




*Welcome
to*
Faiith
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Tuesdays Together

OCTOBER 30

THE
PROPHET
AMOS
CHAPTERS 1 & 2





WHAT IS A PROPHET?

A prophet is someone who "exegetes" the present situation from a divine perspective.

The Prophet's Burden:

- Compassion for Man
- Sympathy for God


8th Century BC:
Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah

The Prophetic No!

"A Prophet was someone who said NO to his society, condemning its habits and assumptions, its complacency, waywardness and syncretism. He was often compelled to proclaim the very opposite of what his heart expected. His fundamental objective was to reconcile man and God. Why do the two need reconciliation? Perhaps it is due to man's false sense of sovereignty, to his abuse of freedom, to his aggressive, sprawling pride, resenting God's involvement in history."

Abraham J. Heschel





OUTLINE

October 30
Amos, Chapters 1 & 2

November 6
Amos, Chapters 3 -5

November 13
Amos, Chapters 6 -9

BACKGROUND

ISRAEL

**The Best of Times
God is good!**

**Why is God good?
Because of our
extravagant support
of the official shrines.**

The Worst of Times

**Absence of loyalty
Absence of pity**



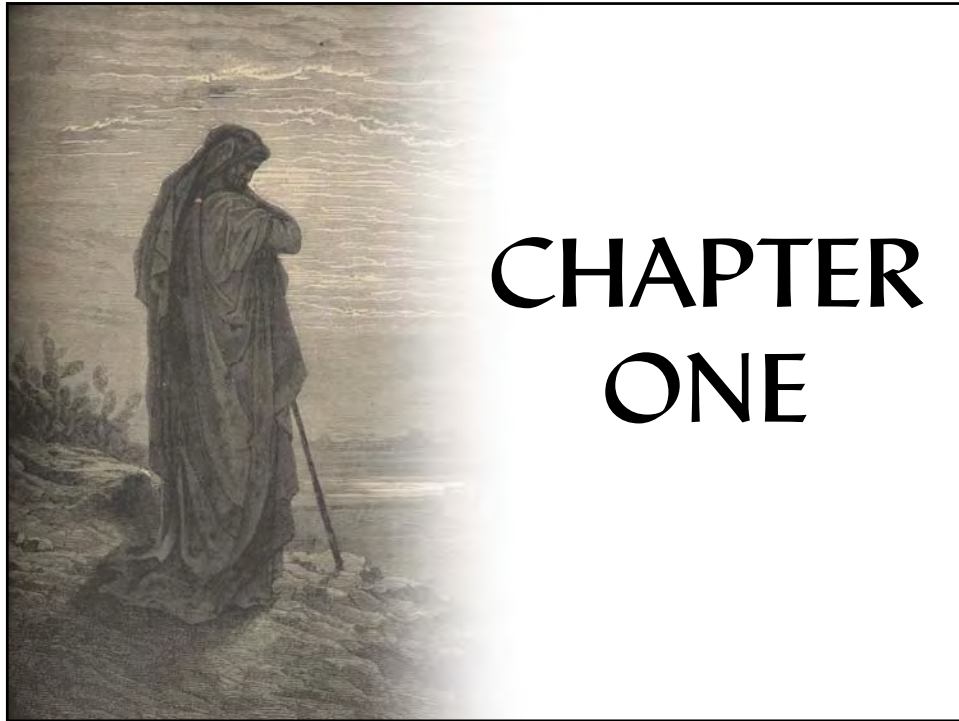
**Israel = North
Judah = South
Amos is an outsider,
But, he is not a hick.**

**Recent scholarship
says that this small
town boy had moxie,
sophistication and
money. He was
speaking to his own
class.**



Amos' Prophetic Imagination

1. Sensitivity to evil (Amos 8:4-6)
2. While others are intoxicated with the here and now, they have a vision of the end CW (common wisdom) the day of the Lord would come and all of the pagan nations would get their due Prophets said, beware, the Day of the Lord will come and if Israel is not right with God, Israel will be blasted!
3. Compassion – major theme in Amos is condemnation of the rich for the oppression of the poor. Burden of a prophet: compassion for man, sympathy for God
4. Loneliness and isolation Amos 5:10
5. Justice! Justice is a divine concern, more than an ideal or norm. Justice is part of the covenant between God and people – God is pained by misdeeds, angry at injustice.



CHAPTER ONE

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

²And he said: The Lord roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds wither, and the top of Carmel dries up.

v. 1 Oracle: "which he saw...." Is an authoritative answer or wise expression...key is authority! He saw this! God gives him the vision; he is speaking for God. People were amazed at Jesus because He was one "who spoke with authority"

v. 2 Amos does not do the actual writing

Nations not chosen because of might or prestige but rather because these were the nations that were despised and loathed by Israel.

Ethiopians – they were black, considered inferior, sold as slaves in markets

Philistines – archenemies of Israel

Syria – continued to be a menace to the N. Kingdom

***The God of Israel is the God of all nations!**

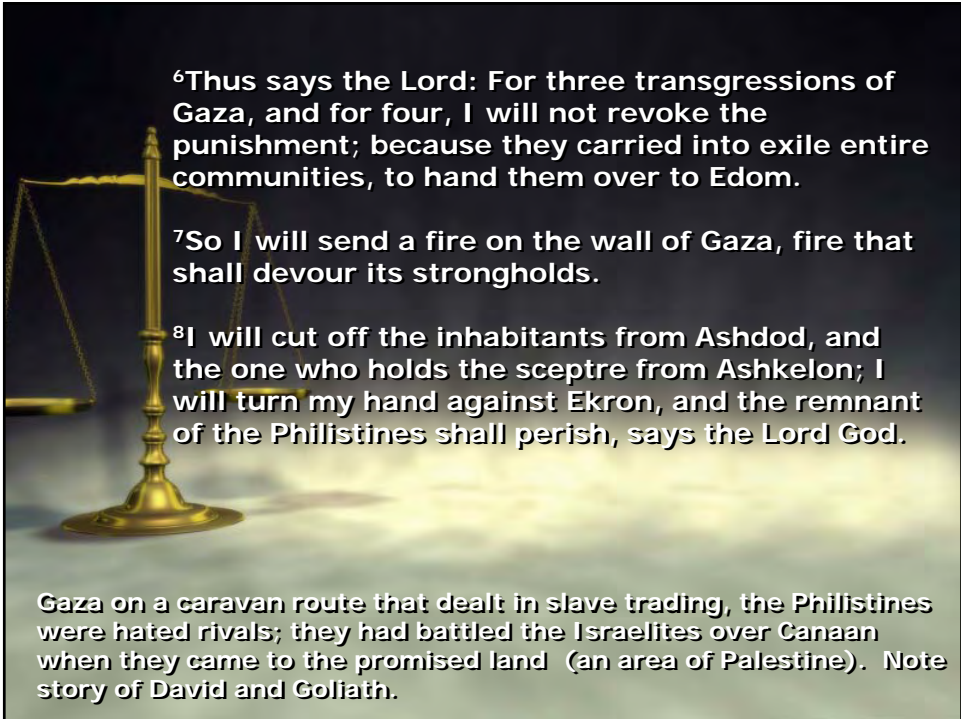


³Thus says the Lord: For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment; because they have threshed Gilead with threshing-sledges of iron.

⁴So I will send a fire on the house of Hazael, and it shall devour the strongholds of Ben-hadad.

⁵I will break the gate-bars of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitants from the Valley of Aven, and the one who holds the sceptre from Beth-eden; and the people of Aram shall go into exile to Kir, says the Lord.

- 1. Damascus – capital city of Syrian Kingdom for nearly 100 years , at war with Israel**
- 2. 'for 3 transgressions and for 4...' this could go on indefinitely, "I will not turn back." Turn back... inevitable punishment will follow continued disobedience.**
- 3. Thrashed Gilead (II Kings 10.32-33)**
- 4. Kir – land to the East.**

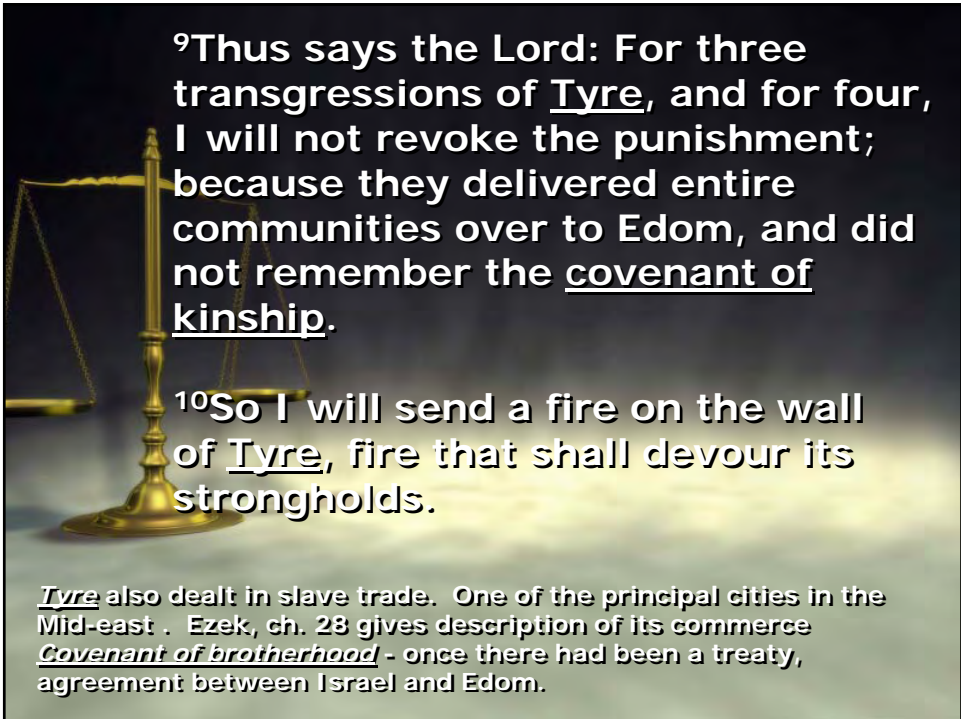


⁶Thus says the Lord: For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment; because they carried into exile entire communities, to hand them over to Edom.

⁷So I will send a fire on the wall of Gaza, fire that shall devour its strongholds.

⁸I will cut off the inhabitants from Ashdod, and the one who holds the sceptre from Ashkelon; I will turn my hand against Ekron, and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish, says the Lord God.

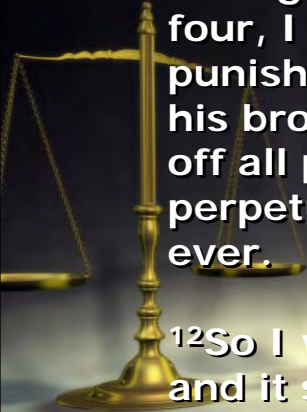
Gaza on a caravan route that dealt in slave trading, the Philistines were hated rivals; they had battled the Israelites over Canaan when they came to the promised land (an area of Palestine). Note story of David and Goliath.



⁹Thus says the Lord: For three transgressions of Tyre, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment; because they delivered entire communities over to Edom, and did not remember the covenant of kinship.

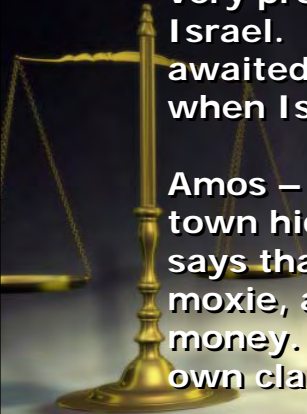
¹⁰So I will send a fire on the wall of Tyre, fire that shall devour its strongholds.

Tyre also dealt in slave trade. One of the principal cities in the Mid-east. Ezek, ch. 28 gives description of its commerce Covenant of brotherhood - once there had been a treaty, agreement between Israel and Edom.



¹¹Thus 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; he maintained his anger perpetually, and kept his wrath for ever.

¹²So I will send a fire on Teman, and it shall devour the strongholds of Bozrah.

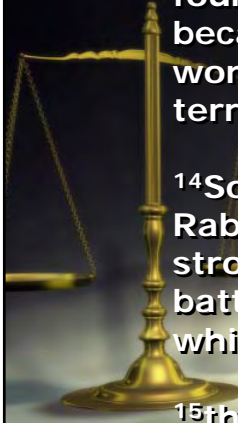


Edomites descended from Esau, Jacob's brother (Gen. 36). They had established a very prosperous kingdom, even before Israel. It is said that Edom took its long awaited revenge (from birthright battle) when Israel fell in 586 BC.

Amos – tradition often sees him as a small town hick. However, recent scholarship says that this small town boy had some moxie, and some sophistication and money. Therefore he is speaking to his own class!

He is from the south, an outsider!

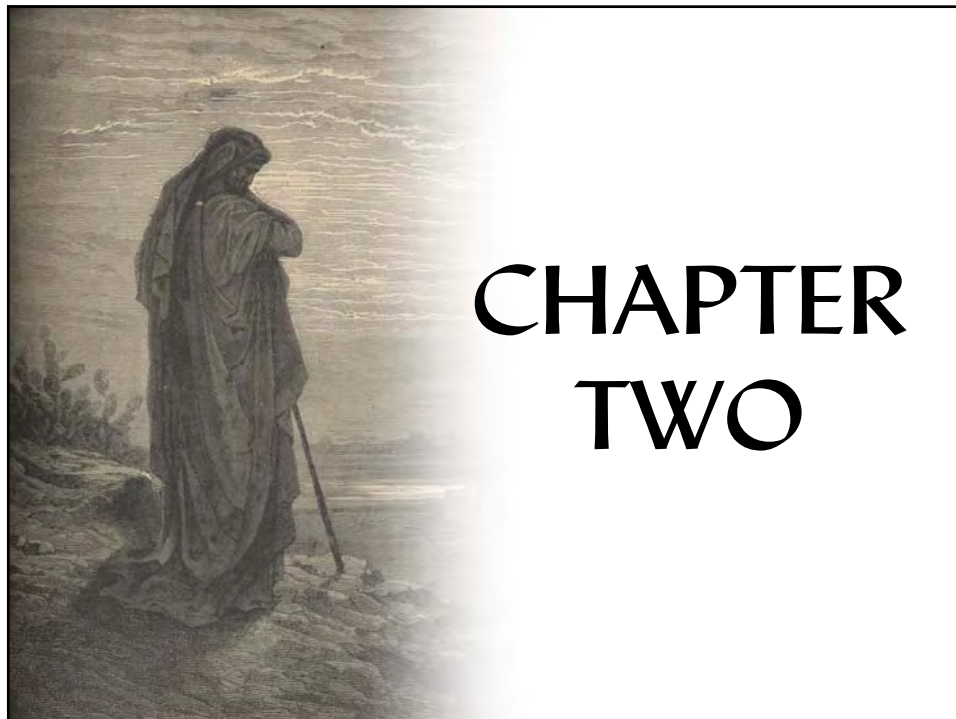
Although he was from the south, all utterances against north.

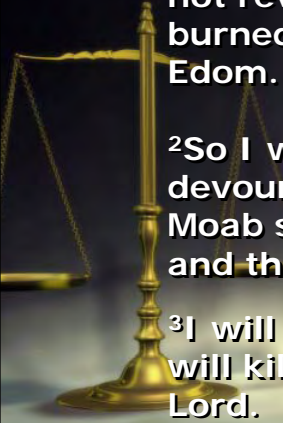


¹³Thus says the Lord: For three transgressions of the Ammonites, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment; because they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead in order to enlarge their territory.

¹⁴So I will kindle a fire against the wall of Rabbah, fire that shall devour its strongholds, with shouting on the day of battle, with a storm on the day of the whirlwind;

¹⁵then their king shall go into exile, he and his officials together, says the Lord.



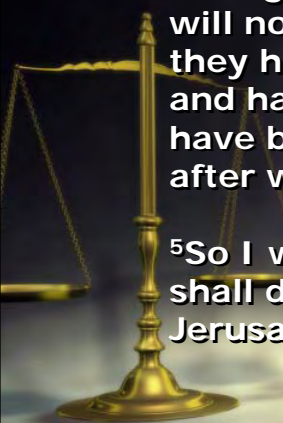


¹Thus says the Lord: For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment; because he burned to lime the bones of the king of Edom.

²So I will send a fire on Moab, and it shall devour the strongholds of Kerioth, and Moab shall die amid uproar, amid shouting and the sound of the trumpet;

³I will cut off the ruler from its midst, and will kill all its officials with him, says the Lord.

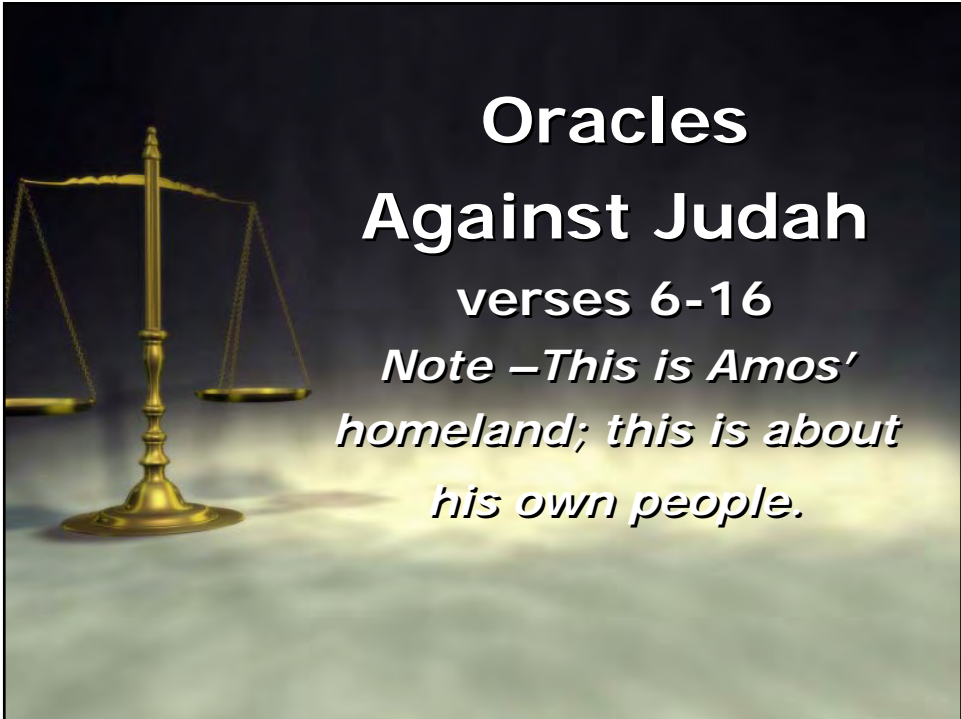
Moab was to the east of the Dead Sea, at its southern edge



⁴Thus 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 they have been led astray by the same lies after which their ancestors walked.

⁵So I will send a fire on Judah, and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem.

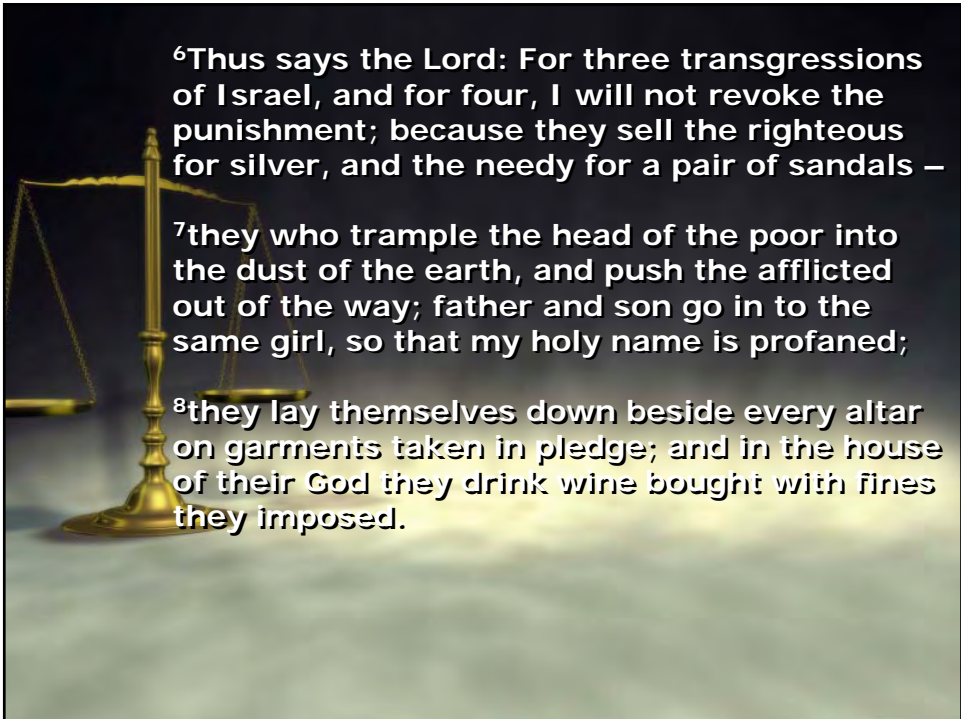
Oracle against Judah – this is Amos' homeland (hits his own people before saying anything about Israel!)



Oracles Against Judah

verses 6-16

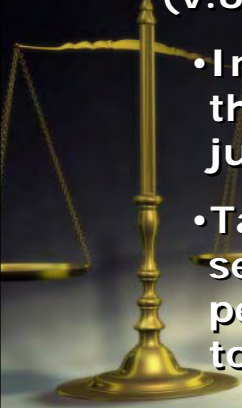
Note –This is Amos' homeland; this is about his own people.



⁶Thus 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 –

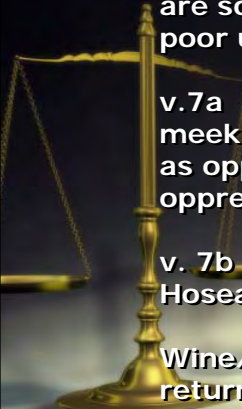
⁷they who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth, and push the afflicted out of the way; father and son go in to the same girl, so that my holy name is profaned;

⁸they lay themselves down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge; and in the house of their God they drink wine bought with fines they imposed.



**Rebellion in national life
(v.6-8) no due process of law!**

- Inhuman treatment of poor – sell the righteous for silver (bribery of judges!);
- Take advantage of small debt to sell the poor into slavery – sell people for price of shoes (\$75 today's money).



v.7 The poor, as an act of mourning, would put dust upon their heads. Here Amos suggests that the rich are so greedy that they want even the dust that the poor use for mourning.

v.7a "Afflicted" – better word for afflicted is MEEK, meek do not complain, accept their circumstances as opposed to the brutal self-assertion of their oppressors.

v. 7b Temple prostitution – the 'sacred harlot.' Hosea also speaks about against this.

Wine/garments – given against a loan; rule was to return them at sundown – here they are devoured.

“GOD’S REVELATION IN HISTORY”



⁹Yet I destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of cedars, and who was as strong as oaks; I destroyed his fruit above, and his roots beneath.

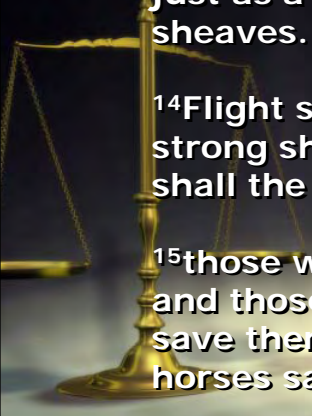
¹⁰Also I brought you up out of the land of Egypt, and led you for forty years in the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite.

¹¹And I raised up some of your children to be prophets and some of your youths to be nazirites. Is it not indeed so, O people of Israel? says the Lord.

¹²But you made the nazirites drink wine, and commanded the prophets, saying, ‘You shall not prophesy.’

v. 11 Nazirites – the separated or consecrated ones. In later times they vowed not to cut their hair –also abstained from wine.

“THE COMING JUDGMENT”

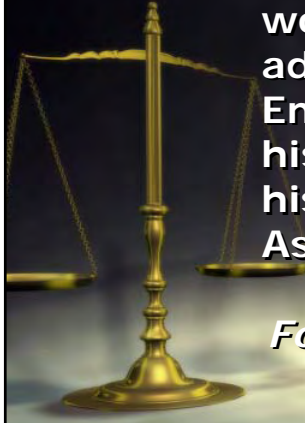


¹³So, I will press you down in your place, just as a cart presses down when it is full of sheaves.

¹⁴Flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not retain their strength, nor shall the mighty save their lives;

¹⁵those who handle the bow shall not stand, and those who are swift of foot shall not save themselves, nor shall those who ride horses save their lives;

¹⁶and those who are stout of heart among the mighty shall flee away naked on that day, says the Lord.



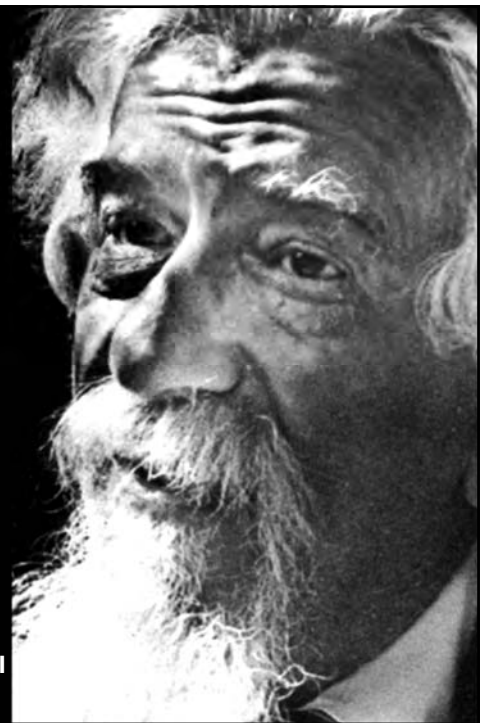
Israel and her neighbors, because of her gross sins, would be devastated with the advance of the Assyrian Empire. God would work out his righteousness in human history using the enemy, Assyria.

For greed and lust there would be complete destruction.

SUMMARY

"A Prophet was someone who said NO to his society, condemning its habits and assumptions, its complacency, waywardness and syncretism. He was often compelled to proclaim the very opposite of what his heart expected. His fundamental objective was to reconcile man and God. Why do the two need reconciliation? Perhaps it is due to man's false sense of sovereignty, to his abuse of freedom, to his aggressive, sprawling pride, resenting God's involvement in history."

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Next Week: November 6

THE
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AMOS
CHAPTERS 3 & 4

