

# ARAMAIC BIBLE COMPANION

## THE PROPHECY OF AMOS

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### CHAPTER 1

#### CHAPTERS 1-2 CONTAIN 8 ORACLES OR PROPHECIES

#### THE PROPHET'S CONTEXT 1-2

The words of action of Amos who lives among the quality wool shepherds [*dqn*] from TEKOA -words of action [*like NT Rhema*] which he experienced or contemplated [*hzj*] relevant to Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jereboam son of JOASH -two years prior to THE RUMBLING QUAKE. He said "The LORD roars lion-like from Zion and gives his voice from Jerusalem. The lovely grass pastures of the shepherds bend over in mourning and the height of Carmel is bone dry. *Josephus tells us that the year Uzziah's leprosy came on (2 Chronicles 26.16-21) was identical with that of the earthquake. This year was 751BC-the year of the inception of Amos' ministry. The setting of Amos' ministry was Tekoa-a city 10 miles to the south of Jerusalem and east of Bethlehem-built at an elevation of 2700 feet. The prophet was involved in the culture of "sycamore figs"-a variety of fig which presented as a hybrid fruit-with mulberry and fig characteristics.*

#### (1) ORACLE ON DAMASCUS 3-5

*"For three transgressions and for four" is as James Gray in his "one volume" bible commentary says "an orientalism" for numerous sins and failures.*

Thus says the LORD "For three trespasses or defections of Damascus and for four what will affect Damascus will not be changed on account of the decision to rule Gilead harshly or put Gilead in bondage. *The events involved are described in 2 Kings 10.32 when HAZAEL severed Gad Reuben and Manasseh from Israel. But I will send fire into the house of HAZAEL and it will gulp up the fortresses or strongholds of HADAD. I will shatter the bolt that reaches across (the gate of) Damascus and I will cause him that originates and dwells in the valley of AVEN (Iniquity) and him who acquires the leader's staff from the house of EDEN to be cut off. The People of Adam will be captive to KIR" says the LORD. The local names ("Adam" and "Eden" are fascinating and tend to support the notion that Eden was extended eastward through the fertile crescent to the Persian gulf-but that Adam may have resided in Israel and the gate of Eden have been located thereabouts. There is no proof possible but the residual names are suggestive). The original loss of Paradise is compared to the loss of residence in the BEQA' valley.*

#### (2)ORACLE ON GAZA 6-8

Thus says the LORD "For three trespasses of Gaza and for four there is no turning back the consequences because they caused the captives to go into bondage of recompense to be delivered to the bondage of Edom. *Jeremiah in his 47th chapter prophesies that Gaza will be punished. I will send a fire on the walls of Gaza and it will consume its strongholds. I will also cause the original inhabitant of ASHDOD and the one who acquires leadership from ASKELON to be cut off. I will also cause my hand to be turned against EKRON and the Philistine remnant will perish, says the LORD.*

#### (3)ORACLE AGAINST TYRE 9-10

Thus says the LORD "For three trespasses of Tyre and for four there is no turning back the consequences because they handed over the entire captivity as recompense to Edom and did not remember the brotherly covenant. *Solomon and Hiram had a league of old but Tyre some century and a half later couldn't care less about the Jews. In Isaiah 23 the evangelical prophet rails against Tyre in like fashion.*

*For the third time the judgment is identical. I will send fire on the walls of Tyre and it shall consume her strongholds*

#### (4)ORACLE AGAINST EDOM 11-12

Thus says the LORD "For three trespasses of Edom and for four there is no turning back the consequences because he followed his brother doggedly with the sword and continually destroyed or spoiled. His mercy and his anger continued to be renewed or fed like meat torn by a beast [*prf*] still and his passing over or returning he continued as an observation. But I will send fire upon TEMAN and it will consume the strongholds of BOZRAH.

### **(5)ORACLE AGAINST AMMON 13-15**

Thus says the LORD "For three trespasses of the sons of AMMON and for four there is turning back of the consequences because of the cleaving open (as a beast would do) of pregnant women in Gilead in order that they might make their borders greater. So I will set a fire within the walls of RABBAH and it shall consume her strongholds with shouting in the day of war and with a violent storm in the day of whirlwind and their king shall walk naked into exile-he and his princes together" says the LORD.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **(6)ORACLE AGAINST MOAB 1-3**

Thus says the LORD-for three trespasses of Moab and for four there is no turning back of the consequences because he burned the body of the king of Edom with lime [*dyc -used four times in the OT-Deut 27.2&4, Isaiah 33.12 & on this occasion*] *The act was a despicable ignominy to perpetrate on any people-denying a king the right of burial.* So I will send fire upon Moab and it shall consume the royal palaces of KERIOTH. and the death of Moab shall be with battle crash and shout of alarm and with the voice of the shophar. And I will cause the defender of right to be cut off from among her and I will slay all her princes" says the LORD

### **(7)ORACLE AGAINST JUDAH 4-5**

Thus says the LORD "for three trespasses of Judah and for four the just recompense shall not turn away because **she was in contempt of the Torah** of the LORD and they **did not carefully observe his ordinances or statutes**. Their delusions or false hopes cause them to wander in the delusions their fathers went after. I will send fire upon Judah and it shall consume the lofty palaces of Jerusalem" *Judah that had such leaders and rejoiced in the blessings of the house of David despised the LAW and fell into disobedience*

### **(8)ORACLE AGAINST ISRAEL 6-8**

Thus says the LORD "For three trespasses of Israel and for four the recompense shall not be caused to turn away because of:-

(1) **The selling of the righteous for silver**

(2) And the selling of the abysmally poor in exchange for a pair of shoes.

(3) They are gasping for the dust of the earth on the head of the weak *-for simple portorage*

(4) And they wrest or turn away the path or needs of the humble or oppressed

(5) And a man and his father have sexual relationship with the same young woman continually wounding or profaning my holy name.

In clothing taken in pledge they cause themselves to bow down near every altar and they will drink the wine of those fined (for crime) in the house of their gods.

*The value of life in Israel had so diminished that "slavery" was being practiced. In Joel 4.6 we read of Jewish slaves being sold to the Greeks. The ministry of this younger prophet overlapped that of Joel. Joel is dated by Halley at 830-750 and Amos 787-735*

### **GRACE TURNED TO LICENCE 9-12**

(1) And it was I who caused the Amorite to be laid waste before their faces that was majestic like the strong cedars and his pride or insolence and might or wealth was as the oaks

(2) but I cut off his fruit above and his roots beneath.

(3) In addition I brought you up from the land of Egypt

(4) And I walked with you forty years in the desert to take possession of the land of the Amorite.

(5) And I raised those I separated from your sons for prophets

(6) And from your youths I raised up Nazarites.

Is this not a definite fact O Sons of Israel" **whispers the LORD in a quiet voice.** But you plied the Nazarites with wine and you continually commanded the prophets not to prophecy.

*Despite the Exodus and deliverance from Pharaoh and the Shekinah and healthful days in the desert where Israel was fed full 40 years and in face of the notable victories over the mighty Amorite who had been rooted in the holy land since the days of Abraham 1800BC the people once settled adopted a loose life-style and even the Nazarites became drunken.*

## **SO GROSS ARE MEN BECOME THAT ONE IS A BURDEN TO THE LORD 13 SIMILE No.1 THE SHEAF ON THE CART**

**Behold I am caused to be pressed or pained [qʷ/] under you like a cart strains or is groaning in pain with its sheaf full.** *The comparison is drawn from Amos' familiarity with the rural agricultural scene. The wooden wagon strains to bring home the sheaf. Amos has used the "singular of sheaf as if "a single sheaf" would give as much trouble as an entire lead. This appears to be overlooked and makes better sense in translation.*

## **NO ESCAPE FOR THE SWIFT- NO VICTORY FOR THE BRAVE 14-16**

So dispersal or scattering shall flee from or ride away from the swift and the tough or daring strengthened one [qʷj] shall not restore his vigour or power [jjk] and the warrior shall not deliver or escape with his life. The fleet and brave hearted among warriors will flee or ride swiftly away in that day **whispers the LORD.**

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **PROPHETIC ADDRESS No.1**

#### **INTIMACY AND SEVERITY 1-6**

#### **LOVERS SIMILE/METAPHOR No.2**

Listen to this act-word which the LORD continually speaks against you O sons of Israel-against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt saying " You alone [qr] I have known personally from all the families of the fertile earth. *The reference is to the "fertile crescent" -the original home of mankind-indeed arguably the extent of the Garden of Eden.* On this account I will visit upon you all your iniquities.

(1) **Will two walk as one unless when they know one another intimately?**

(2) Will a lion groan or roar [qav] in the thicket and have no torn prey?

(3) Will the lion whelp give its voice from its refuge without having made a kill or captured trophy?

(4) Will a bird or sparrow fall into a net of the earth where there is no noose to capture it?

(5) Will a snare noose or trap spring (without trigger) to capture [dkl] when there is nothing it may capture?

(6) If the Shophar is sounded loud in the city will the people not also be terrified?

(7) If there is calamity in the city is it not the LORD who produced it?

*When a young man and woman walk in intimacy there is a reason-they love each other. They are well known to one another. All these questions demand answer. They assume something-that there is "something to capture"-it may be a bride-it may be prey; it may be a bird; it may be a city, it may be people whom God desires to return to Him!*

## **THE LORD TAKES HIS PROPHETS INTO THE LOOP 7-11**

For the Lord Yahweh does not labour for or execute any act but when he reveals or uncovers its secret or beginning or foundation to his servants the prophets. The lion has roared-who will not be afraid? The Lord Yahweh is continually speaking; who will not (prophecy? Cause it to be heard against the palaces in ASHDOD and against the palaces in the land of Egypt and let them say "Gather upon the mountains of Samaria-see prophetically great confusion [mwh] or great waves in the midst of Samaria and the violent or anguished within. Now they are not acquaint with doing things straightforward or righteous [jkn] whispers the LORD who lay up violence and extortion or oppression like treasure in their palaces.

For that reason **the Lord Yahweh whispers** "an adversary shall surround the land and he shall cause your strength to be brought down or decline from you and your palaces shall be spoiled.

## **NOTHING LEFT TO RESCUE 12-15**

### **SHEPHERD RESCUE SIMILE No.3**

Thus says the LORD "As when a shepherd rescues from the mouth of the lion two leg (bones) or a torn part of an ear so shall the sons of Israel be rescued who dwell in Samaria-in the side or extreme of a bed and in the "Damascus" silk of a couch. Let them listen and witness again and again in the house of Jacob says the Lord Yahweh God of hosts in a quiet solemn voice. In the day when I visit the trespasses of Israel upon him I will visit punishment on the altars of Bethel and the horns of the altar shall be broken off and fall to earth. I will also cause the house of autumn and winter to be smitten in calamity on top of the summer house and the houses of ivory shall be destroyed and the large houses will perish or end in a whirlwind says the LORD in a solemn whisper. *The futility of rescue is discovered in the simile about the half digested sheep-Israel and Samaria will be obdurate against repenting and their fate will be beyond reversal.*

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **PROPHETIC ADDRESS No.2**

### **SELF-SEEKING WOMEN OF SAMARIA 1-2**

### **A PROPHECY CHRIST FULFILLED**

### **OBSTINATE COW SIMILE No.4 & FISHING SIMILE/METAPHOR No.5**

Listen to this word of action or this matter, **O heifers of the Bashan.** Amos' key phrase "Listen to this" is used in a manner approaching the rude. Having regard to the way the women in the framework of his prophecy behave it is clear that the obtuseness of the women and their bad behaviour towards men to Amos is exactly as that of a herd of cows. They are totally self-interested. There is not a selfless bone in their body. Nevertheless Amos speaks plain and his simile in this case is intended to cut the women concerned to the quick. It is not the ribald humour (accepted in its time & context) of the one-time Irish evangelist W. P. Nicolson who in one of his meetings addressed two women publicly and said "Would the brown bear (a lady in a thick fur coat) please move over and make way for the canary" (a lady in a bright yellow dress) You (women) who are upon the mountain of Samaria treat unjustly or defraud the poor, that break down or struggle with the very poor Among beasts the weak go to the wall and lean sickly cows go unfed and are often hurt by the herd. The simile holds good. You command your "lords" (husbands) "Bring us wine that we may drink by ourselves." The Lord Yahweh has sworn in his holiness "For behold days are coming upon you and He will raise you up with "hooks" [hnx used first for "thorns"-then for "hook" or "fish hook"] or thorn sticks. The regular way of raising a cow is to prod it with a stick-and a thorn stick would certainly aid a response. A hook in a nose ring is another method-but the ordinary sharp thorn stick fits the context best. I will raise your hinder parts (or "later days" ) with fish hooks. The idea of "fish-hooks" is novel and in its application to the rear of the cow which demonstrates the tardiness of the animal the fishhook idea presents an image of a cow being pulled backwards unceremoniously dragged by the rump. **This is an unlikely occurrence that God should appear like a fisherman and get involved with Samaritan women-but in fact prophetically this is exactly what happened. Jesus and a group of Galilean fishermen appeared in Sychar and there the LORD teased and angled for a women -who had strung along multiple men or "lords"-back from her sin to a life of obedience to Him. Furthermore the LORD did all this without paying attention to ceremony or etiquette by speaking to a Samaritan woman. So this curious simile becomes precise prophecy.** The Assyrians were cruel in victory and led their captives away with hooks through their lips so this prophecy was literally fulfilled in the capture of Samaria by the Assyrian king.

And (there will be) broken walls -you will issue on the run -each woman straight ahead and you will be sent into HARMON (the "fortress" of the enemy) whispers the LORD. The immediate fulfilment of the prophecy foresees an invasion and fallen city walls and women the usual booty of war being dragged on the run from the city by invading troops. Thus the women who "Lorred it" are brought swiftly under foreign masters.

## **OLD ALTARS-NEW RELIGION 3-5**

You have to Come O Bethel and you have to rebel O Gilgal. *The prophet is not stating a divine obligation but a necessity of the rebellious heart.* They must increase to transgress further and you must bring your sacrifices by morning and your tithes every third day. To continue offering burnt sacrifice of **leaven** or provocation [xmj] as thanksgiving. They must call for freewill offerings-they must cause themselves to listen for thus you delight to do O sons of Israel **whispers my Lord Yahweh.** *As in the many "whispers" of the LORD there is exasperation. The necessity upon the people is to go their own way and to offer with "leaven" Paul in 1 Corinthians 5.7 speaks of the old leaven of immorality. The Master is recorded in Matthew 16 as speaking of the leaven of the Pharisees (referring to the teaching of the Pharisees on restricted love and false public profession and empty prayer and demonstrative fasts -in a word public show unsupported by the inner reality of faith)*

## **HUNGER DROUGHT & MILDEW MADE NO DIFFERENCE 6-9**

"I also gave you hunger ("cleanness of teeth") in all your cities and shortage of bread in all your important localities but you have not returned to me, **whispers the LORD.** I also kept back or refused [mm] the heavy rain from you again and again just three months before harvest. I caused it to shower down on one city and I caused it not to shower upon another city. It will rain on one lot and the lot on which you will not cause rain will wither. Two-three cities staggered[mm] to another city to drink water but they did not return to me" **says the LORD in a quiet whisper.** I smote you with blight[SHADAPHON] and with pale yellow mildew. [YERACON] The greatness of your gardens and vineyards and figs and olives the locust is devouring and you are not returning to me **whispers the LORD.** *This picture of garden and orchard is taken from the period when the "locust raged through the land-possibly a lesser devastation than Joel recorded-and that one did not see a return to the LORD. The plague Amos speaks of is current and again it saw no substantial return to the LORD.*

## **SWORD DEATH AND FIRE MADE NO DIFFERENCE 10-11**

### **THE FIREBRAND SIMILE No.6**

"I sent among you destruction in the manner dealt in Egypt; I slew the youth of your people with the sword along with the captured horses and the stink of your camps was also in your noses and still you did not return to me" whispers the LORD. "I changed or overturned some of you as at the overwhelming of Sodom and Gomorrah by God or 'Angels' and you were as a firebrand from the shade shadow or protection of the conflagration" [hprvm lxm]. *The simile of the firebrand is an undisguised reference to Lot and his daughters who were spared the fires of Sodom and gained Zoar under the protection of God. But you did not turn to me" whispers the LORD As was the case with Lot's wife and to a lesser extent with Lot himself and the girls they continued in gross sin thereafter-no lessons learned-until perhaps Lot met Abraham later and told the story and confessed the unhappy sequel to the judgment.*

## **THE LORD TEACHES HIS OMNIPOTENCE AND OMNISCIENCE 12-13**

Because of that this is what I will do to you O Israel. At the latter end or continually because I will do this to you set yourself or adjust or establish it or make ready [mkh "let it be confirmed"] you will go toward God or 'there will be a calling out to God' O Israel".

(1) For behold He who forms mountains

(2) And creates wind or the spirit *Even as I wrote these words a powerful gust of wind broke the absolute calm of a summer afternoon on June 2, 2010 and thereafter left as suddenly as it came.*

(3) Also teaches Man what his holy meditation or discourse or complaint or declaration or lament [jyv] is. *The LORD knows our thoughts-Psalm 94.11 Also "Before a word is on my tongue You know it entirely" Psalm 139.4*

(4) He makes the dawn darkness. *This happened in Egypt and at Calvary and is predicted of the "day of the LORD"*

(5) And journeys or takes his path on the lofty regions or fortresses of the earth. (*cf Micah 1.3-also used of God's sovereignty "He travels on the fortresses of the sea"-Job 9.8 and "on the fortresses of the clouds" Isaiah 14.14.*) In regions beyond the general travels of man the LORD is present. Yahweh the "God of hosts" is his name. *This key concept advises us of future aerial warfare surmounting mountain relief barriers and the LORD'S heavenly access and over-riding power to disable even such sophisticated intrusion.*

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **PROPHETIC ADDRESS No.3**

*For the third time Amos begins a segment of his prophecy with "Listen to this matter-or this thing-or this word which I am taking up with you!" The Lord has previously spoken of Israel's obstinacy and His desire for their intimacy -now He speaks of the tragedy of a people beyond prophetic appeal and rescue.*

### **THE HEART OF THE LORD IS WOUNDED 1-3**

Listen to this matter which I am burdened with about you-this lament [*m̄q*-that which wounds the heart-a cognate root to "spear"] O house of Israel. The pure (*either newly married Joel 1.8 or "virgin" 2 Samuel 13 2&18*) maiden of Israel has fallen; she will not gather (herself) up to rise. She is self forsaken on her own fertile soil; none shall cause her to rise. *The fault is her own. God acting out the role of a husband is hurt to the quick about the early breach in His union with His people.* For thus says the Lord Yahweh "The city that goes out a thousand strong will be a remnant of one hundred and that city that goes out one hundred strong will have a remnant of ten left of the house of Israel.

### **FOLLOW ME AND YOU WILL LIVE 4-7**

① For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel "Seek or walk towards me-*seek me* Inquire from me-demand to see me-apply yourself to me-**follow me** [*Vrd*]**and you will live.** Do not follow or search for Bethel and go to Gilgal. And do not pass over to Beersheba for Gilgal for Gilgal is destined for exile and Bethel will be exhausted or empty.

② Follow after the LORD and you will live lest HE pour out as fire in the house of Joseph and devour it beyond extinguishing at Bethel you who change justice for the worse to poison and cause righteousness to be laid to rest in the earth.

### **THE LORD IS CREATOR CONVERTER SUSTAINER CORRECTOR 8-9**

(1) He made the Pleiades cluster and the giant Orion;

(2) He converts the shadows of death to morning and HE causes the day to darken towards or into night.

(3) He is the One who pours the waters of the sea over the face of the land-the LORD is his name.

(4) He is the One who causes destruction to shine as the speedy dawn upon the mighty; that brings ruin upon strongholds.

### **THE RICH GET WEALTH BY PERVERTING JUSTICE AND CRUSHING THE POOR 10-13**

They hate the One who causes conviction or correction in the gate and the one who speaks perfection or the whole truth and the story they abhor. Therefore on account of your trampling upon the poor and theft from his means by constantly lifting of corn tithes while you build houses of hewn stone [*h̄zq*] you will not dwell in them -you are planting pleasant vineyards but you will not drink wine from them for I am aware of your many transgressions and your powerful sins. You are oppressors or pressurise the just and are receivers of atonement money [*rpk*-"*covering*"] and you pervert or wrest or stretch (to breaking) the abysmally poor at the gate. Therefore the shrewd or clever people sing dumb at that time for it is a time of calamity.

## SEEK GOOD DO JUSTICE –GOD MAY BE GRACIOUS AND FORGIVE 14–15

(3) Follow or seek good and not evil in order that you may live and it may be thus that the LORD God of hosts will be with you in accordance with your speech. *Where the LORD sees his servants doing good HE does good to them-where they forgive debt He forgives debt.*

You must hate evil and you must love good and cause justice to have staying power in the gate. Peradventure the LORD God of hosts will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

## LAMENT -THE SEQUEL TO FUTURE WAR 16-17

Therefore thus says the LORD God of hosts "In all the city squares lamentation or wailing [*dps*] and in all the surrounding areas outside or fields they will say "Ho Ho" and they will call the husbandman or ploughman to wailing and call on those who are aware of (how to do) lamentation to lament, and in all vineyards there will be wailing for I will pass through you says the LORD *This setting is compared to that in Egypt at Passover-many will die.*

## THE DAY OF THE LORD (cf 2 PETER 3 10) A SINISTER DAY 18 SMILIE No.7

Woe to you who breathe after the day of the LORD for what is this day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness not light! It will be as when a man escapes from the mouth of the lion and the bear assails him [*gp*] and he comes into the house and leans his arm on the wall and the snake bites him. Isn't the day of the LORD darkness and not light and dense darkness and no splendour or candlelight to be had in it.?

## RELIGION WITHOUT JUSTICE 21-24

### FAMOUS SIMILE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS No.8

I hate or hold in contempt your feasts and I will not cause revival or life in your sacred festivals. *The LORD is so turned off these occasions that he will have no part in sharing HIS life with the participants or making them occasions of national joy and revival. His Spirit is absent.* For if you lift up to me your burnt offerings and grain offerings I will not accept or be associated with them. [*hxr*] and I will not cause myself to regard your fattened peace offerings. Cause to be put from me the **sound, the multitude** or **the emotion** of your songs [*mmh*] and I will not listen to the plucking or your 12 stringed instruments [*NABALIM*]. **But justice will (OR LET JUSTICE) roll down like waters of itself and righteousness as a perennial or constant river.** *The prophet is in search of justice that is powerful and overwhelms wrong and righteousness that does not fail in summer-a torrent from a spring -a mighty river like the Egyptian Nile or the Jordan.*

## IDOLATRY EXPOSED AND EXILE IMPOSED 25-27

You caused yourselves to draw near to me for forty years in the desert with sacrifices and offerings O Israel. But you carried SICOTH *-the shrine-*of your king and CHIUN *-the image stand -*of SATURN. *The former is deemed to be an AKKADIAN and the latter an EGYPTIAN term for symbols of Saturn. In Acts 7.42 Stephen picks up on the idolatry of Israel in the desert.* You carried your idols-the star of your God-which you made for yourselves. And I will cause you to go into exile beyond Damascus says the LORD-the God of the starry hosts is his name. *The LORD lays claim to authority over the whole starry host and thus condemns the sin of making an image to worship like the things HE created. We are informed of the exile to Nineveh and the wording is such it would embrace the Babylonian exile besides.*

## CHAPTER 6

### AMOS CHALLENGE-TAKE A HOLIDAY & REVISE YOU'RE THINKING 1-3

Woe to the ones who live quietly [*nav*] or carelessly in Zion and those who are confiding or clinging for security to Mount Samaria. There are marked or specific Gentiles of first rank to whom the house of Israel goes. Cross to Calneh and see and **walk** from there to Great Hamath and go down to Gath of the Philistines-are you better than these kingdoms or are their boundaries or border defences greater than your boundaries? *The distance between the great fortress ruins of Calno and Hamath-both to the North North East is between 75 and 100 miles. Amos thinks of it as "walking distance." He challenges his*

readers to take a walking holiday after they have crossed to Calno-perhaps by sailing along the coast. These cities both fell before the Assyrian. Sargon even settled some people from Hamath in Samaria-so there were connections. Calno fell along with Arpad-its twin city before the armies of Tiglath Pileser in 740BC and was re-taken by Sargon in 720BC. The Assyrians were in business to secure their trade route with Damascus their Syrian ally. The end of the greatness of Gath came when it also was conquered by Sargon sometime later. So Samaria is being told that it is indefensible against the Assyrian.

### **POSTPONING CHANGE-HOPING FOR THE BEST IS NO REMEDY**

You are constantly setting a long way off the day of calamity and you will bring near the Sabbath of or the end or restraint of violence. *The people were burying their heads in the sand and urging that the end-game with Assyria was a long way off and the end of warfare and a time of peace near. This is a popular attitude even today in face of the momentous events that prophecy now shows are fast approaching. The man of the world is fond of the "Peace peace" refrain when peace is threatened on every side and war on a grand scale is predicted in scripture.*

### **ELEGANT LIFESTYLE IN FACE OF IMPENDING DISASTER 4-7 SIMILE No.9**

Those who sleep on beds of ivory -who spread out luxuriantly on your couches with hanging curtains [vr/] and eat lambs of the flock and calves from the centre of the bound ox stall who sing foolish words to the stringed instrument-they devise instruments of music for themselves or customised instruments as David did. Those who drink from dishes or basins of wine [qrz] will also anoint them with the top ointments but they do not feel hurt by the brokenness of Joseph. *It would seem Amos is now speaking about Ephraim and Manasseh and the high lifestyle that this people still maintained after 700 years. [Exodus 430 years after Jacob settled in 1876BC i.e. 1446BC]* Therefore they will now go into exile at the head of the captivity and those who stretch out luxuriously will be *as stubborn animals trying to shake off the yoke off* from the outcry or oppression.

### **GOD HATES PRIDE 8**

The Lord Yahweh has sworn by His soul-the LORD God of hosts is saying "I am constantly in abhorrence of the pride of Jacob-I hate his palaces and I will cause the city and all its fullness to be shut up (siege) or delivered up (defeat & exile) [rqs The term has both meanings]

### **THE DENIAL OF GOD'S NAME 9-10**

Then it shall take place that when ten soldiers or men of means remain in one house they shall die... And his personal beloved friend shall lift him and burn the body in order to clear the bodies from the house and shall say to another in the innermost recesses of the house "Are there any more with you?" he will say "only me and he will then say "Hush for I don't want to remember or bring to mind the name of the LORD.

### **THE DENIAL OF GOD'S WORD AND PROPHECY 11-14 METAPHOR/SIMILE No.10**

For behold the LORD commands and He will cause the great house to be broken to pieces and the little house to be fractured in broken pieces. Do horses run swiftly on rock or will he (the ploughman) plough there with oxen? Because you have changed or converted justice into hemlock and the fruit of righteousness into "wormwood" or "distress" [hm/] You who are radiant over **Lodebar** [The place of no word or no oracle-hence those who want nothing to do with Amos' prophecy]-who say "Have we not captured MARANAIM for ourselves by our own strength? But behold me raising up a nation against you O house of Israel whispers the LORD God of hosts and they will oppress you from the entrance to Hamath (100 miles north of Samaria) to the river of the Arabah or desert-the extreme south.

## CHAPTER 7

### A STRIKING CASE OF ANSWERED PRAYER 1-3

(a) Thus the Lord **Yahweh caused me to see or envision** and behold He formed locusts at the first of the rising or growth of the late grass or hay *The latter rains would be associated with this verdant period in March-April.* And behold the growth was late after the King's last cut of hay or grass. And it occurred when **they had finished eating the vegetables** [bc[]] of the land I was saying "O Lord Yahweh please pardon me-may **Jacob** rise or grow for he is little or small. And the LORD continued to be compassionate [NIHAM! mj] *what a prayer answering loving God is ours!*] on this matter and the LORD said "It will not happen" *Quite miraculously a further potential locust plague with all its devastation was averted by the single prayer of one just man! Amos' simple plea was "Jacob is small-a little child!" Speaking in the absence of other evidence I wonder if Amos had a son named Jacob and I wonder also was he appealing for the life of his son as he evidently was for the life of his people. Now as this was a vision or personal experience based on current fact the averted disaster would never have been known had Amos not written about it. How many such things never develop because the LORD shows his intercessors how to stem calamity?*

### PRAYER AVERTS JUDGMENT 4-6

(b) Thus **the LORD caused me to see or envision** and behold the LORD God calling for strife through fire and it swallowed the great deep and it ate up the inheritance. And I said "O LORD God forbear I pray -How will Jacob rise for he is small? *The fundamental answer ultimately is that Jacob became Israel by holding on to God and by praying. His prayer life grew out of his strife with the LORD. Here Amos' prayer life grew as he sought to divert the judgment of God at least for a season. The LORD was compassionate over this also and the LORD God said "It shall not happen!"*

### A SIGNIFICANT PROPHECY RE-JERUSALEM 7-9

(c) Thus I was caused to envision and behold the Lord stationed Him upon a wall of a plumb-line. *The wall was well constructed but the plumb-line was in God's hand-so he was measuring the wall or showing that it had a term. This was a judgment sign.* And there was a plumb-line in His hand. *The wall in question appears to be one which had been previously under judgment and was to come a second time to judgment.* And the LORD said to me "Amos, what do you see now? And I said, "Lord I see a plumb line! And the Lord said "Behold there a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel- I will not add (further time or divert) from passing by him still. *The judgment of Samaria was not subject to negotiation. The high places of Isaac* will be desolated. *Isaac was a well digger-but also a man of prayer. In Genesis 26.25 we read "Isaac built an altar there" at Rehoboth-by-Beersheba where the LORD made room for him. The other high place which is associated with him is Moriah or Jerusalem-and it is most probable that this oracle has to do with the south and the fall of Jerusalem in future time-not alone to the Babylonians-for under Hezekiah it was spared the Assyrian onslaught-but also to the Romans.* And the Holy places of Israel will be laid waste and I will rise against the house of Jereboam with a sword.

### THE OPPOSITION OF AMAZIAH THE HIGH PREST 10-12

But Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jereboam king of Israel saying "Amos has mounted a conspiracy against you in the midst of the house of Israel-the land is not able to endure or contain all his words for thus Amos has said "Jereboam shall die by the sword and Israel will go a naked captive to captivity from his country. Then Amaziah said to Amos "Go seer, bolt away to the land of Judah -get your bread or food there and you may prophecy to your hearts content [NIPHAL of "prophecy to yourself"] But you shall not continue to prophecy at Bethel for it is the king's sanctuary and palace.

### AMOS AFFIRMS HIS MESSAGE AND HOW IT WILL AFFECT AMAZIAH 13-17

And Amos replied and said to Amaziah "I am not a prophet or the son of a prophet for I am a herdsman of oxen and a gatherer of sycamore figs [*Amos strenuously defends his right to live in the land as a food*

producer-not an indolent dependent as the priest appears to allege. He uses the alliterative wording "I am a BOQER AND BOLES"]. But the LORD is taking me from following the sheep and goats but my God Yahweh said to me "Go yourself-prophecy to my people Israel. And at this seasonable time hear the word of the LORD. You say "Do not prophecy against Israel and do not cause **prophetic sentiments** to distil or keep dropping [pfn] against the house of Isaac. *The High priest had picked up on the reference of Amos to the high places of Isaac-which he would take to be Moriah-the centre of the temple-and centre of priestly ministry.* Therefore thus says the LORD "Your wife shall make herself a prostitute in the city and your sons and daughters will fall by the sword and your land will be allotted by a shepherd's staff or measuring cord and you shall die on contaminated land and Israel will go into exile from his land.

*Three times within this chapter Amos speaks of "the Lord". For him God's authority is absolute in his life. He will not be subject to any priest in face of the divine command. His lord is ADONAI(vv.1.4.7)*

## CHAPTER 8 SIMILE'S No.10 & No.11

(d)Thus the Lord YAHWEH caused me to envision and behold a fruit basket [bwl k] of harvest. And He said "Amos what do you see? And I said a fruit basket of harvest." And the LORD said to me "The end or harvesting has come for my people Israel- I will not make added occasion further to pass over him (in mercy) and **the songs of the temple shall be screech owl wails** [lyl] in that day whispers the Lord Yahweh. There will be a great number of corpses in every place-they will shift them out in silence. Hear this *The many years when Jews stood at the "wailing wall" sufficiently realise this prophecy.*

(1) You who swallow up the abysmally poor as their sworn enemies [pav]

(2) To cause to end the working ability of the poor of the land.

(3) You are saying "When will the new moon pass that we may trade -buy and sell corn

(4) And the Sabbath end that we may open up our wheat?"-*that is to begin harvesting or open the granaries.*

(5) So that we may make the Ephah (we give) small and the shekel (we ask) great.

(6) To weight (with)the balances of false weights.

(7) To purchase the poor for silver

(8) And the very poor for the current price of (their)sandals.

(9)Selling wheat or corn that is dropping and useless

## THE LATTER DAY REDOUBTABLE POWER OF ISRAEL 7-8 SIMILE No.12

The LORD has sworn by Himself (Niphal)-through or in the house of the pride of Jacob "**I shall never forget all their works.** On this account shall not the earth shake (with disquiet or trouble) and each who dwells in it mourn? And it shall rise in its entirety like a river(in spate) It will spoil or plunder [crg] and arm itself and battle [qvm] as the River of Egypt." *The LORD is speaking of events long in the future.*

*Jacob will grow mighty and become an elite fighting force and act like the force of the Nile. This speaks both of the contest Israel made with the Romans and the final contest with the Anti-Christ.*

## CALVARY-END OF FESTIVALS-REPENTANCE-FAITH-JACOB'S TROUBLE 9-10 Simile No.13

"And it shall happen in that day" whispers MY Lord Yahweh

(1)"**I will cause** the sun to go at mid-day

(2) And **I will cause darkness** in the earth in daylight hours..

(3) And **I will change your feasts** or festivals to mourning and all your songs to lamentation[nnq]

(4) And **I will cause sacking to be pulled up** on every waist

(5) And **cause everyone to go bear-headed** and

(6) **I will constitute** or establish or set in array that **which is as mourning for an only Son**

*This latter promise of the LORD is most touching-it foretells Israel lamenting as Zechariah predicts they shall over all the land on account of their former rejection of Jesus Christ as LORD. That Amos should so frequently call Yahweh his Lord and climax his prophecy with sinning Jacob clinging to the "only Son" of God is irony but also spiritual home-coming and miracle.*

(7) And its uttermost as a violent bitter sorrowful day. *The time of "Jacob's trouble" lies at the end of this proud warfare and battling the world-but out of it Jacob shall be delivered.*

## **THE FALL OF DAN'S SHRINE AND OF ISLAM 11-14**

"Behold the days come" whispers the Lord Yahweh when I will cause famine to be sent into the land or earth-not a famine for bread and not a thirst for waters but if it is possible to hear the words of the LORD. So they shall wander from sea to sea and from the North to the sunrise. They will continually run over the book [ffwv] to seek the word of the LORD and not find it by themselves.

In that day the beautiful maidens and the young men who are strong will have become faint or languid. Those who make an oath by the sacrifice or trespass offering of Samaria and say O Dan your God lives and the way of Beersheba lives-they shall fall and not rise again.

*The prophecy which Amos unfolds discounts the idolatry of Dan and its shrine. I once walked from Caesarea Philippi along the Jordan to the altars of Dan-now merely a historical location. It was there that Israel brought her offerings-and not to Jerusalem. In the latter days the way of Beersheba-the Arab religion of the times will equally fail and NEVER rise again.*

## **CHAPTER 9**

***IF THE TEMPLE WAS TO FALL AS HISTORY RECORDS IN THE FLORID AND TRAGIC ACCOUNT OF JOSEPHUS IN LATER ROMAN TIMES AS IN THE DAYS OF ASSYRIA THE TRANSCENDENT JOY IS THAT THE LATTER DAY RETURN WOULD BRING A KINGDOM OF GREATER GLORY WHICH DISPLAYS THE RESTORATION WORK OF MESSIAH HIMSELF VII ACTUALLY PSALM 85.2 REGISTERS THE FIRST FULFILMENT OF THIS PROPHECY IN THE RETURN UNDER NEHEMIAH.THE RETURN PROCLAIMED HERE IS ONE WHICH THE LORD HIMSELF HEADS. THE PLANTING VI5 IS WHEN GOD FIXES THEM TO THE GROUND OR PEGS DOWN THE TENT. THIS IS THE DAYOF THE SETTLING OF THE TABERNACLE OF THE BELOVED (DAVID)***

## **GOD'S THOROUGH JUDGMENT-TEMPLE TO BE DESTROYED 1-4**

I saw prophetically ytyar the Lord "placed" or "ready" bxñ "near" or come down from another place upon" or simply "on" the altar and He said, "Cause to be broken/smite/blast" hkñ the pillars or "covering crown"(as Gesenius understands the word to combine the sense of "covering and of crowning") The meaning is, "end the cardinal role of the temple " and the bowl or threshold will be destroyed or lifeless v[r . God adds "completely finish them upon the heads of all." The play on the word "finish" (used in Zech4.9 of "completing the temple") indicates the thoroughness of God's judgement just as His means of forgiveness is perfect. "And I will slay the remainder by the sword." "No escaper will flee away. For them there will be no escaper slipping away .If they break through to Sheol from there my hand will take them and if they go up into the heavens I will cause them to come down like the Jordan. And if they like hidden at the top of Carmel from there I will seek them having continually taken them mytj ql (wherever they go). And if they hide from my eyes on the floor of the sea from there I will command the serpent and it will bite them. And if they go into exile before the face of their enemies I will command the sword and it shall slay them. I will set my eyes upon them for evil and not for good"

## **THE OMNIPOTENCE OF THE LORD 5-7**

Adonai Yahweh Sabaoth-He who "touches" or "lights up" [gn the earth and it melts. This is a reference to Sinai and to other outpourings as at Sodom and all who dwell in it walk with the head cast down l ba. The whole place rises up as the Nile and falls under water as the delta river of Egypt. The one continually building his citadels of strength in the heavens and his heavenly vaults on the earth who continues calling for the waters of the sea and keeps pouring them out over the face of the earth-the Lord is His name.

"Are you Israelites not as the sons of CUSH to me," declares the Lord. Did I not bring Israel out of Egypt, Philistines from CAPHTOR (Crete) and Syria from KIR? All these are states of simplicity. The Lord exalted "slaves"-He raised a great people from a small island-he commenced the Syrian race perhaps from Kurdistan-although the jury is still out on the origins of "KIR"

## **IMPENDING DESTRUCTION -PUNCTUATION OF HISTORY 8-10 SIMILE**

### **No.14**

"Behold the eyes of Adonai are on this sinful kingdom. I will destroy it from upon the face of the tilled ground-NO FARTHER-for I will not cause the destruction of the house of Jacob in destroying God whispers **sa**

For behold I give command and I will move the house of Israel to and fro among the Gentile nations as that which is shaken in a sieve and not a bundle or purse of money **nr** will fall to the earth. The Jew is promised wealth though dispossessed of land. All the sinners of my people will die by the sword-those who say 'Disaster will not draw nigh to us or come unexpectedly' [mdq] in these years **mynda**

## **ISRAEL WILL BE RESTORED -JAMES QUOTES THIS PROPHECY AT THE FIRST CHURCH COUNCIL (Acts 15.16) 11-15**

This is a profound finish to the prophecy of Amos. We do well to recognise that as the mother church of Christianity in Jerusalem was meeting at its first council-with numerous apostles present-James claimed the attention of the mass of delegates and spoke of the favour of the Lord in the latter days to Israel. This is genuine biblical truth and was accepted by all and sundry at the council and has a claim to be given credence at every council of the Christian church. **DAVID'S FALLEN TENT WILL BE RESTORED.**

**(1)** I will restore the -the tabernacle of David **dynd tks** The end of the road for the dwelling of God -and arguably its best days-under David-will return -and in the latter day praise will return

**(2)** I will rebuild the fold **rdg** and restore it from brokenness - **xrp** when it was dispersed and scattered abroad.

And raise as from death a destroyed people **srh**

And build or keep building it as the days of an age or millennium.

In order that they may take possession of the remnant of Edom **vry**

And the Gentiles that call themselves by my name-i.e. Christ's name-the Lord's people.-whispers the Lord the doer of these things.

To recapitulate-God calls on the people to watch for three things:-

**1. The ruin of the state of Israel for long years**

**2. The dispersion of Israel and the gift of wealth at the same time**

**3. The days of plenty-two crops and detailed rebuilding and permanent residence**

## **GODS WHISPER OF HOPE AND DETERMINATION**

The whisper of God is a great encouragement.

**(3)** The "still small voice" of **v13ff** tells of a time when "the ploughman will overtake the reaper in a land of double crops. The planter the one treading grapes at harvest. So good would be the weather for growth-all the year round.

The harvest (of fruit) will drop from the mountains and new trodden wine will flow down continually from the hills.

**(4)** I will bring back the turning of my people Israel and they will build the ruined cities and settle there and they will plant vineyards and drink their wine and plant gardens and eat their fruit .eat the fruit of them

**(5)** I will plant them upon their fertile land and they will not uproot themselves ever again from upon that fertile soil which I have given them-says the **LORD YOUR GOD**

THE END

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To the glory of the Lord  
Aramaic Bible Companion