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I. Review

A. Who: Amos was a prophet of God from Judah

B. Where: Northern Kingdom of Israel

1. During this time, the nation of Israel (the northern kingdom) was enjoying a time of peace & prosperity. They had control over trade routes and wealth began to accumulate but mainly in the hands of the commercial barons.
2. "These were days of outward prosperity in Israel, but from a spiritual standpoint these were terrible times. Amos was sent right to the center of corruption, namely, the cult city of Bethel, most probably in the Kings court. (Amos 7:13)

C. Oracles so far:

1. Vs 3-5 Damascus – Decimated God's People with Cruelty and Brutality "*Because they threshed Gilead with implements of sharp iron*"
2. Vs 6-8 Gaza - Deported and Enslaved Large Numbers of God's People "*Because they deported an entire population to deliver it up to Edom*"
3. Vs 9-10 Against Tyre - Delivered up God's People in Violation of a Peace Pact - "*Because they delivered up an entire population to Edom and did not remember the covenant of brotherhood.*"
4. Vs 11-12 Against Edom - Denied Forgiveness and Compassion in Relentlessly Pursuing Hatred and Violence - "*Because he pursued his brother with the sword, while he stifled his compassion; His anger also tore continually, and he maintained his fury forever.*"
5. Vs 13-15 Against Ammon - Devastated God's People in Covetous Kingdom Expansion - "*Because they ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead in order to enlarge their borders.*"
6. Vs 2:1-3 Against Moab - Desecrated the Dead in Act of Disrespect and Degradation "*Because he burned the bones of the king of Edom to lime.*"
7. Vs 2:4 – 5 Against Judah – Rejected the law of the Lord and loved the world - "*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.*"

*J A Motyer - "While Amos was thus winning his audiences attention to his message it is probable that few of them gave attention to the fact that the review of the encircling nations was a noose of judgement about to tighten around their own necks"*

8. Amos has laid a perfect rhetorical trap -Amos has gotten his audiences approval on 2 important points:
  - a) They agree Lord has right to judge all peoples
  - b) Any violation of God's law is an acceptable ground for His judgement

## II. Oracle to Israel

### A. Israel's recent sins (vs 6-8)

1. Social injustice – Oppression against their brothers - the Lord sees the wealthy and powerful getting rich on the misfortunes of the poor & afflicted
  - a) God's own people sold the righteous for money - violation of laws governing humane treatment of slaves (Ex. 21:2-11, & Je 34:8-22)
  - b) God's own people sold the needy for sandals. - perhaps refers to giving false witness for money, but it might also speak of selling someone into slavery for indebtedness over something as paltry as a pair of sandals (Lev. 25:39-43).
  - c) God's own people took advantage of the helpless. (Ex. 23:6-8)
  - d) Now God's Word was given to His people and in His Word He told His people that He wanted them to be very generous and open-handed to a poor brother and God said that if His people would do this, He would bless them and prosper them in all their work. (Deut. 15:7-8)
2. Immorality
  - a) Sins of incest (Lev. 18:6-18; Deut. 22:30) and of ritual prostitution (Deut. 23:17-18) - Fathers and sons visiting the same prostitute. These may have been "cult prostitutes" who were a part of the heathen idolatrous worship. If so there was a double sin involved: immorality and idolatry. Or the girl may have been a household servant or a common prostitute.
  - b) Regardless of what the act of disobedience was, it was rebellion against God and defiled His holy name. Taking the Lord's name in vain: claiming to know God while despising his instruction, claiming His favor while ignoring His commands
3. Idolatry
  - a) God's own people took away people's clothing. (Ex. 22:26-27, Deut. 24: 10-13)
  - b) God's own people stretch out before sacred altars.
  - c) God's own people fined people by taking their wine and drinking it at the house of God.
4. They had lost their way – they looked no different than the nations
  - a) Covetousness & greed had replaced contentment & generosity
  - b) Abuse of misuse of power had replaced justice & righteousness
  - c) Haughtiness & self-assurance had replaced humility
  - d) Gluttony & hedonism had replaced principled self-control
  - e) Rituals and religious formalism had replaced covenant faithfulness

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- B. They had forgotten God's Past Grace (vs 10-11)
    - 1. God had led His people out of Egypt
    - 2. cared for them in the wilderness
    - 3. destroyed other nations so the Jews could claim their inheritance in Canaan
    - 4. He gave them His Word through chosen prophets
    - 5. He raised up dedicated people like the Nazirites (Num. 6) to be examples of devotion to God.
  - C. Israel had responded to God's grace by (v. 12)
    - 1. rebelling against the Lord by rejecting the messages of the prophets
    - 2. forcing the Nazirites to break their holy vows.
  - D. Israel's consequent punishment (vs 13-16)
    - 1. Israel would be crushed by their own sins just as a loaded cart crushes whatever it rolls over. Judgment is coming, and nobody will be able to escape.
    - 2. The swift won't be able to run away;
    - 3. the strong won't be able to defend themselves;
    - 4. the armed will be as if unarmed;
    - 5. and even the horsemen will be unable to flee.
    - 6. The bravest soldiers will run away while shedding their equipment and clothing so they can run faster.
  - E. Future Fulfillment: Assyria would invade Israel (720 B.C.) and the nation would be no more. 2Ki 17:5-23

### III. Implications for us today

- A. Belief determines actions - Truth of God is clearly shown but we reject it and exchange it for a lie

***Romans 1:18–23 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.***

- B. We never outgrow our need for gratitude and our need to learn

***Colossians 3:16–17 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.***

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C. The greater the revelation, the greater the responsibility

**Luke 12:48 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.**

D. All of us deserve God's judgement, to hear His Roar, but those of us who have faith in Jesus Christ are no longer an object of divine wrath. Christ's righteousness has been imputed to us and God is never judicially displeased with His children. However, we will have tribulation.

1. Those who do not believe in the Son, who do not receive Him as Savior, will be judged on the day of wrath

**Romans 2:5–6 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works**

2. Jesus never tells the elect that in this world they will not have trouble—even at times the same kind of violent trouble as the unsaved—but just the opposite:

**John 16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."**

3. Those who believe in Jesus will not suffer God's wrath for his sin, because Jesus took God's wrath upon Himself when He died in our place on the cross

**Romans 5:6–11 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.**

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