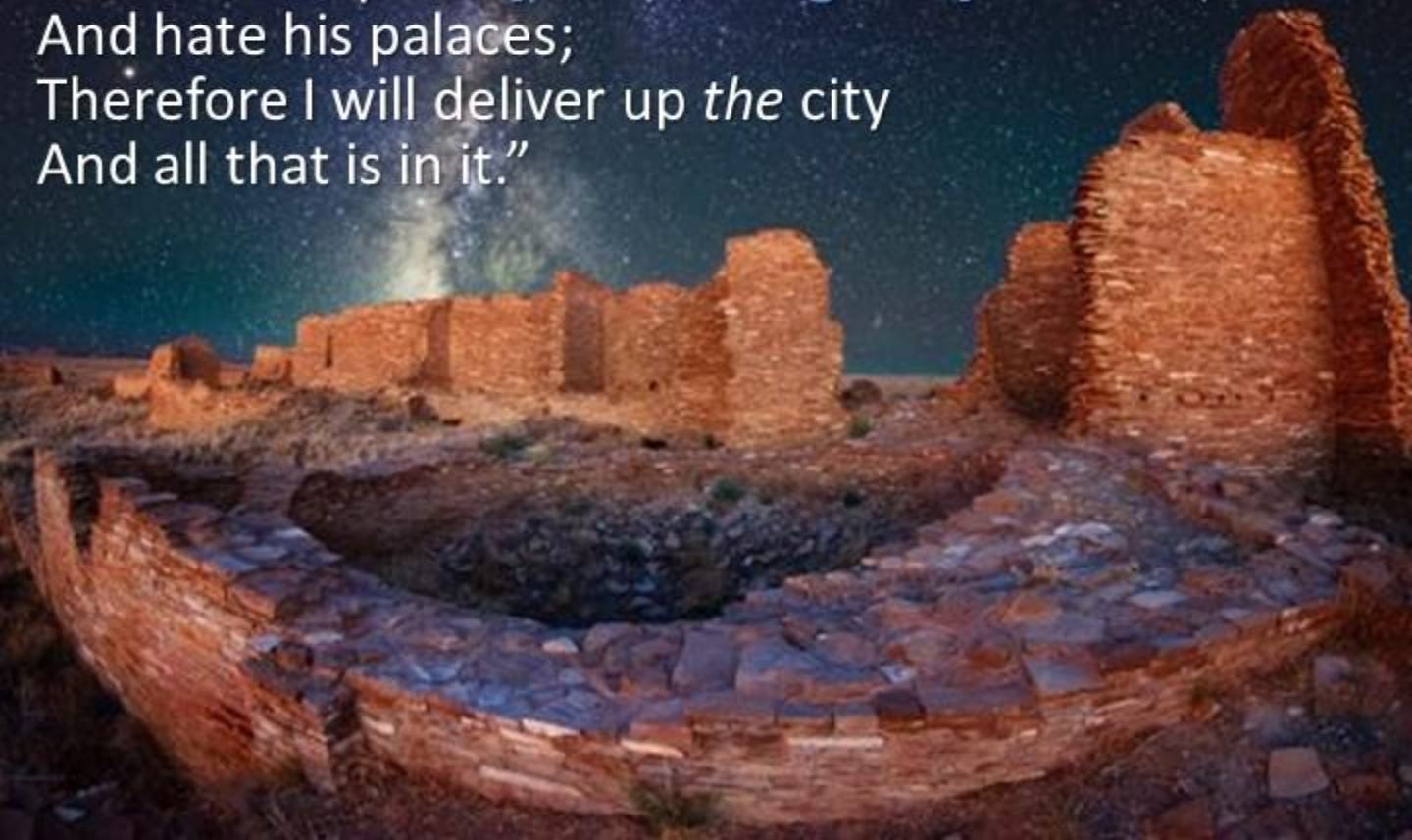


- ⁶ Who drink wine from bowls,
And anoint yourselves with the best ointments,
But are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.
- ⁷ Therefore they shall now go captive as the first of the
captives,
And those who recline at banquets shall be removed.



"A Roman Feast" by Roberto Bompiani c. 1887.

⁸ The Lord [Adonai] God [YHWH] has sworn by Himself,
The LORD [YHWH] God [Elohim] of hosts says:
“I abhor the pride [pomp, arrogance] of Jacob,
And hate his palaces;
Therefore I will deliver up *the* city
And all that is in it.”



⁹ Then it shall come to pass, that if ten men remain in one house, they shall die.

¹⁰ And when a relative [*“uncle; loved one”*] of the dead, with one who will burn *the bodies*, picks up the bodies [*“bones”*] to take them out of the house, he will say to one inside [*“beside”*] the house, *“Are there any more with you?”*

Then someone will say, *“None.”*

And he will say, *“Hold your tongue! For we dare not mention the name of the LORD.”*



11 For behold, the LORD gives a command:
He will break the great house into bits,
And the little house into pieces.

12 Do horses run on rocks?
Does *one* plow *there* with oxen?
Yet you have turned justice into gall,
And the fruit of righteousness into wormwood,



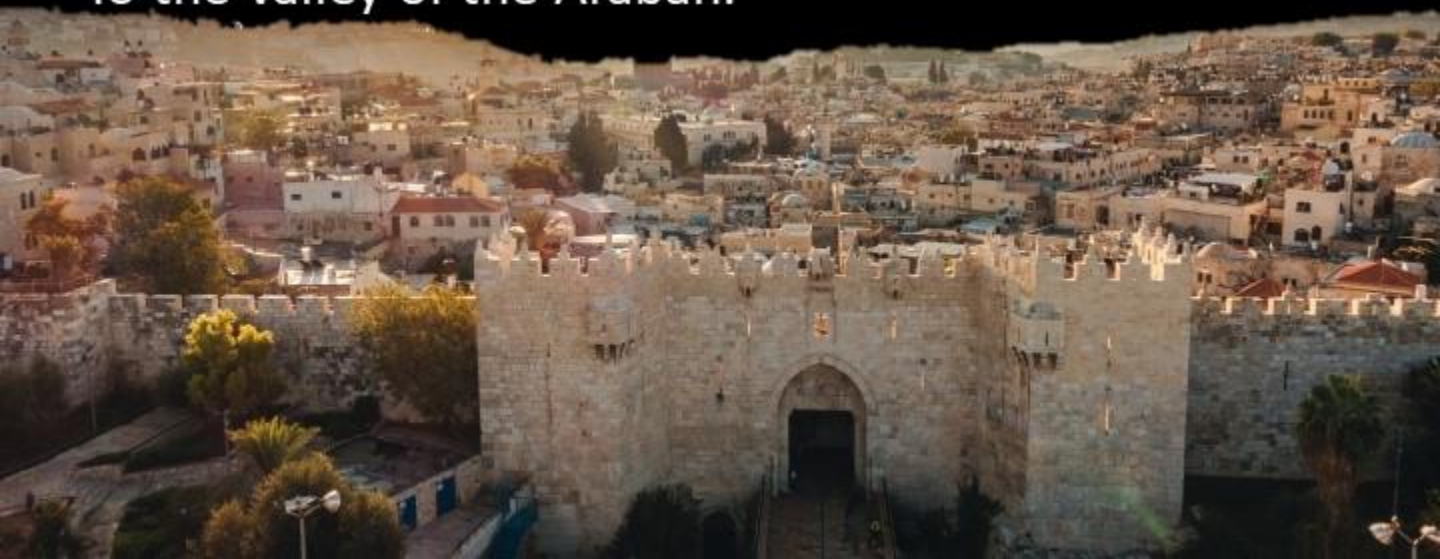
13 You who rejoice over Lo Debar [“nothing”],
Who say, “Have we not taken Karnaim [“horns”] for
ourselves

By our own strength?”

14 “But, behold, I will raise up a nation against you,
O house of Israel,”

Says the LORD God of hosts;

“And they will afflict you from the entrance of Hamath
To the Valley of the Arabah.”



Lamentation for a dead nation

- **The Virgin Israel will fall leaving but a remnant.** (5:1-3)
- **“Seek ye me, and ye shall live”** (a Call to Repentance)
 - Seek the Lord in repentance and live, or face his judgment! (5:4-7)
 - Seek the all-powerful creator, sovereign over all! (5:8-9)
 - The LORD knows your manifold sins. (5:10-13)
 - Seek good, forsake evil and God will be with you. (5:14-15)
- **The Day of the Lord is coming!** (5:16-17)
 - The sinful should not desire the day of the Lord (5:18-20)
 - God is sickened by empty outward religion (5:21-24)
 - You cannot worship both God and idols. (5:25-26)
 - Israel will be taken into captivity beyond Damascus (Assyria). (5:27)

- **A Warning to those in Zion** (Judah and Jerusalem). (6:1-7)
 - Those living in luxury in Judah who feel secure should take note that the rich in Samaria felt the same way. (6:1-2)
 - Look at what happened to far greater kingdoms! (6:1-2)
 - Woe to those who say the day of the Lord is far off. (6:3-6)
 - Woe to those basking in luxury while their brethren are afflicted; they shall be first to go into captivity. (6:7)
- **The Extent of the Coming Destruction.**
 - Destruction comes because God hates pride. (6:8)
 - Destruction will be complete because in their pride they pervert justice and righteousness. (6:9-14)



Part 3

Amos

Look ahead and
see the End coming



WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

AMOS

Chapter 7

Struggles with
God and Man

¹ Thus the Lord GOD showed me: Behold, He formed locust swarms at the beginning of the late crop; indeed *it was* the late crop after the king's mowings.



1. The **vision** of the **locusts!**

² And so it was, when they had finished eating the grass of the land, that I said:

“O Lord GOD, forgive, I pray!
Oh, that Jacob may stand,
For he *is* small!”

³ So the LORD relented concerning this.

“It shall not be,” said the LORD.



1. The **vision** of the **locusts!**

What does this vision mean?

- A common explanation:
 - Prayerful intercession is biblical and it works.
 - But it only works when we humble ourselves.
 - And so God can and does change His mind.
- **“Perhaps the greatest lesson is God’s mercy.”**
- **God evoked the greatest Egyptian plague.**
- **Amos is asking for God to “look away” even through the people are guilty.**
- **Reversing the decision is not the same as forgiving the people.**



1. The **vision** of the **locusts!**

What does this vision mean?

A common explanation:

- Prayerful intercession is biblical
- But it only works when
- And so God

“Do

Well, okay!
This is all well and good,
But why include it at all?

“away” even

decision is not the same as
for the people.



1. The **vision** of the **locusts!**

V

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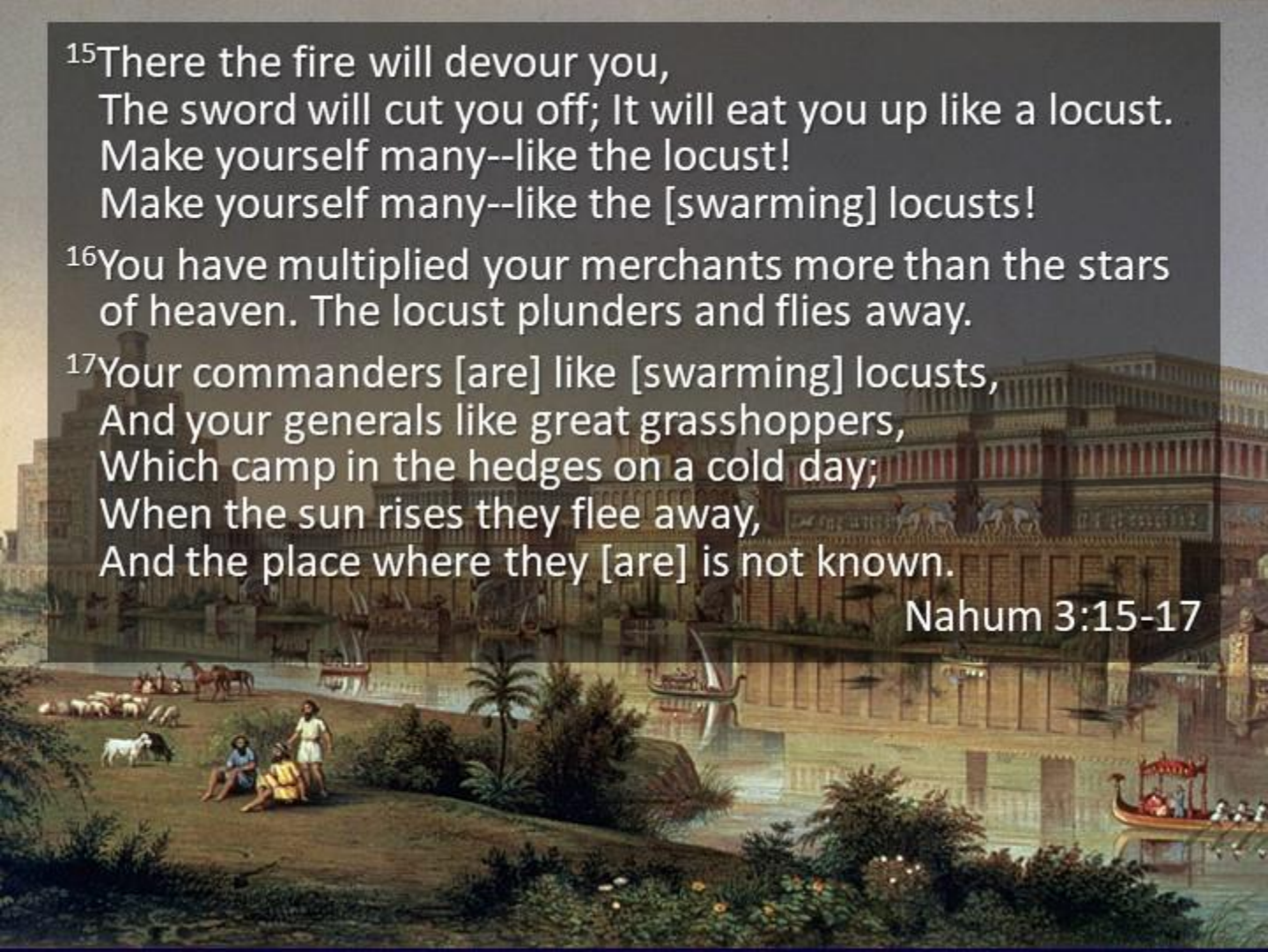
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¹⁵There the fire will devour you,
The sword will cut you off; It will eat you up like a locust.
Make yourself many--like the locust!
Make yourself many--like the [swarming] locusts!

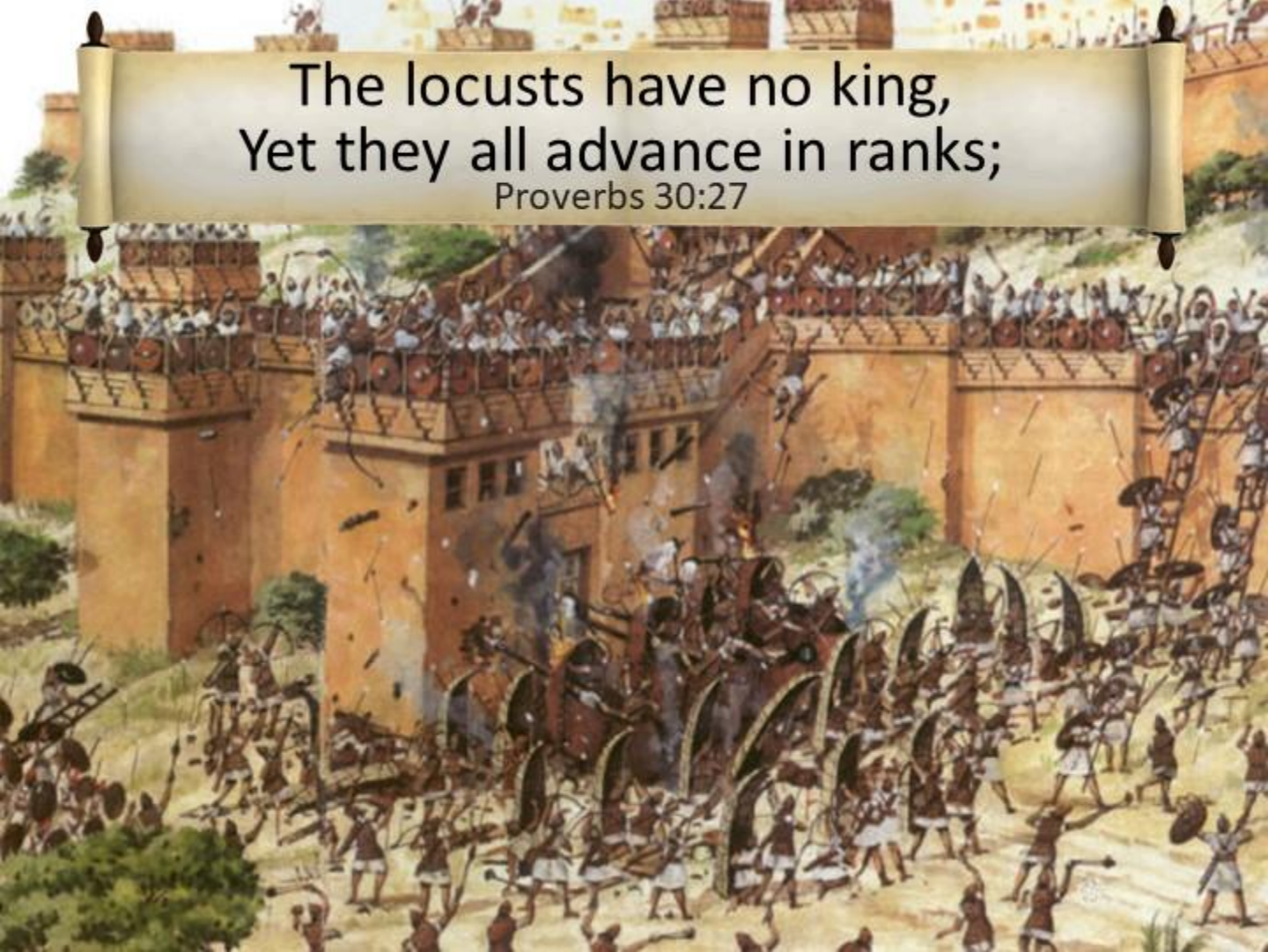
¹⁶You have multiplied your merchants more than the stars
of heaven. The locust plunders and flies away.

¹⁷Your commanders [are] like [swarming] locusts,
And your generals like great grasshoppers,
Which camp in the hedges on a cold day;
When the sun rises they flee away,
And the place where they [are] is not known.

Nahum 3:15-17



The locusts have no king,
Yet they all advance in ranks;
Proverbs 30:27



The locusts have no king,
Yet they all advance in ranks;

Proverbs 30:27

Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. ² And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. ³ Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴ They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ And they were not given *authority* to kill them, but to torment them *for* five months. Their torment *was* like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. ⁶ In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. (Rev. 9:1-6)

The locusts have no king,
Yet they all advance in ranks;

Proverbs 30:27

⁷ The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces *were* like the faces of men. ⁸ They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' *teeth*. ⁹ And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings *was* like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. ¹⁰ They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power *was* to hurt men five months. ¹¹ And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew *is* Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

(Revelation 9:7-11)

The locusts have no king,
Yet they all advance in ranks;

Proverbs 30:27

οὕτως ἔδειξέν μοι κύριος καὶ ἰδοὺ
ἐπιγονὴ ἀκρίδων ἐρχομένη ἑωθινή καὶ
ἰδοὺ βροῦχος εἰς **Γωγ ὁ βασιλεύς**

The Lord hath shown me, and, Behold, a swarm
of locusts were coming, and behold, one of the
young devastating locusts was **Gog the King.**

Amos 7:1(LXX)

The Septuagint (a.k.a. LXX)











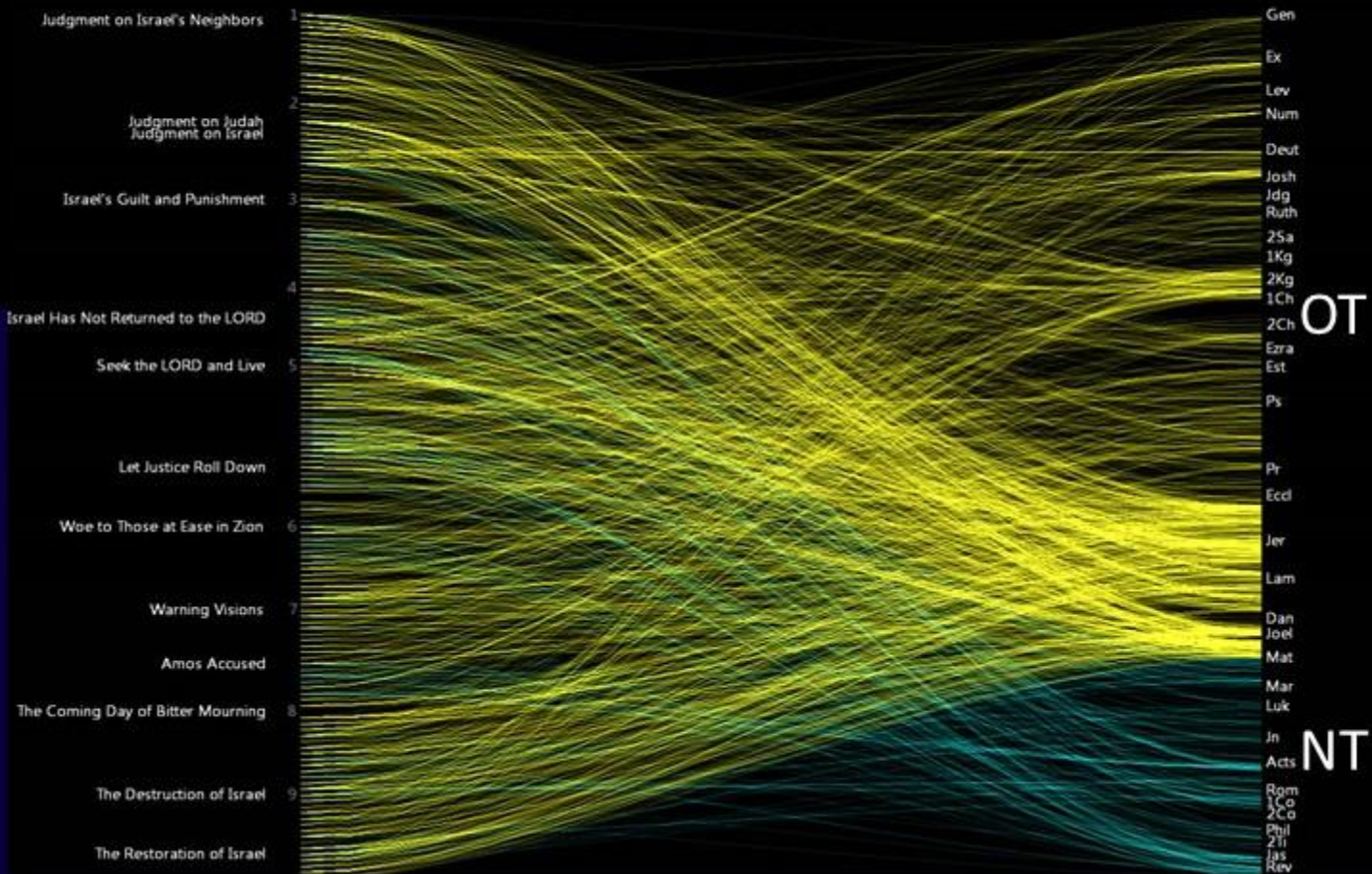




Cross-references with the Bible

Amos

Bible



¹ Thus the Lord GOD showed me: and behold, a swarm of locusts coming from the east; and, behold, one of the locusts was Gog the king.

² And so it was, when they had finished eating the grass of the land, that I said:

“O Lord GOD, be merciful;
who shall raise up Jacob?
For he *is* small in number!”

³ So the LORD relented concerning this.

“And this shall not be,” said the LORD.



1. The **vision** of the **locusts!**

4 Thus the Lord GOD showed me: Behold, the Lord GOD called for conflict by fire, and it consumed the great deep and devoured the territory [LXX, Lord's portion].

5 Then I said:

“O Lord GOD, cease, I pray!
Oh, that Jacob may stand,
For he *is* small!”

6 So the LORD relented concerning this.

“This also shall not be,” said the Lord GOD.



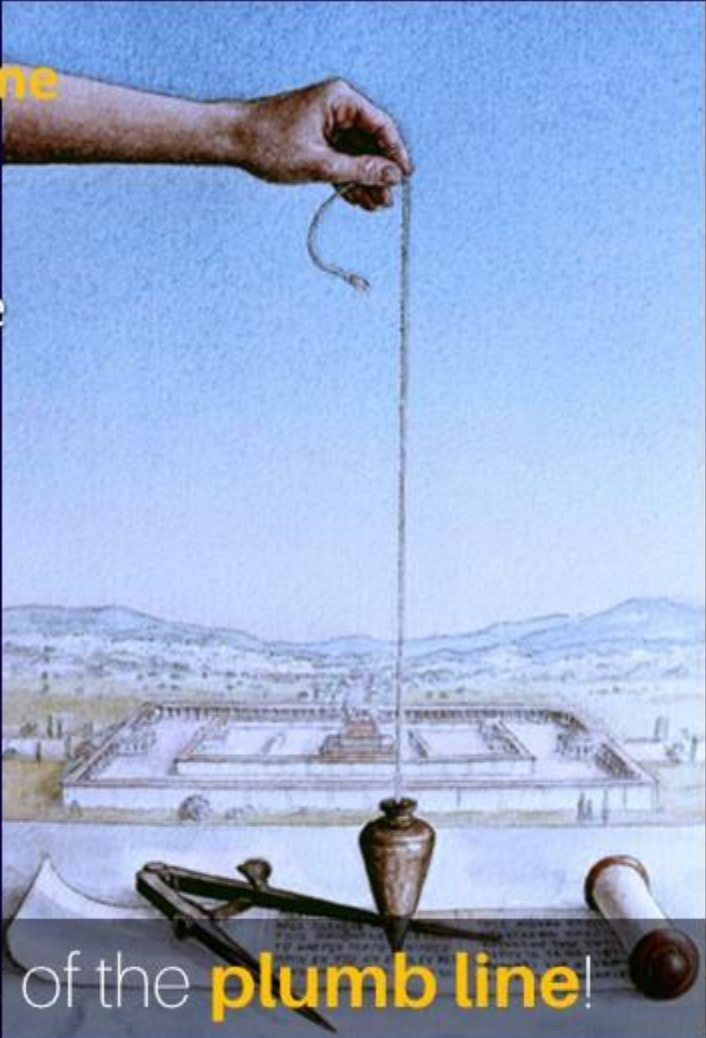
2. The **vision** of the **fire!**

Vision of the Plumb Line

7 Thus He showed me:
Behold, the Lord
stood on a wall made
with a plumb line,
with a plumb line in
His hand.

8 And the LORD said to
me, "Amos, what do
you see?"

And I said, "A plumb
line."

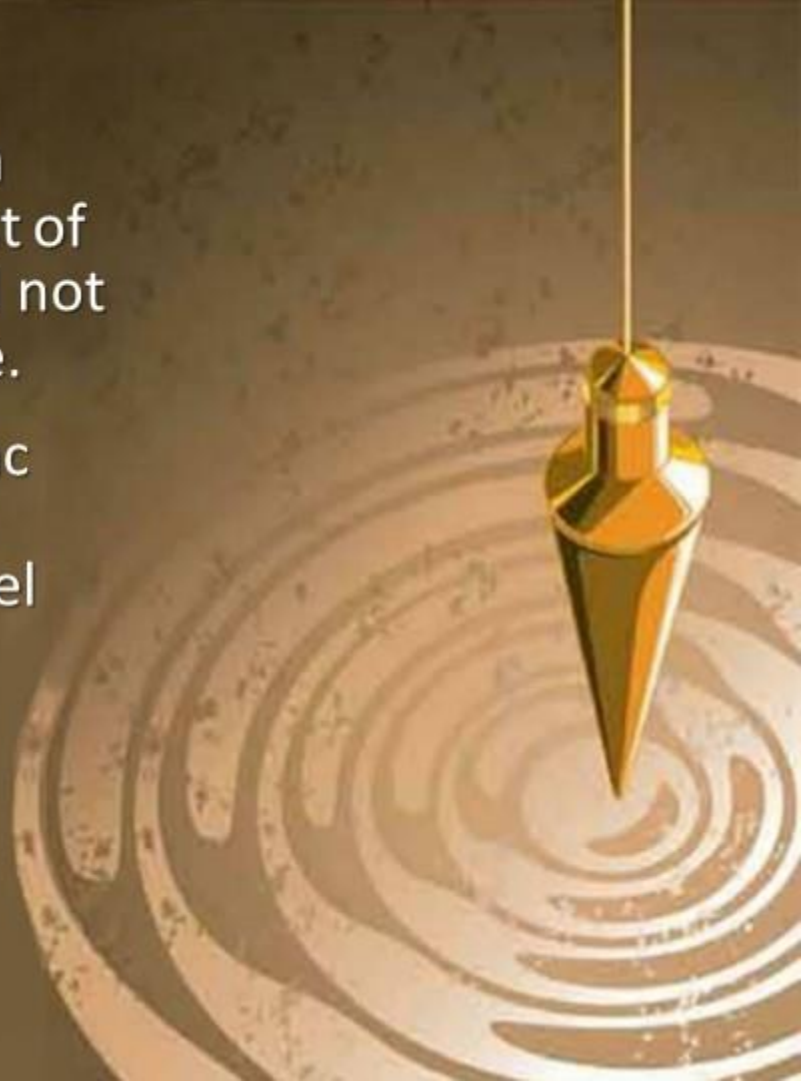


- 3. The **vision** of the **plumb line**!

Then the Lord said:

“Behold, I am setting a plumb line In the midst of My people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore.

⁹ The high places of Isaac shall be desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste. I will rise with the sword against the house of Jeroboam.”



DRAMATIC INTERLUDE

High Priest
Amaziah has had
enough of this
tiresome nobody
and his doom &
gloom. He goes
to the king!



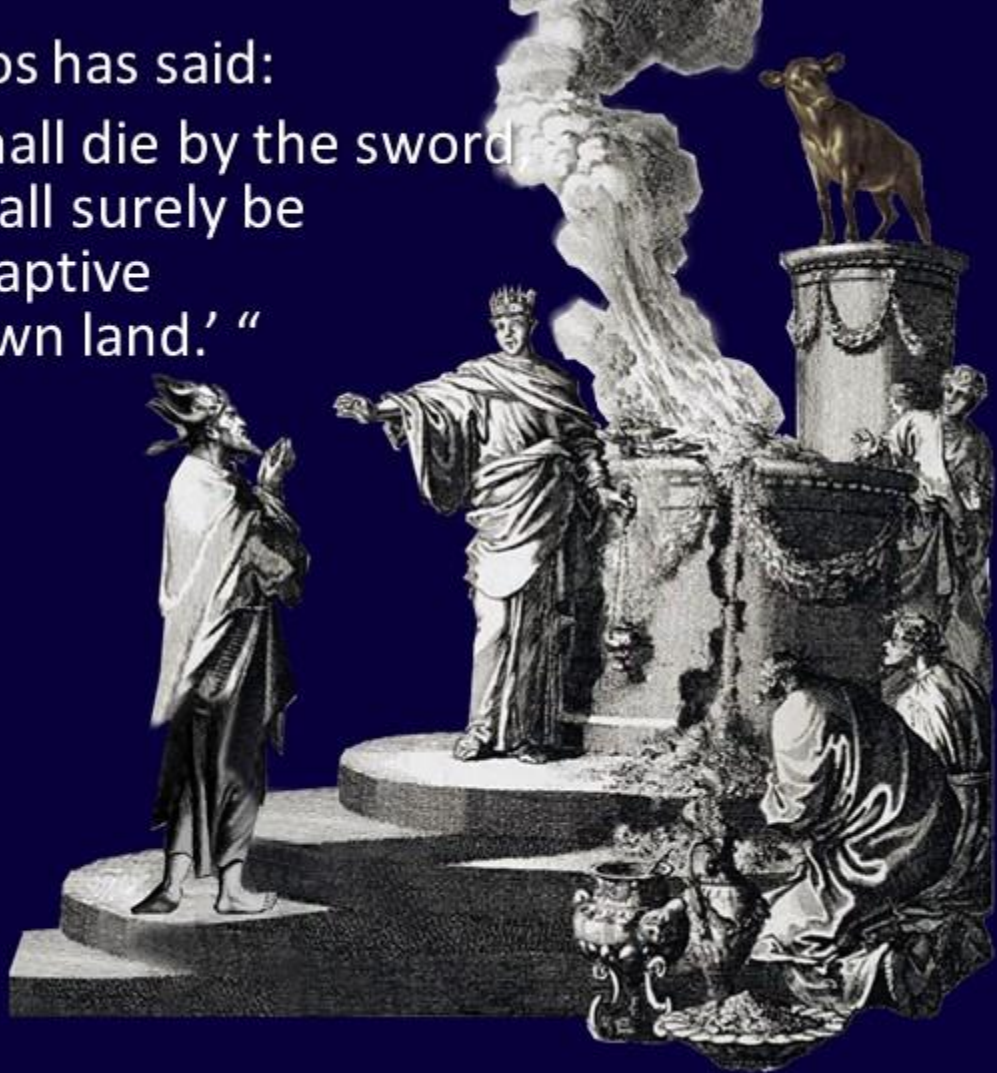
Amaziah reports to the king

¹⁰ Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying,

“Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words.



11 "For thus Amos has said:
'Jeroboam shall die by the sword
And Israel shall surely be
led away captive
From their own land.' "





Amaziah responds to Amos

¹² Then Amaziah said to Amos:

“Go, you seer!
Flee to the land of Judah.
There eat bread,
And there prophesy.



Amaziah responds to Amos

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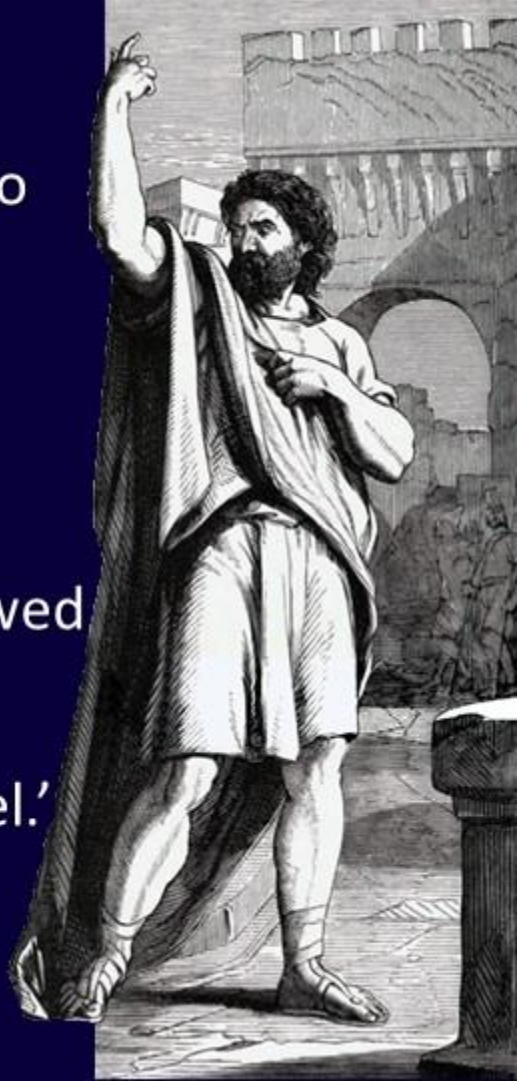
¹³ But never again prophesy at
Bethel,
For it *is* the king’s sanctuary,
And it *is* the royal residence.”

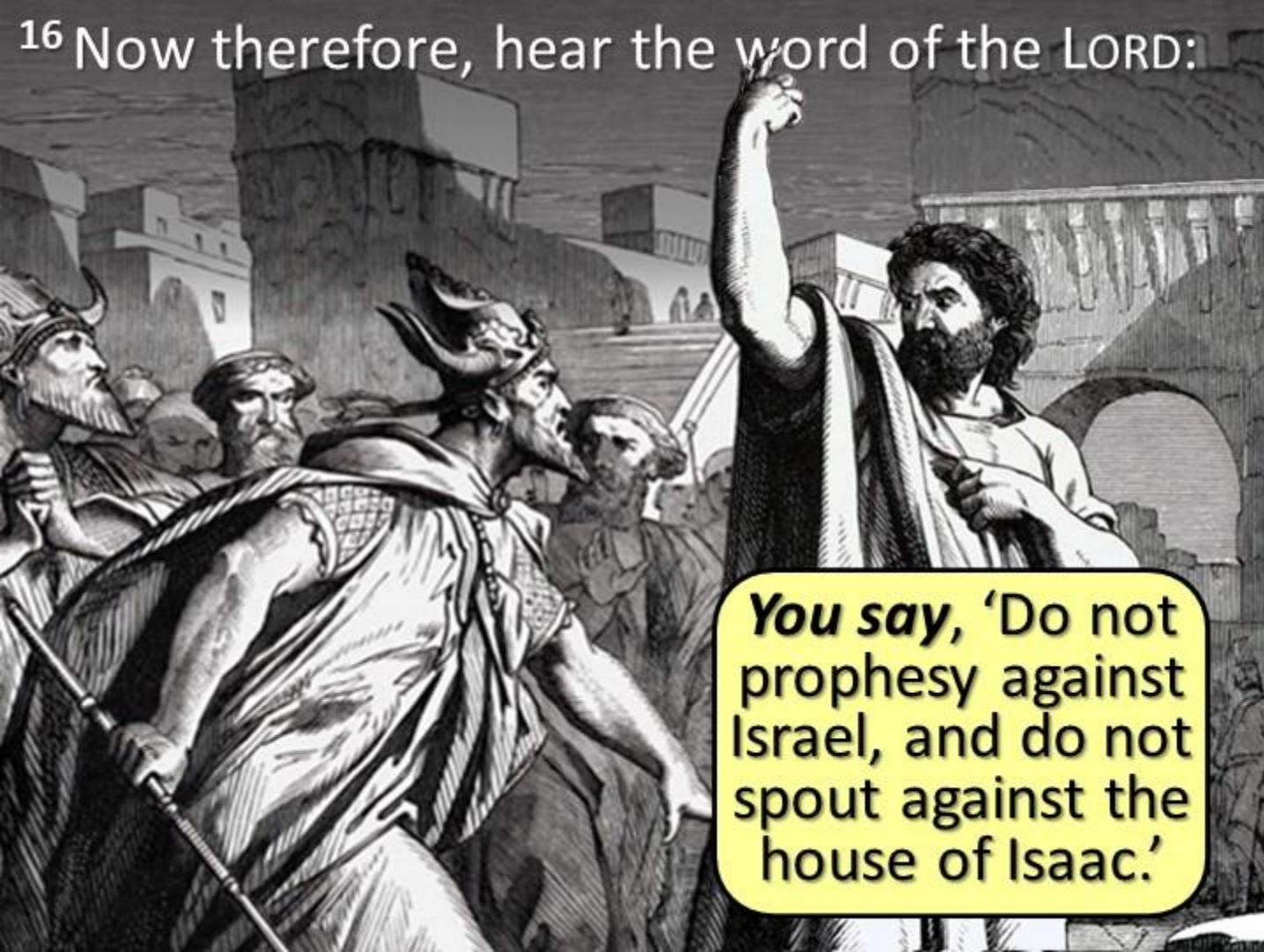
Amos replies to Amaziah

¹⁴ Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah:

“I *was* no prophet,
Nor *was* I a son of a prophet,
But I *was* a sheepbreeder
And a tender of sycamore fruit.

¹⁵ Then the LORD took me as I followed
the flock,
And the LORD said to me,
‘Go, prophesy to My people Israel.’





16 Now therefore, hear the word of the LORD:

You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not spout against the house of Isaac.'

Message 4: God speaks

“The judgment of Amos, the prophet against Amaziah, the priest of Bethel (Amos 7:17),”
wood engraving of 1886.



17 “Therefore thus says the
LORD:

‘Your wife shall be a harlot in the city;
Your sons and daughters shall fall by the sword;
Your land shall be divided by *survey* line;
You shall die in a defiled land;
And Israel shall surely be led away captive
From his own land.’ ”



REPLAY

I was no prophet,
nor was I a son
of a prophet,
I was but a sheep
breeder.... Then
the LORD took
me as I followed
the flock, and the
LORD said to me,
'Go, prophesy to
My people Israel.'

Now let's discuss
what the LORD has
in mind for **you!**



WHAT THE
BIBLE
IS ABOUT

AMOS

Chapter 8

Judgment
is coming