



WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
IS ABOUT



2021  
SESSION  
9  
TERM 4

The book of  
**Amos**

# AMOS, AN UNLIKELY PROPHET

A man in a long, light-colored robe and a head covering, likely representing the prophet Amos, stands in a field with sheep in the background. The man is looking down at his hands, which are clasped together. The background shows a grassy field with several white sheep grazing. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be a rural setting.

**Amos [burden bearer] of Tekoa**

- **Sheep-breeder**
- **Sycamore harvester**
- **Prophet called by the LORD, not a professional priest but an “earthen vessel full of treasure”**
- **Brave warrior for justice, speaking truth to power!**

## 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: Judgment/Blessing.

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.



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

<sup>2</sup> And he said:

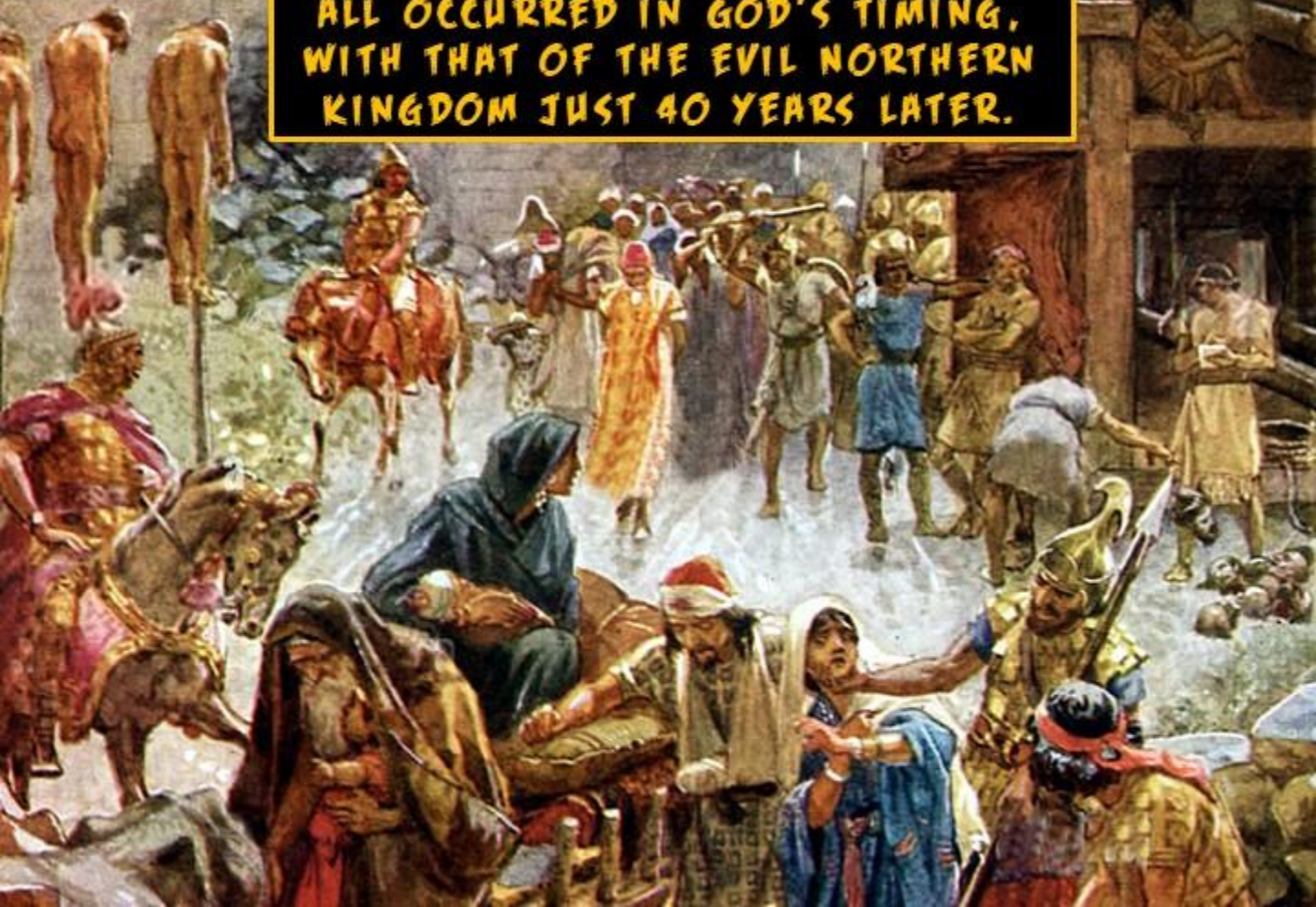
“The LORD roars from Zion,  
And utters His voice from Jerusalem;  
The pastures of the shepherds mourn,  
And the top of Carmel withers.”

# Judgement on the Nations (Amos 1:1-2:16)

A	Judgment on the nations: "The LORD roars from Zion..."
B	Inhumanity of Neighbours (Syria, Philistia, Phoenicia)
C	Damascus: Cruelty/atrocities → Destruction/captivity
C	Gaza: Slave trafficking → Total devastation
C	Tyre: Slavery despite covenant → Destruction
B	Infamy of Neighbours Related by Blood (Cousin Nations)
C	Edom: Persistent hatred & cruelty → Destruction
C	Ammon: Murder for gain → Destruction/enslavement
C	Moab: Dishonour dead & God → Death & destruction
B	Infidelity of Twin Sister Nation
C	Judah: Broke God's Covenant → Jerusalem destroyed
B	Insensitivity and Sheer Wickedness of Target Nation
C	Israel: Seven deadly sins; pure evil → Destruction

A: The LORD roars. B: Circling in to the target centre. C: National Indictment and punishment.

AND THE PROPHESED JUDGMENTS  
ALL OCCURRED IN GOD'S TIMING,  
WITH THAT OF THE EVIL NORTHERN  
KINGDOM JUST 40 YEARS LATER.







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.**



A LION HAS ROARED!  
WHO WILL  
NOT FEAR?

THE LORD GOD HAS SPOKEN!  
WHO CAN BUT PROPHECY?

AMOS 3:8

## 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  
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IS ABOUT

# 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  
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# AMOS

## Chapter 5

Sermon 3  
Israel's Future

# Sermon on Israel's Future (Amos 4:12-6:14)

2 Parts

4 Pericopes

Lamentation for  
a Dead Nation,  
the Northern  
Kingdom of Israel.



**Seek the LORD**  
(Amos 4:12-5:8)

**The Day of Judgment**  
(Amos 5:9-5:17)

**"Justice will Prevail," says the LORD**  
(Amos 5:18-27)

**The Tiny Remnant.**  
**"Seek Me and Live!"**

**Judgment on Arrogant People**  
(Amos 6:1-14)

An aerial photograph showing the ruins of an ancient city, likely Omri in Samaria. The ruins consist of several rectangular stone structures with walls made of large, roughly-hewn blocks. The structures are situated on a hillside overlooking a valley. The surrounding landscape is green and hilly, with some trees and a winding road visible in the distance. The sky is clear and blue.

Sermon 3, Part 1

# Lamentation for a Dead Nation, The Northern Kingdom of Israel

Omri, Samaria  
Home of 6 kings

# Seek the LORD (Amos 4:12-5:8)

A

Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!  
The LORD God of hosts *is* His name.

B

The virgin of Israel has fallen and will rise no more.  
She lies forsaken; *there is* no one to raise her up.

C



Seek the LORD and live.

B'

Woe to you who turn justice to wormwood,  
And lay righteousness to rest in the earth!

A'

The LORD *is* His name.

A: The name of the LORD. B: To cast to the ground. C: The words of the LORD.



**Seek the LORD and live!**

# The Day of Judgment (Amos 5:9-17)

A

You have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink wine from them. For it *is* an evil time.

B

Seek good and not evil, that you may live.

B'

Hate evil, love good; establish justice in the gate.

A'

*There shall be wailing* in all streets.  
In all vineyards *there shall be wailing*.



A: The vineyard. B: Good and evil.



**Seek good and not evil....**

It may be that the LORD God of hosts  
will be gracious to the remnant  
of Joseph.



# Justice will Prevail (Amos 5:18-27)

A

Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!  
For what good *is* the day of the LORD to you?

B

It *will be* as though a man fled from a lion,  
And a bear met him!

C

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

D



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

C'

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

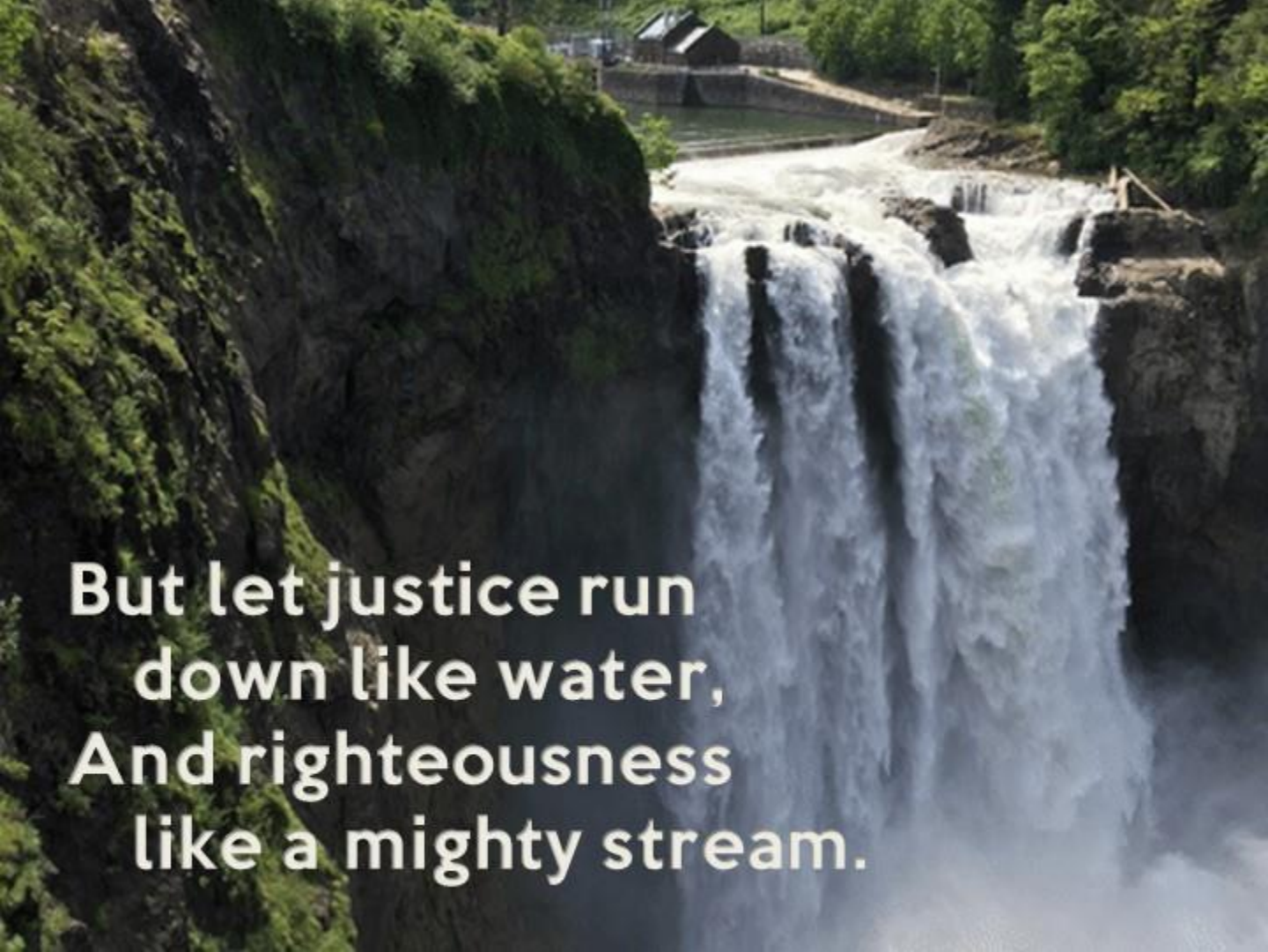
B'

Therefore I will send you into captivity beyond  
Damascus.

A'

Says the LORD, whose name *is* the God of hosts.

A: The LORD. B: Sufferings. C: Offerings. D: Justice.

A photograph of a large waterfall cascading down a dark, rocky cliff. The water is white and turbulent as it falls. In the background, a concrete dam structure is visible, along with a small building and some trees. The scene is set in a lush, green environment.

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

# 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)



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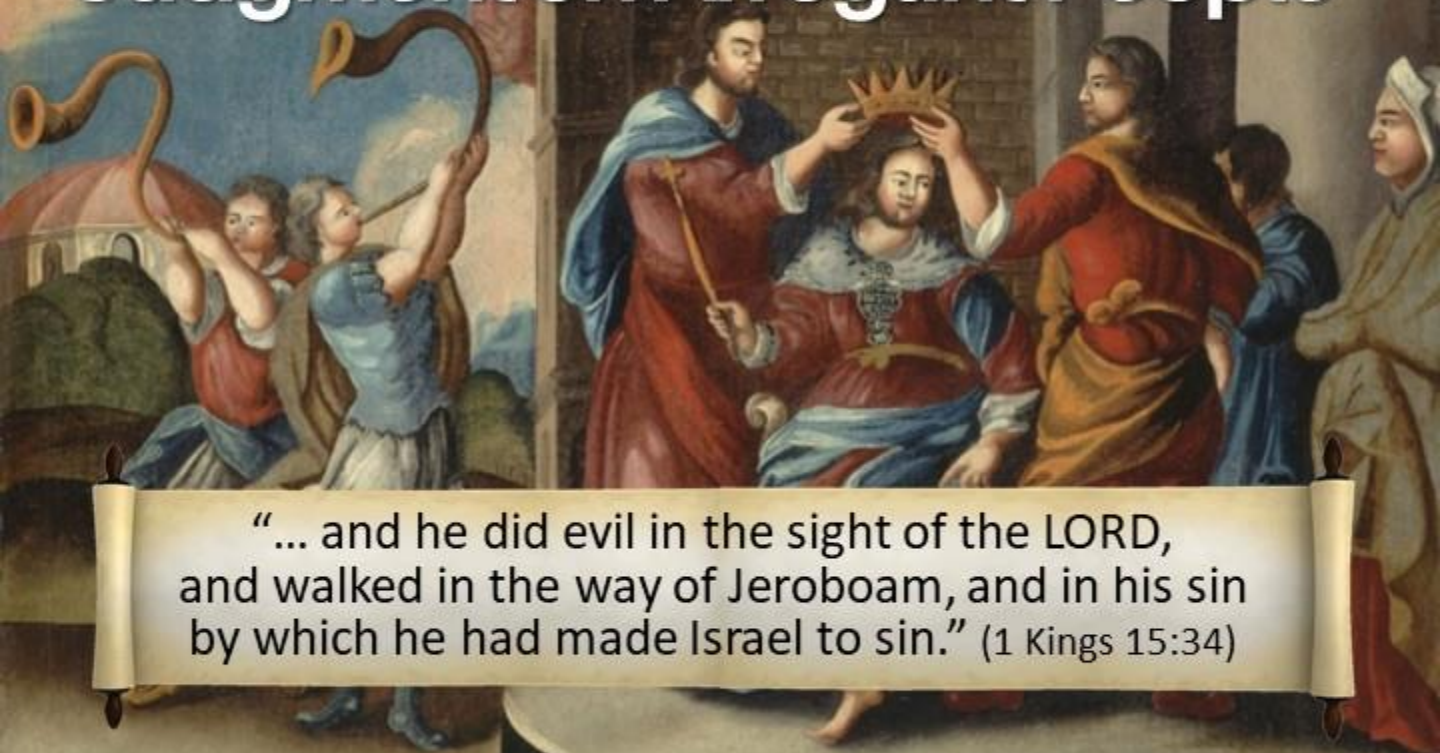
# AMOS

## Chapter 6

Sermon 3  
Israel's Future  
— CONTINUATION —

## Sermon 3, Part 2

# Judgment on Arrogant People



“... and he did evil in the sight of the LORD,  
and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin  
by which he had made Israel to sin.” (1 Kings 15:34)

“The Crowning of King Jeroboam” by unidentified Limner, c.1735.

# Judgment on Arrogant People (Amos 6:1-14)

A

Woe to you *who are* at ease in Zion,  
And trust in Mount Samaria.

B

*Are you* better than other great kingdoms  
that have fallen?

C

Woe to you who put far off the day of doom,  
Who hasten the reign of violence,

D



I abhor the pride of Jacob, and hate his  
palaces; therefore I will deliver up *the* city.

C'

Yet you have turned judgment into gall, and the  
fruit of righteousness into wormwood.

B'

You who rejoice over nothing, who say, "Have we not  
taken power for ourselves by our own strength?"

A'

But, behold, I will raise up a nation against you,  
O house of Israel.

A: Fate of Israel. B. False pride of the nation. C: Evils. D: Inevitable destruction.

- **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  
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# AMOS

## Chapter 7

Struggles with  
God and Man

<sup>1</sup> 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.



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

<sup>2</sup> 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!”

<sup>3</sup> 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."

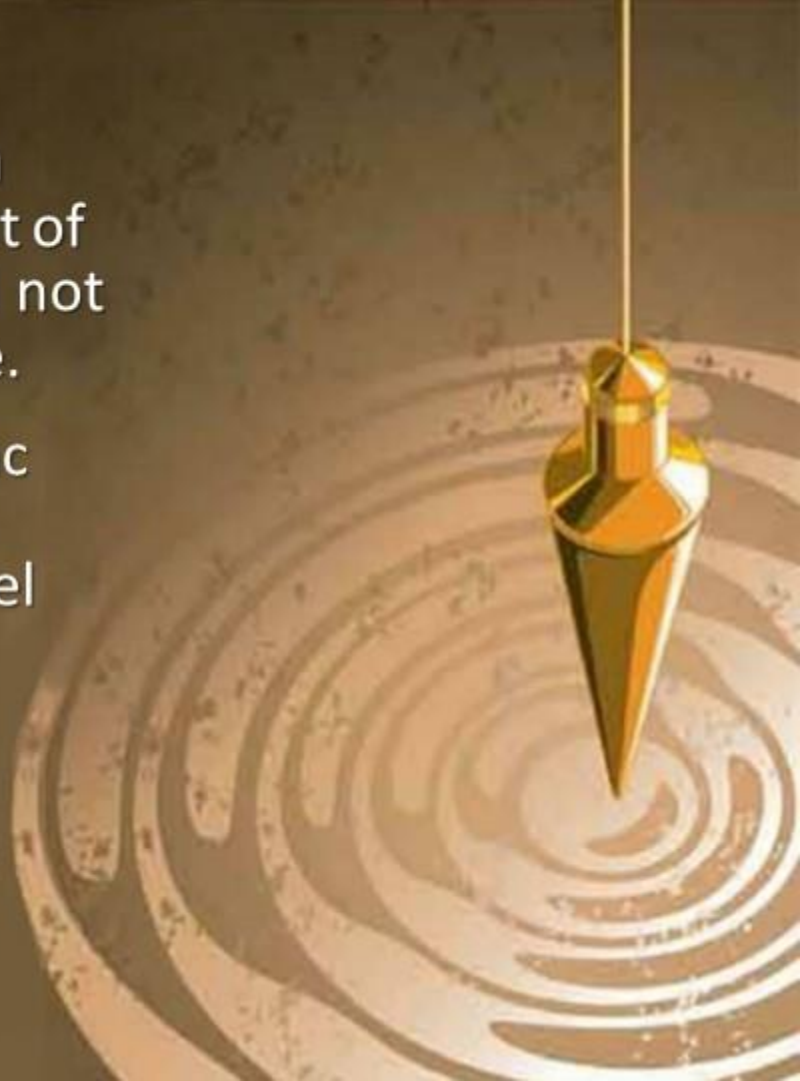


3. The **vision** of the **plumb line!**

Then the Lord said:

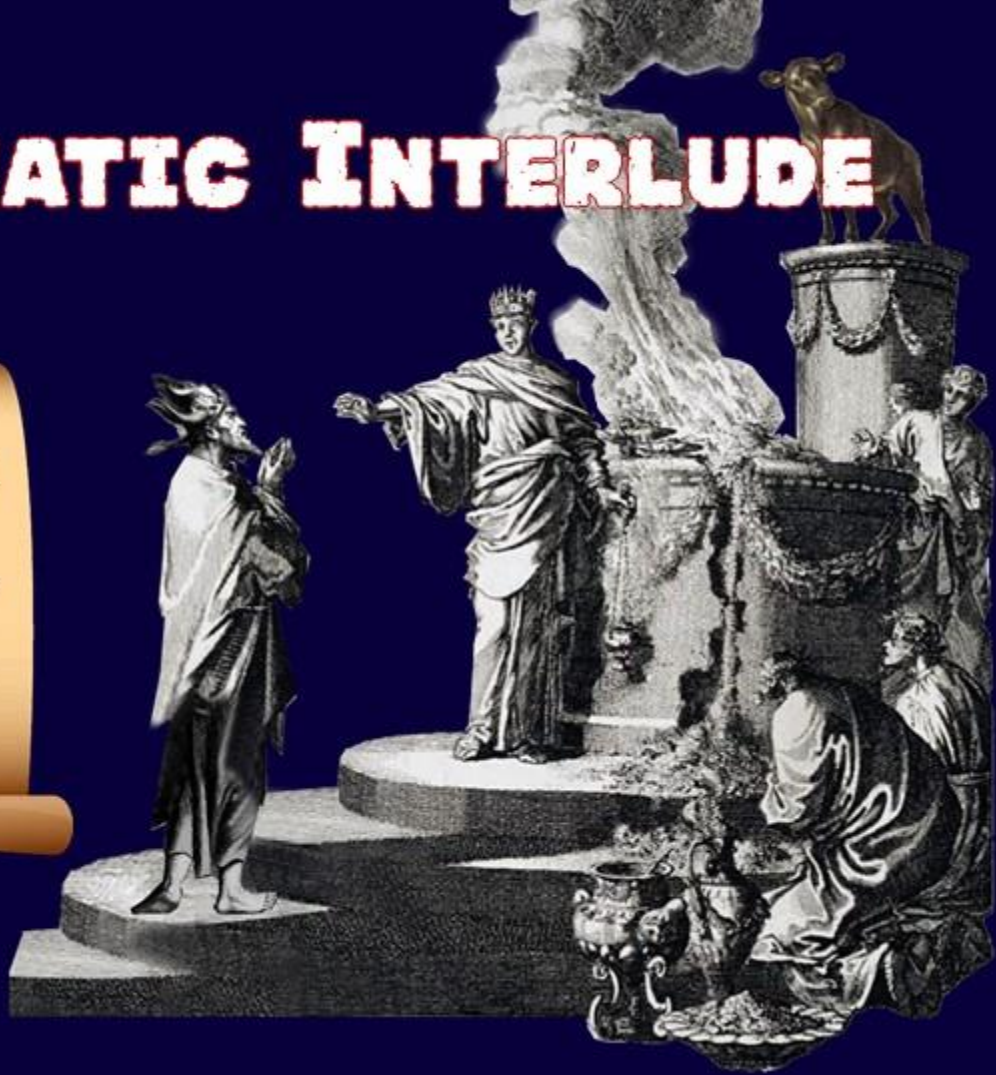
“Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel; I will not pass by them anymore.

<sup>9</sup> 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

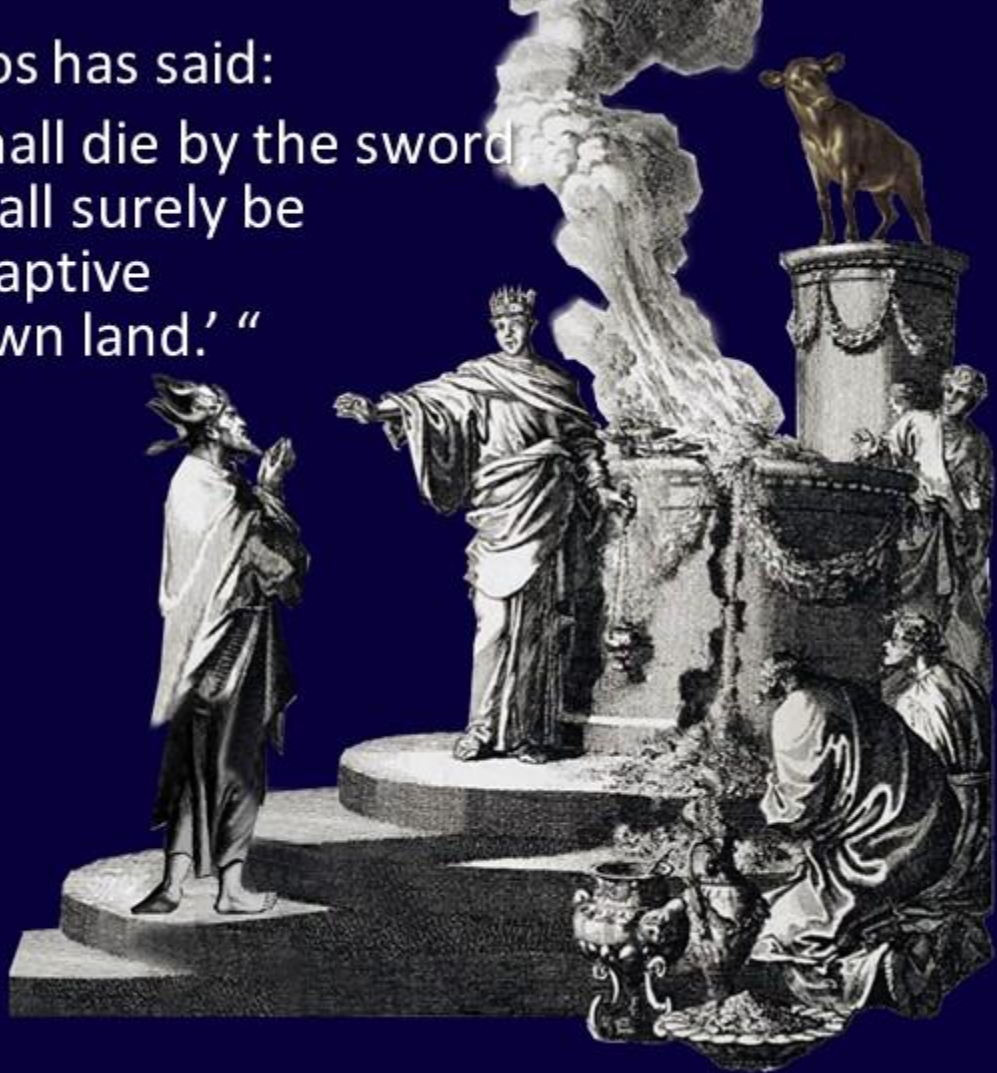
<sup>10</sup> Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying,

“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

<sup>12</sup> Then Amaziah said to Amos:

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

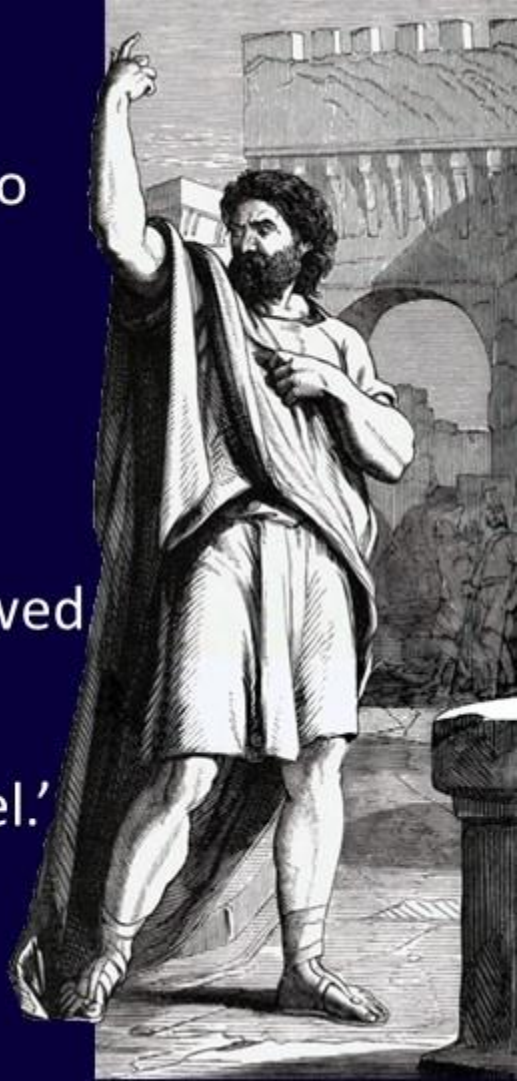
<sup>13</sup> But never again prophesy at  
Bethel,  
For it *is* the king’s sanctuary,  
And it *is* the royal residence.”

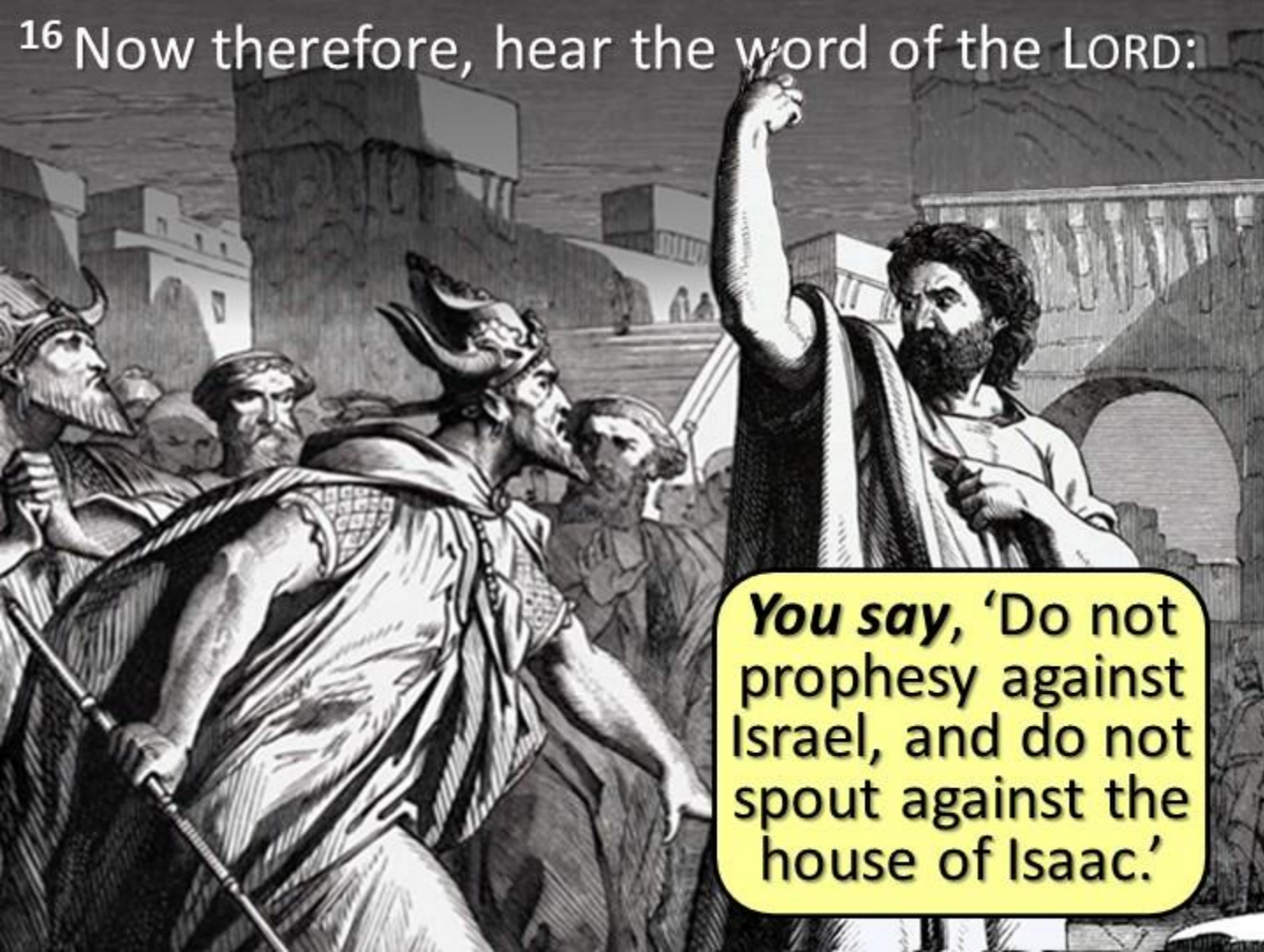
## Amos replies to Amaziah

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> 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.’ ”



WHAT THE  
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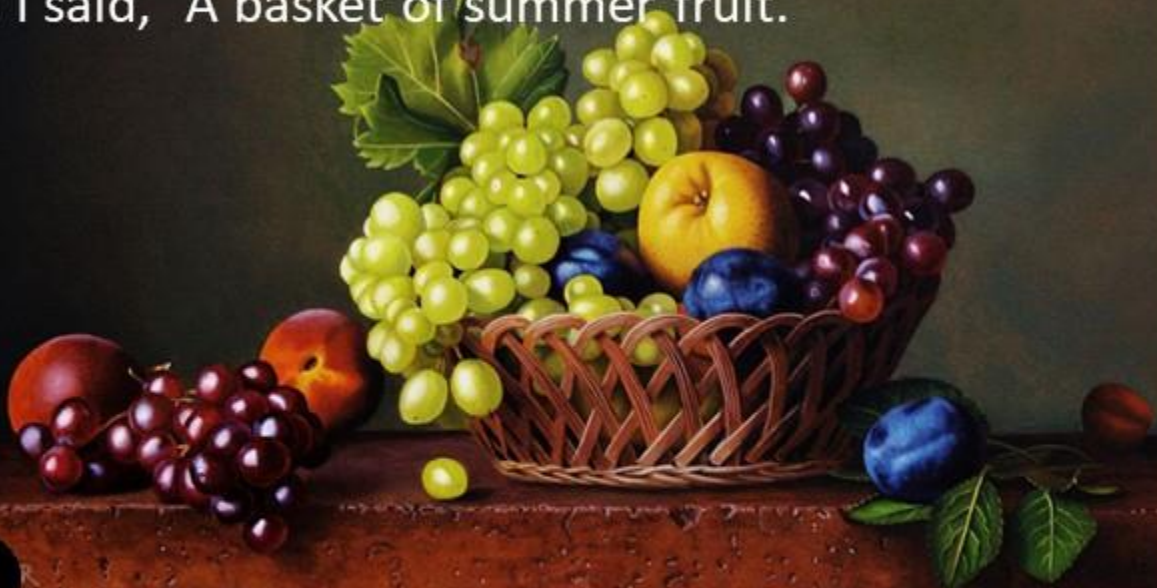
# AMOS

## Chapter 8

Judgment  
is coming

## 4. The **vision** of the **summer fruit!**

- <sup>1</sup> Thus the Lord GOD showed me: Behold, a basket of summer fruit.
- <sup>2</sup> And He said, “Amos, what do you see?”  
So I said, “A basket of summer fruit.”



‘Fruit Basket’ by Dietrich Morav

Then the LORD said to me:

“The end has come upon My people Israel;  
I will not pass by them anymore.

THE **END HAS COME**

<sup>3</sup> And the songs of the temple  
Shall be wailing in that day,”

Says the Lord GOD—

“Many dead bodies everywhere,  
They shall be thrown out in silence.”





# WHY THE END IS COMING

<sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who swallow up the needy,  
And make the poor of the land fail,

<sup>5</sup> Saying:

“When will the New Moon be past,  
That we may sell grain?

And the Sabbath,  
That we may trade wheat?

Making the ephah small and the shekel large,  
Falsifying the scales by deceit,

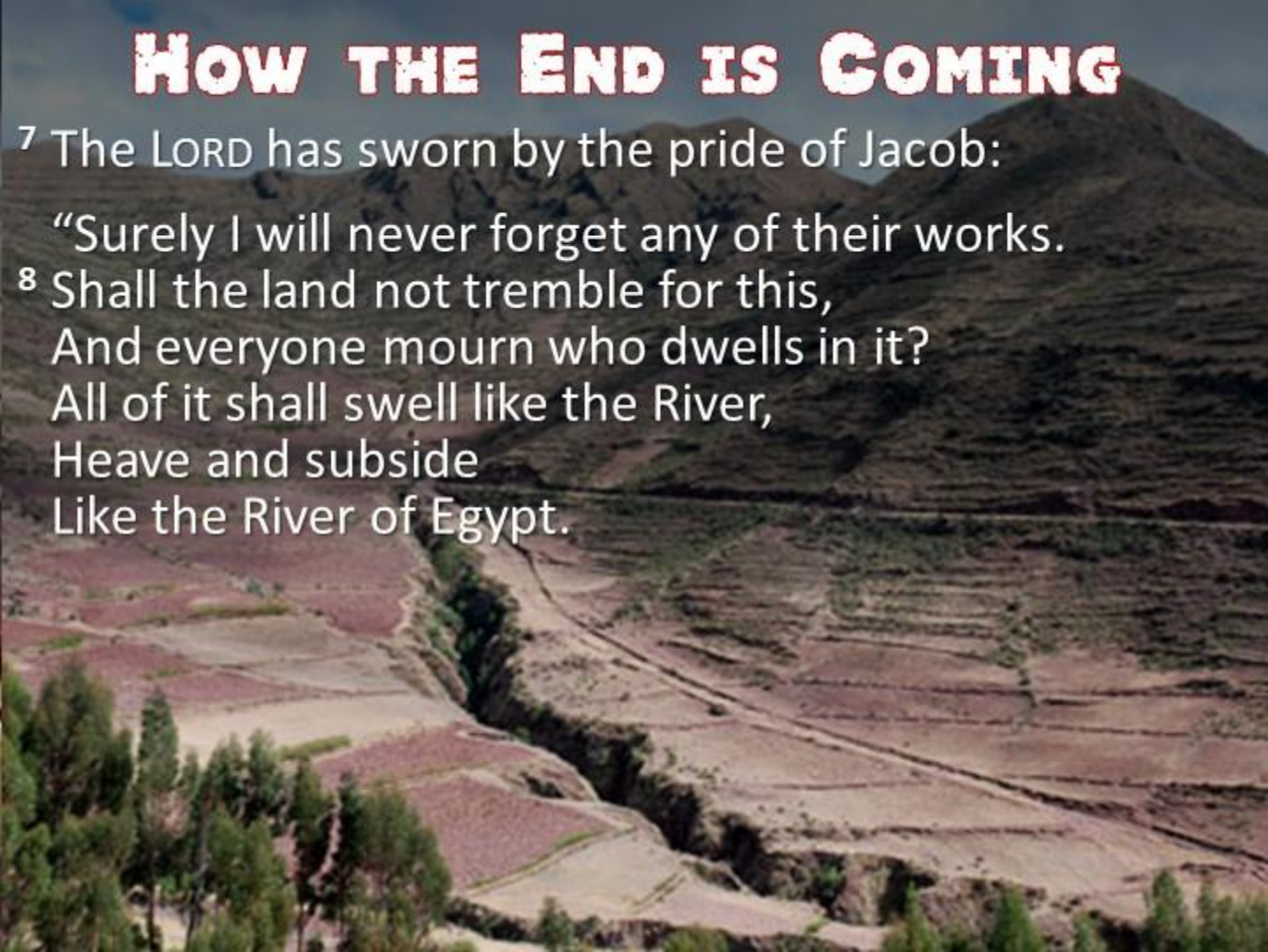
<sup>6</sup> That we may buy the poor for silver,  
And the needy for a pair of sandals—  
Even sell the bad wheat?”

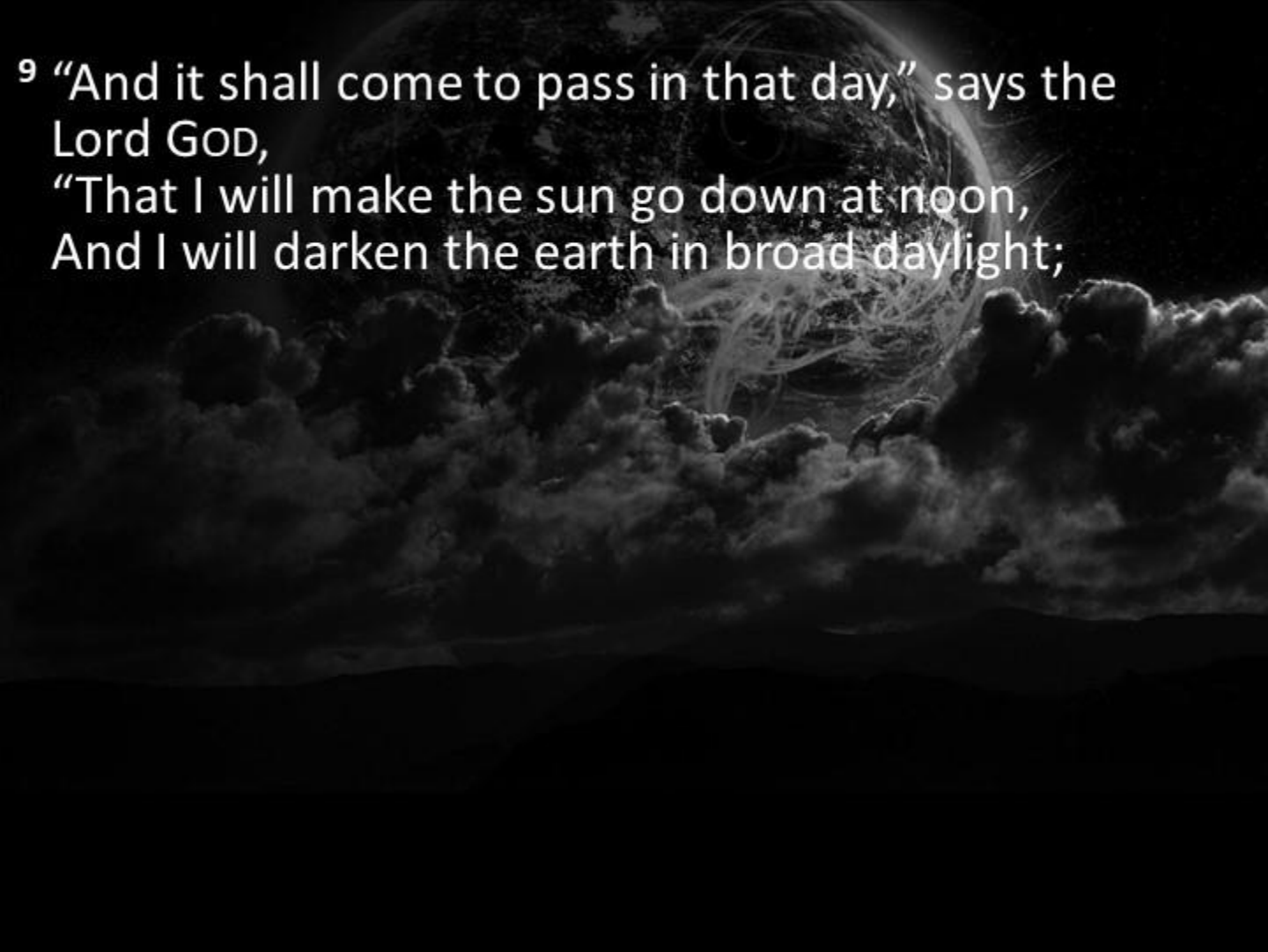
# HOW THE END IS COMING

<sup>7</sup> The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:

“Surely I will never forget any of their works.

<sup>8</sup> Shall the land not tremble for this,  
And everyone mourn who dwells in it?  
All of it shall swell like the River,  
Heave and subside  
Like the River of Egypt.





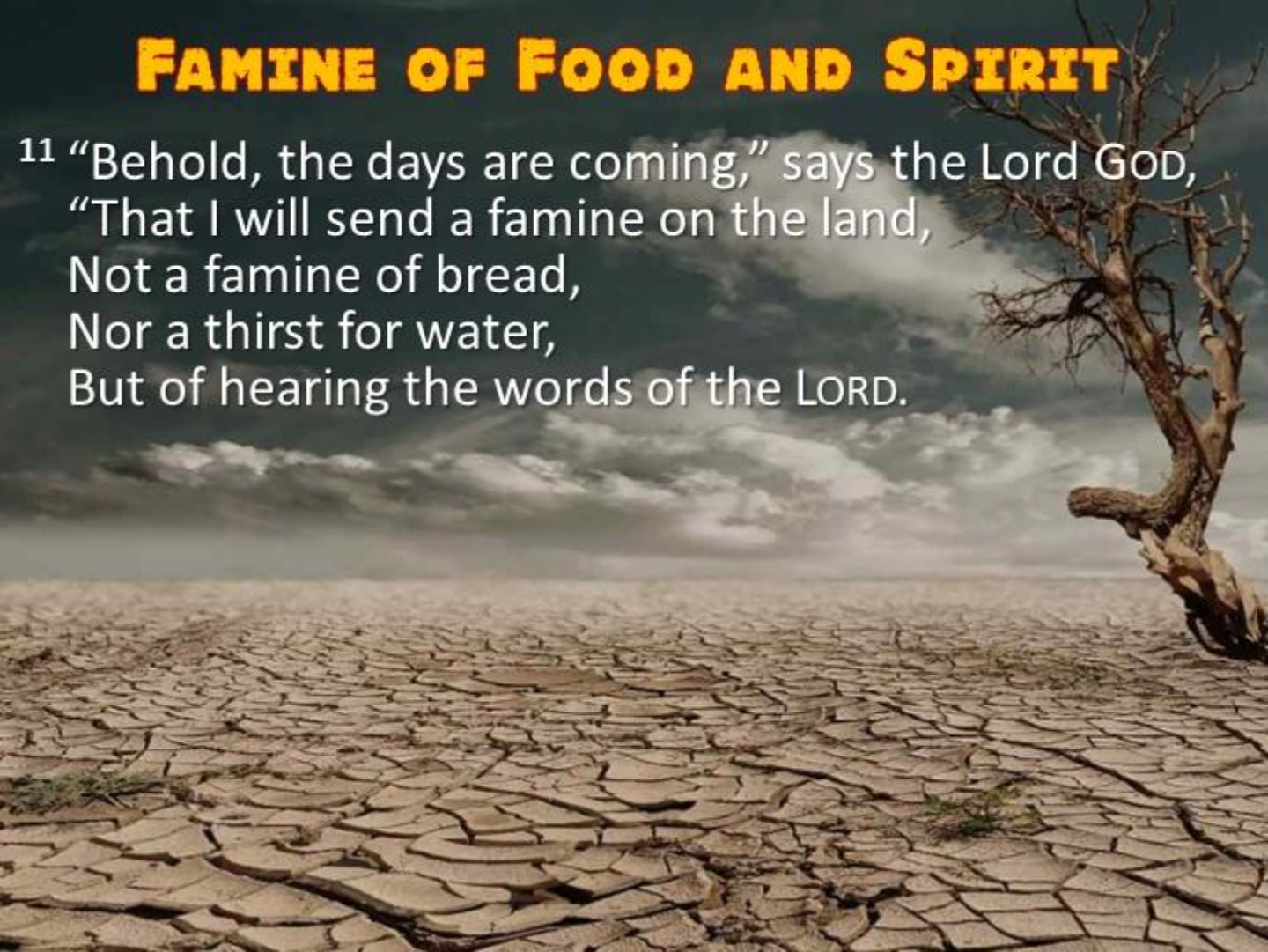
<sup>9</sup> “And it shall come to pass in that day,” says the Lord GOD,  
“That I will make the sun go down at noon,  
And I will darken the earth in broad daylight;

<sup>10</sup> I will turn your feasts  
into mourning,  
And all your songs  
into lamentation;  
I will bring sackcloth  
on every waist,  
And baldness on  
every head;  
I will make it like  
mourning for an  
only *son*,  
And its end like a  
bitter day.

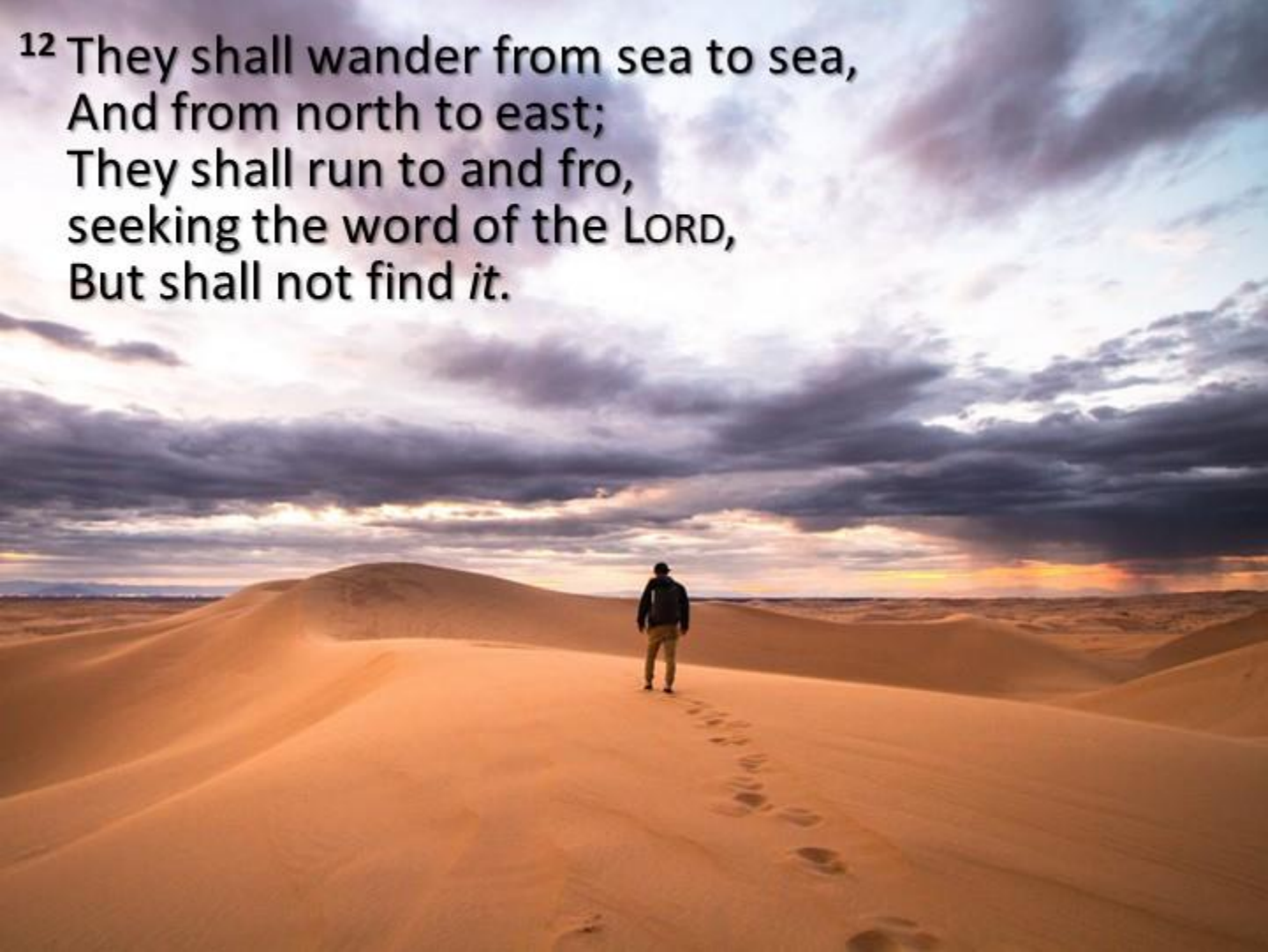


# FAMINE OF FOOD AND SPIRIT

<sup>11</sup> “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord God,  
“That I will send a famine on the land,  
Not a famine of bread,  
Nor a thirst for water,  
But of hearing the words of the LORD.



<sup>12</sup> They shall wander from sea to sea,  
And from north to east;  
They shall run to and fro,  
seeking the word of the LORD,  
But shall not find *it*.

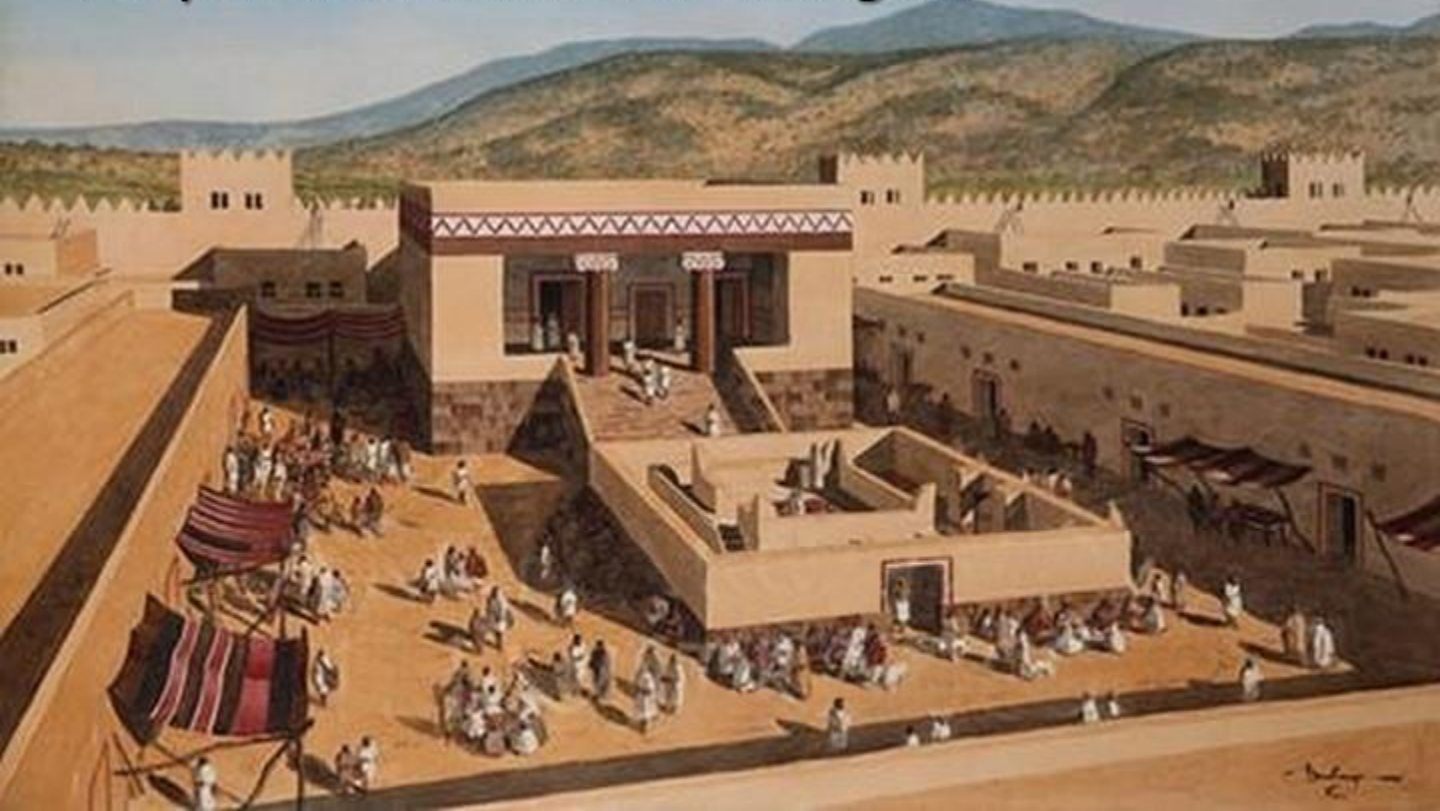


13 "In that day the fair virgins  
And strong young men  
Shall faint from thirst.



'A Mortally Wounded Brigand Quenches his Thirst' by Eugene Delacroix, 1825.

14 Those who swear by the sin of Samaria,  
Who say, 'As your god lives, O Dan!'  
And, 'As the way of Beersheba lives!'  
They shall fall and never rise again."





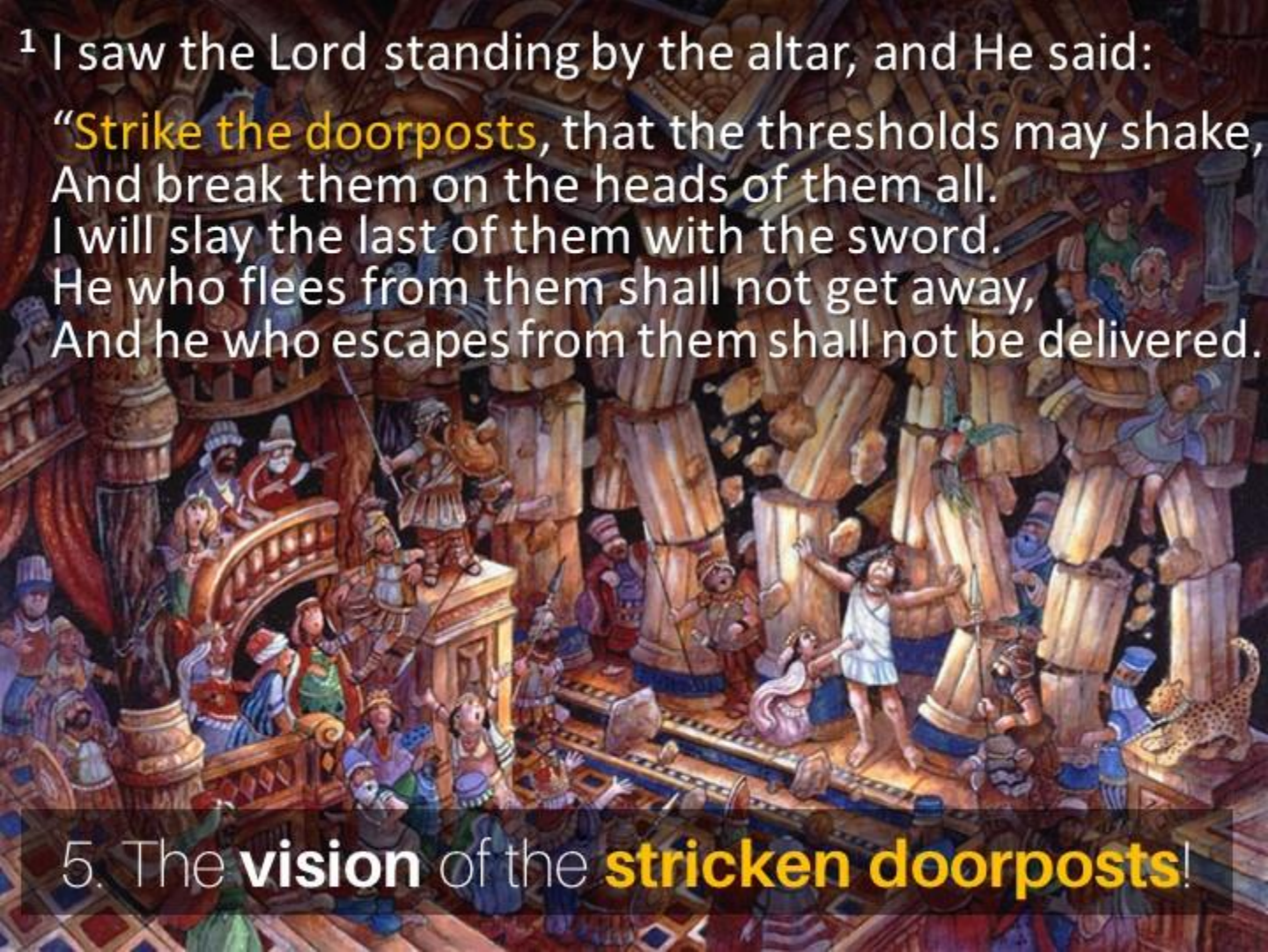


WHAT THE  
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# AMOS

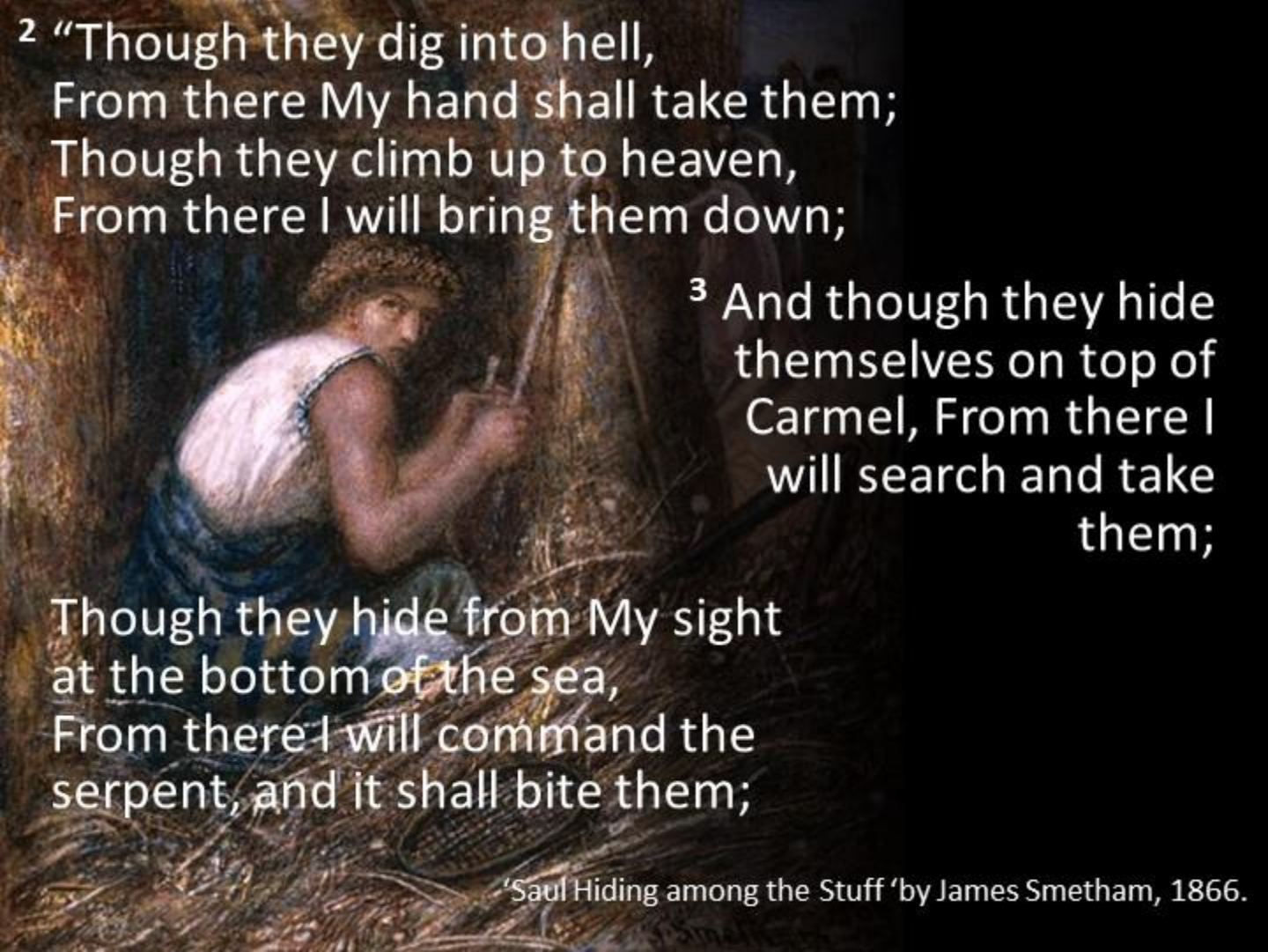
## Chapter 9

Visions of  
Judgment



<sup>1</sup> I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and He said:  
“Strike the doorposts, that the thresholds may shake,  
And break them on the heads of them all.  
I will slay the last of them with the sword.  
He who flees from them shall not get away,  
And he who escapes from them shall not be delivered.

5. The **vision** of the **stricken doorposts!**

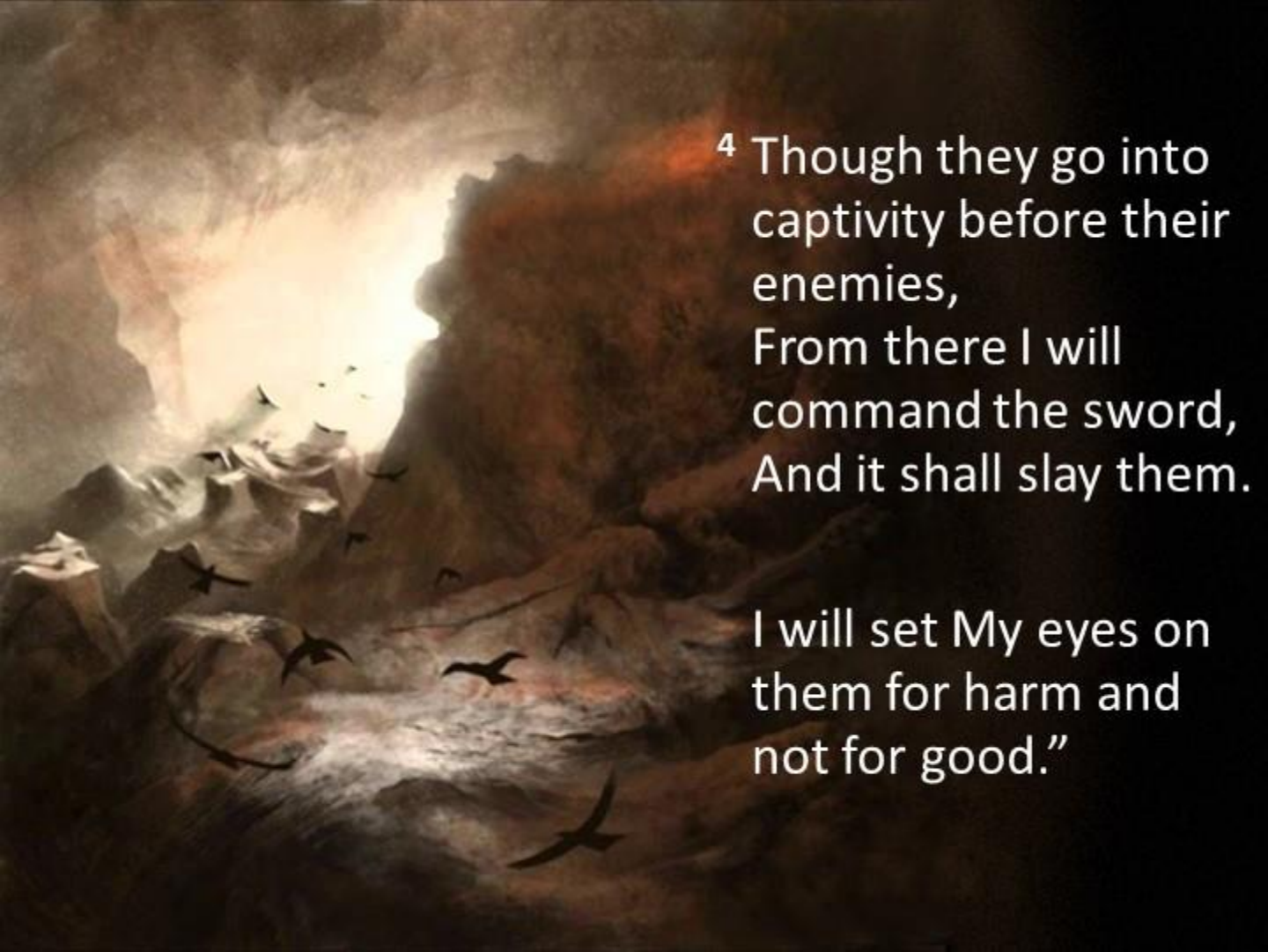


<sup>2</sup> “Though they dig into hell,  
From there My hand shall take them;  
Though they climb up to heaven,  
From there I will bring them down;

<sup>3</sup> And though they hide  
themselves on top of  
Carmel, From there I  
will search and take  
them;

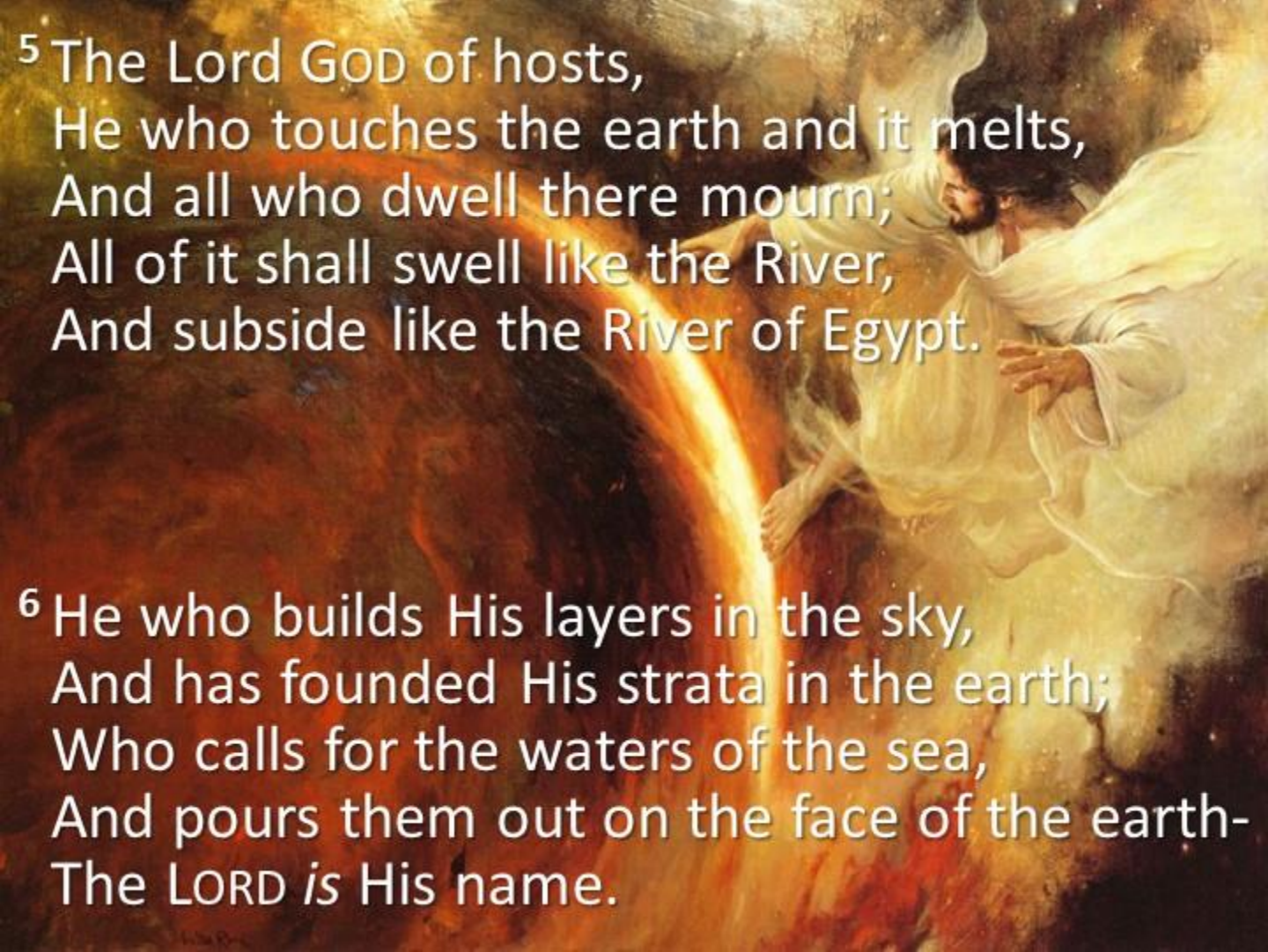
Though they hide from My sight  
at the bottom of the sea,  
From there I will command the  
serpent, and it shall bite them;

‘Saul Hiding among the Stuff’ by James Smetham, 1866.



<sup>4</sup> Though they go into  
captivity before their  
enemies,  
From there I will  
command the sword,  
And it shall slay them.

I will set My eyes on  
them for harm and  
not for good.”



<sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD of hosts,  
He who touches the earth and it melts,  
And all who dwell there mourn;  
All of it shall swell like the River,  
And subside like the River of Egypt.


<sup>6</sup> He who builds His layers in the sky,  
And has founded His strata in the earth;  
Who calls for the waters of the sea,  
And pours them out on the face of the earth-  
The LORD *is* His name.

7 "Are you not like the people of Ethiopia to Me,  
O children of Israel?" says the LORD.  
"Did I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt,  
The Philistines from Caphtor [Crete],  
And the Syrians from Kir?"



'Israelites return to their homeland' by Domenico Garguilo, 1670.

<sup>8</sup> “Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD *are* on the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth; yet I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob,” Says the LORD.

A low-angle photograph of two men sifting grain. One man on the left is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants, and the other on the right is wearing a dark t-shirt and blue overalls. They are holding a large red-rimmed sieve between them, and a large amount of golden-brown grain is falling through it into the air. The background is a clear blue sky. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

<sup>9</sup> “For surely I will command,  
And will sift the house of Israel among all nations,  
As *grain* is sifted in a sieve;  
Yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground.



<sup>10</sup> All the sinners of My people shall die by the sword,  
Who say, 'The calamity shall not overtake nor  
confront us.'



# *The Davidic Kingdom Restored*



# THE MESSIANIC HOPE

A landscape of ruins with a gnarled tree. The scene shows a desolate, rocky terrain with scattered rubble and a single, large, twisted tree in the foreground. In the background, there are hills and a clear sky. The overall tone is somber and evocative of destruction and hope.

<sup>11</sup> “On that day I will raise up  
The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down,  
And repair its damages;  
I will raise up its ruins,  
And rebuild it as in the days of old;


1. The **promise** to **raise up the ruins!**

<sup>12</sup> That they may possess the remnant of Edom,  
And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,"  
Says the LORD who does this thing.

2. The **promise** to **possess all nations!**

'Expulsion of Heliodorus from the Temple' by Raphael, 1512.

### 3. The **promise** that **Israel shall feast!**



<sup>13</sup> “Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD,  
“When the plowman shall overtake the reaper,  
And the treader of grapes him who sows seed;  
The mountains shall drip with sweet wine,  
And all the hills shall flow *with it*.”

<sup>14</sup> I will bring back the captives of My people Israel;  
They shall build the waste cities and inhabit *them*;  
They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them;  
They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.

4. The **promise** to **restore the captives!**

<sup>15</sup> I will plant them in their land,  
And no longer shall they be pulled up  
From the land I have given them,”  
Says the LORD your God.



5. The **promise** to **never leave again!**

## At the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:13-18)

<sup>13</sup> And after they had become silent, James answered, saying, “Men *and* brethren, listen to me: <sup>14</sup> Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. <sup>15</sup> And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:

<sup>16</sup> ‘After this I will return  
And will rebuild the tabernacle of David,  
which has fallen down;  
I will rebuild its ruins,  
And I will set it up;  
<sup>17</sup> So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD,  
Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name,  
Says the LORD who does all these things.’

<sup>18</sup> “Known to God from eternity are all His works.”

# The Five Promises to Amos

Raise up the ruins



Never  
leave again



Possess all  
the nations



Free the captives



Israel shall feast





## The Millennial Kingdom

“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and put an end all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”

Daniel 2:44

In the prophecy of Amos, as in the other books of the Old Testament,

**God's Son,**

**the Lord Jesus Christ,**  
is reflected in His glory and power.

# Key points

1

Surely the LORD does nothing unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

2

Privilege brings peril. Wealth and success can lead to spiritual complacency.

3

Empty religious profession and practice are repulsive to the LORD.

4

God will punish those who exploit the poor and prosper at their expense.

6

God is sovereign in judgment and in restoration.

5

Prepare to meet your God!  
Seek the LORD and live!

## ADVICE FROM AMOS