

Amos 1.3 – 2.16

God of Every Nation

## 1. Judgment for all People

### a. God does Not Play Favorites

For God shows no partiality.

Romans 2.11

In God's NO AXIS of EVIL – ROGUE States – No Nation beyond HOPE

All have EQUAL Standing before HOLY God – LOST, DEAD, JUDGED!

### b. All People have a Conscience

For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Romans 2.12-16

AMOS going to SPEAK God's WORD to NATIONS & Peoples MADE by God

NOT Religious, Not Following RITUALS of Judaism > IMAGE Bearers of God

People are not going to be judged by what they did not know, but for failing to do what they very well knew was required of them.

James Boice

### c. All People will Stand in Judgment

...every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Romans 3.19,20

END of Paul's Well-Reasoned INDICTMENT Against HUMAN RACE

GENTILES with No Morality or Religion / MORALISTS with No RELIGION

Or JEWS who have kept All Rules and Rituals but had NO SAVING FAITH

No One Righteous, No Not One, All Fallen Short of the Glory of God

## 2. Judge who Sees all Nations



### a. Merciless Mankind

Damascus > Cruelty against Gilead

1.3 Damascus...they have threshed Gilead with threshing sledges of iron

Gaza > Enslaves and Sells People to Edom

1.6 Gaza...they carried into exile a whole people to deliver them up to Edom

Tyre > Broke brotherhood with Edom

1.11 Tyre...he pursued his brother with the sword and cast off all pity

Ammon > Murdered the Pregnant women of Gilead

1.13 Ammon...they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead

Moab > Desecrated the Bones of Edom's King

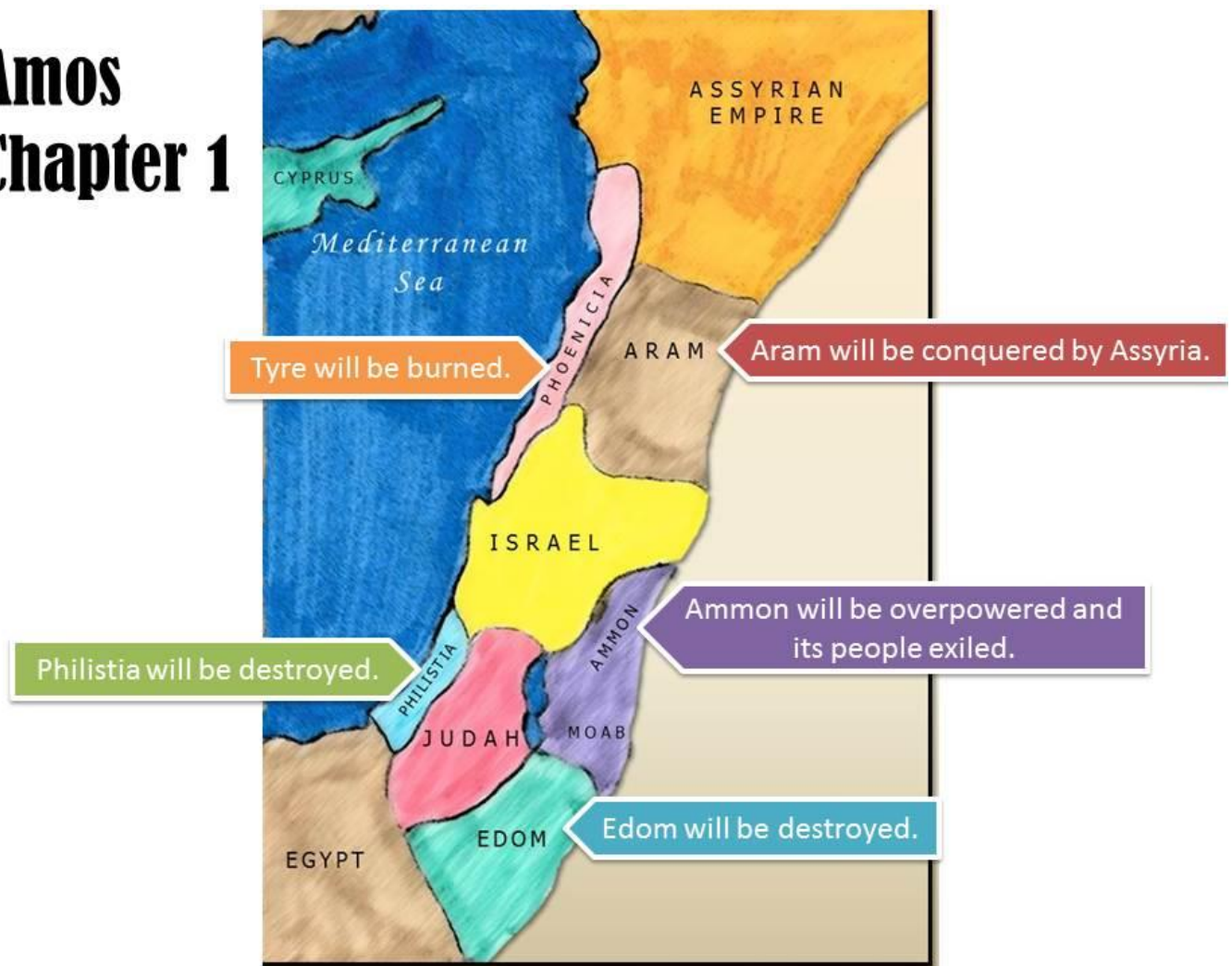
2. 1 Moab... he burned to lime the bones of the king of Edom

God holds even PAGAN Nations responsible for MERCIFUL Behavior to Others  
 Each Nation has committed MULTIPLE Offenses > Many Failures to show Mercy  
 Amos' just cites ONE BAD EXAMPLE of their MULTIPLE ATROCITIES

## b. Surrounded by Evil

1<sup>st</sup> 4 Nations form an X marking 4 points of Compass around ISRAEL

# Amos Chapter 1



Ammon and Moab FILL OUT the CIRCLE

## c. Human Rights Violations

1) Cruelty: Syria and Philistia > 2 main cities Damascus and Gaza

1.3 they have threshed Gilead with threshing sledges of iron

Ancient THRESHING done by SLED of Wood with IRON BANDS  
 CRUSHED the GRAIN and SEPARATE the Wheat Kernel from the Chaff  
 Mixture would be WINNOWNED as WIND would blow away the Chaff  
 AMOS pictures MASSACRE > Probable SLAYING of whole VILLAGES  
 MORE than just WARFARE this was GENOCIDE  
 GAZA was Chief City of PHILISTIA > Used COMMERCE for CRUELTY  
 v. 6 they carried into exile a whole people to deliver them up to Edom  
 Not Judgment for SLAVERY – Sad but NORMAL part of Ancient Warfare  
 SOLDIERS were always ENSLAVED after Losing in BATTLE

Here SLAVERY Men & Women, Boys & Girls > HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
 Gaza NOT NEED the Slaves so they SOLD them to EDOM to make Money

## 2) Pragmatic Cruelty: Tyre and Edom

v. 9 they delivered up a whole people to Edom, and did not remember the covenant of brotherhood

v. 11 he pursued his brother with the sword and cast off all pity

CRUELTY against those they SHOULD have CARED for as BROTHERS

TYRE also sold whole Communities of People to EDOM

EDOM were Blood Relatives to ISRAEL – Sons of ESAU

Because of the violence done to your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever. On the day that you stood aloof, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem, you were like one of them. But do not gloat over the day of your brother in the day of his misfortune; do not rejoice over the people of Judah in the day of their ruin; do not boast in the day of distress. Obadiah 10-12

BIG Nations make Treaties to PLEASE Eachother > Small Nations caught in Grip  
 AFRICA was Colonized > European Nations deals Benefit Europe, Harm Africa  
 G-7, or G-20 Nations make DEALS those POORER Nations Not Always Benefit

### 3) Even More Cruelty: Ammon and Moab

Ammon 1.13 they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead, that they might enlarge their border

Moab 2.1 he burned to lime the bones of the king of Edom

Ammon destroyed their FUTURE / Moab DESECRATED their PAST

Ammon removed their HOPE / Moab DISRESPECTED their HERITAGE

We should HONOR a Nation's Past and Work to PROTECT their FUTURE

### 3. People Most Responsible

ISRAELITES were CHEERING Amos' Strong Sermon against Evil Neighbors

But as he CONTINUED Preaching the People grew more QUIET

Realized that FINGERS Pointing for JUDGMENT pointed back at THEM!

2.4 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment..."

Amos STOPPED Preaching & STARTED MEDDLING... Too Close for Comfort

2.6 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment..."

SAME Pattern – EQUALLY BAD...EVEN WORSE...!

#### a. Revelation brings Responsibility

2.4 because they have rejected the law of the LORD, and have not kept his statutes

JUDAH held the Temple, Priesthood, Sacrifices, Law > NOT Keeping

NOT Specific mention LAW to ISRAEL > BUT Principles of JUSTICE

PAGAN Nations guilty for VIOLATION of Conscience

God's NATION is MORE Guilty for Violations of CLEAR COMMANDS

For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today? "Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children Deuteronomy 4.7-9

Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more. Luke 12.48

b. Ignoring leads to Idolatry

2.4 but their lies have led them astray, those after which their fathers walked

If you REJECT the Bible > you will reject the BIBLE'S GOD

"Nature abhors a vacuum" > SOMETHING WILL TAKE GOD'S PLACE

LOTS of People have been Part of Sunday Nights

Some Moved Away, Some found Other Churches > Great! Walk with God!

OTHERS have FILLED this Time Slot & Hearts with OTHER GODS

We cannot EXIST without MASTER – Made Dependent, in IMAGE of Maker

Something will LEAD US, be our LORD, HIGHEST Allegiance & PASSION

c. No God leads to Godlessness

2.6-8 they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals — 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; 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.

COMPOSITE PICTURE of Multiple Overlapping Corruption

## 1) Economic Oppression

v. 6 they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals

“Selling someone out” – Betrayal, Cheating, You Gain as Others Lose

## 2) Injustice

v. 7 those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth and turn aside the way of the afflicted

RAN the SYSTEM, Business, Courts, Politics, Power Centers for Powerful

v. 8 garments taken in pledge > SHOULD have been RETURNED at NIGHT

If ever you take your neighbor's cloak in pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down, for that is his only covering, and it is his cloak for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.

Exodus 22.26,27

BOWLING SHOES stolen in High School – Colored, Cool, Convicting

## 3) Immorality

v. 7 a man and his father go in to the same girl, so that my holy name is profaned

Probably reference to TEMPLE PROSTITUTES

So widely VISITED even men of Same Family Violate the same Woman

ENTIRE System of EVIL that Lifted Them Up and Pushed Others Down

Wealthy > Best Schools, Jobs, Lawyers, Opportunities, Holidays

## 4) Ignoring God

v. 9-12 “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. 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. 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. “But you made the Nazirites drink wine, and commanded the prophets, saying, ‘You shall not prophesy.’”

#### d. Godly Guilty will be Judged

v. 13-16 “Behold, I will press you down in your place, as a cart full of sheaves presses down. Flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not retain his strength, nor shall the mighty save his life; 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; and he who is stout of heart among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day,” declares the LORD.

UNDERSTATED Words for TERRIBLE Suffering that Came upon ISRAEL

ASSYRIANS were God’s INSTRUMENT for Judgment on this NATION

FOREVER Removed from PLAN and PURPOSE of GOD

GREAT Churches of NT – Jerusalem, Antioch, Ephesus, Corinth, Rome

CHRISTIAN Nations many of us COME FROM – CROSSES on FLAG

God’s NAME on our MONEY or in our NATIONAL ANTHEMS

God of AMOS is LIVING GOD of TODAY – God & Father of Lord Jesus X

Jesus to the church in Ephesus: “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.” Revelation 2.5

Jesus in CHURCH BUILDING business “I will BUILD my Church”

Does NOT say he will BLOW OUT the LIGHT – will MOVE Lampstand”

Just like takes TALENT from man who BURIES in Ground > Gives to Faithful

He Lifts Up People, Churches, Nations that he can MORE EFFECTIVELY Use

When we are FAVORED by God RESPONSIBLE to be FAITHFUL to God

When act like DESERVE his GIFTS we will FORFEIT our PRIVILEGES

When use our POSITION of FAVOR for EXPLOITATION > Incite God’s Wrath



4000 years ago Father Abraham stood before God at Overlook of Valley of Sodom  
DECREE of their DESTRUCTION had been Announced...

God sent EXECUTORS of His JUSTICE to those EVIL CITIES

So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" Genesis 18.22-25

Amos 1.<sup>3</sup>Thus says the LORD: “For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have threshed Gilead with threshing sledges of iron. <sup>4</sup>So I will send a fire upon the house of Hazael, and it shall devour the strongholds of Ben-hadad. <sup>5</sup>I will break the gate-bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitants from the Valley of Aven, and him who holds the scepter from Beth-eden; and the people of Syria shall go into exile to Kir,” says the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD: “For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they carried into exile a whole people to deliver them up to Edom. <sup>7</sup>So I will send a fire upon the wall of Gaza, and it shall devour her strongholds. <sup>8</sup>I will cut off the inhabitants from Ashdod, and him 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.

<sup>9</sup>Thus says the LORD: “For three transgressions of Tyre, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they delivered up a whole people to Edom, and did not remember the covenant of brotherhood. <sup>10</sup>So I will send a fire upon the wall of Tyre, and it shall devour her strongholds.”

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the LORD: “For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because he pursued his brother with the sword and cast off all pity, and his anger tore perpetually, and he kept his wrath forever. <sup>12</sup>So I will send a fire upon Teman, and it shall devour the strongholds of Bozrah.”

<sup>13</sup>Thus says the LORD: “For three transgressions of the Ammonites, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead, that they might enlarge their border. <sup>14</sup>So I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour her strongholds, with shouting on the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind; <sup>15</sup>and their king shall go into exile, he and his princes together,” says the LORD.

**2:1** Thus says the LORD: “For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because he burned to lime the bones of the king of Edom. <sup>2</sup>So I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the strongholds of Kerioth, and Moab shall die amid uproar, amid shouting and the sound of the trumpet; <sup>3</sup>I will cut off the ruler from its midst, and will kill all its princes with him,” says the LORD.

<sup>4</sup>Thus says the LORD: “For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have rejected the law of the LORD, and have not kept his statutes, but their lies have led them astray, those after which their fathers walked. <sup>5</sup>So I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem.”

<sup>6</sup>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 — <sup>7</sup>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; <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>“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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>“But you made the Nazirites drink wine, and commanded the prophets, saying, ‘You shall not prophesy.’ <sup>13</sup>“Behold, I will press you down in your place, as a cart full of sheaves presses down. <sup>14</sup>Flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not retain his strength, nor shall the mighty save his life; <sup>15</sup>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; <sup>16</sup>and he who is stout of heart among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day,” declares the LORD.