

AMOS.

(DATE 787 B.C.)

1 **T**HE Messages by Amos, who was among the herdsmen in Thekoa, when he meditated about Israel in the days of Uziah, king of Judah, and in the days of Jerabam-ben-Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake, and he said;—

An Announcement to the People.

2 The LORD from Zion will roar,
And His voice from Jerusalem utter,
And the pasture of Shepherds will fade,
And the summit of Karmel will wither!

The Doom of Damascus.

3 The LORD declares thus;—
“For three sins of Damask, and for four,
I will not refrain to requite!
She thrashed Gilad with iron flails.
4 So to Hazael's House I send fire,
Which shall eat up the Hall of Benhadad,
5 And break all the bars of Damask,
And from Aven's Valley cut men,
And will seize on the Staff of Beth-Eden,
And drive off Aram's people to Kir,”
Says the LORD.

The Doom of Gaza.

6 The Lord proclaims thus;—
“For three sins of Gaza's, and four,
I will not refrain to requite!—
For she captured the captives in peace,
And to Edom delivered them up!
7 So to Gaza's walls I will send fire,
Which will eat up Her Halls,
8 And will cut off the people from Ashdod,
And Askalon's Ruler will slay,
And against Akron turning My hand,
All Philistia's remnant shall fall,”
Says the LORD!

The Doom of Tzur.

9 The LORD declares thus:—
“For three sins of Tzur, and for four,
I will not refrain to requite!—
They delivered the captives to Edom;—
Not remembering the treaty of friends!—
10 To the ramparts of Tzur I send fire,
And it shall devour her Halls!”

The Doom of Edom.

The LORD proclaims thus;— 11
 "For three sins of Edom, and four,
 I will not refrain to requite!—
 For his brother he chased with a sword,
 Stifled pity and tore in his rage,
 And continued his fury for ever!
 So I will send fire to Themen, 12
 And devour the Mansions of Bozrah."

The Doom of the Beni-Amon.

The LORD proclaims thus;— 13
 "For three sins of Ben-Amon, and four,
 I will not refrain to requite!
 In Gilad they ripped up the pregnant,
 That they might widen their bounds;
 So I set Rabah's ramparts on fire, 14
 And devour his Halls with such roar
 As they hear in the day of a fight,
 Or a storm in the day of a wreck,
 And their King shall go out as a slave, 15
 Himself and along with his Chiefs,"
 Says the LORD!

The Doom of Moab.

The LORD proclaims thus;— 2
 "For three sins of Moab, and four,
 I will not refrain to requite!—
 For he burnt Edom's King's bones to lime!—
 So I will send fire to Moab,— 2
 And burn up the Halls of Kiriath,
 And Moab shall die with a shout,
 And the loud blaring voice of a horn,
 When I cut off her Judge in his hall, 3
 And slay all his nobles around!"
 Says the LORD!

The Doom of Judah.

The LORD proclaims thus;— 4
 "For three sins of Judah, and four,
 I will not refrain to requite!—
 They abandoned the Laws of the LORD,
 And did not preserve His decrees;—
 But wandered away to their Lies,
 As their fathers before them had gone;
 So I will send fire to Judah, 5
 And devour Jerusalem's Halls."

The Doom of Israel.

The LORD proclaims thus;— 6
 "For three sins of Israel, and four,
 I will not refrain to requite!—
 For they sell the Righteous for cash,
 And the poor for a new pair of shoes!
 Pant for the dust on the head of the weak. 7
 And the path of the weary destroy;
 Son and father debauch the same girl!—
 Yes! thus my HOLY NAME they defile!
 Pawned clothing they spread beside every altar, 8
 And drink mad'ning wine in the House of their Gods!

- 9 " Yet the Amorites tall as the cedars,
I formerly drove from their face.—
They were lofty and strong as the oaks,
Yet their fruit I destroyed from above,
And their roots from below.
- 10 And from Mitzer's country I brought you,
And marched forty years in the Waste,—
To conquer the Amorites' land.
- 11 And Preachers I raised from your sons,
And Nazarites from your young men ;—
Sons of Israel did I not do so ?"
Asks the LORD!
- 12 But you gave to your Nazarites wine!
Have forbidden your Preachers to preach!—
- 13 Oh! I am crushed underneath you,
As a cart that is loaded with sheaves!
- 14 But swiftness shall fail to the swift,
And the strong not prevail by his strength,
And the brave shall not rescue his life,
- 15 Nor the archer be able to stand,
Nor the light-footed able to fly,
Nor the horseman escape with his life ;
- 16 But the bold-hearted hero be stripped,—
He shall fly in that day," says the LORD.

A Warning to Israel.

- 3 Listen to the message which the
Lord commands to you,—Sons of
Israel!—to all the families I brought
up from the land of the Mitzeraim,
when He said,—
- 2 "I have only selected you out of all
the families of the earth, therefore I
will punish all your faults upon
yourselves."
- 3 Can two walk together unless they
4 are in agreement? Does a lion roar
in a forest when he has no prey?
Does a tiger howl from his den unless
5 he has game? Can a bird fall into a
trap on the ground where there is
- not a snare set for it? Do they take
a trap from the ground when it has
caught no game? Can a trumpet be 6
blown in a town and people not
collect? If there is misfortune to a
town, has not the EVER-LIVING
produced it?
- However the MIGHTY LORD will 7
not produce an event without dis-
closing His intention to His servants
the prophets.
- The Lion has roared—who should 8
not fear?—The MIGHTY LORD has
commanded,—who would not preach?

The Proclamation against Shomeron.

I.

- 9 " Proclaim on the mansions of Ashdod,
And the Mansions of Mitzeraim's land!
Say ' Assemble on Shomeron's Mountains,—
And survey the great riots within,
And the outrages done in her breast!'
10 For they know not to practise the right,"
Says the LORD,
" They store up oppression and wrong,
In their Halls!

II.

- 11 " So," thus says the MIGHTY JEHOVAH,
" A Robber shall close round the land,
And pull down your power from off you,
And plunder your Halls."

A Plea with Israel to Repent.

- Thus says the LORD!— 12
- "As after a lion a shepherd picks up
Two feet, or the part of an ear,—
So shall the children of Israel be
At Shomeron hid in a nook,
Or laid in a bed in Damask.
- "Oh House of Jacob! rouse, listen and wake," 13
Says the MIGHTY LORD GOD of Sabaoth!
"For when I bring Israel's sin on himself,
And punish the Altars of Bethel, 14
I will cut off the horns of his altars,
And throw to the ground!
When I cut off the Palace of Winter, 15
Along with the House in the Park,
And abolish the houses of marble,
Then many buildings shall fall!"
Says the LORD!

A Warning to Corrupt Women.

- 4 Listen to this Message, you cows
of Bashan, who are on the hills of
Shomeron! Who oppress the weak,
who crush the wretched, but say to
your masters, "Come on! Let us
2 drink!"—The MIGHTY LORD has
sworn by His holiness that the times
shall come upon you when you shall
be hung on hooks and your followers
3 on fish hooks, and you shall be pulled
out quivering,—and as an exposed
woman,—and they will fling you to
the public," says the EVER-LIVING.
- 4 "Come to Bethel and sin! To
Gilgal and multiply sins!—Bring
your sacrifices to the Morning,—and
5 your three yearly tithes, and incense
with ferment,—give thanks and offer
your vows in public,—for you love
6 that, Sons of Israel! Therefore I,
also, have given you cleanness of
teeth in all your towns, because you
have not turned to Me," says the
7 EVER-LIVING. "And I have also held
back the showers from you, in the
third month at harvest, and have
rained upon a village here, and not
upon a village there;—I rained rain
upon one district,—but the district
8 not rained upon withered. So two
or three villages travelled to the one
village to drink water, but were not
refreshed,—yet they did not turn to
Me," says the EVER-LIVING.
- "Then I inflicted upon you blight,— 9
with mildew upon your plentiful
gardens, and vine and fig, and olive
yards. The grub devoured them.—
But you did not return to Me," says
the EVER-LIVING.
- "Is not your disease from the 10
direction of the Mitzeraim?—I slew
your soldiers by the sword, with the
loss of your heroes. I have brought
the stink of your camps to your nose;
—but you have not turned to Me,"
says the EVER-LIVING.
- "I have overwhelmed among you, 11
as when GOD overwhelmed Sodom
and Gomorah, and you became like
a stick snatched from a fire;—but
you have not turned to Me," says the
EVER-LIVING.
- Consequently I will do thus to you, 12
revolting Israel!—and because I do
it to you, Israel, prepare to meet your
GOD!—for be sure that the Former 13
of the Hills,—the Creator of the
Wind,—the Reporter to man of what
He decides—Who uses the wings of
darkness, and walks on the heights
of the earth,—His Name is the LORD
OF HOSTS!
- Listen to this message that I bring 5
to you;—

The Lament for the House of Israel.

- Israel's daughter has fallen and cannot arise! 2
She lies stretched on the ground without help!
- 3 For thus says the MIGHTY LORD,—
"To the City that brought out a
thousand, a hundred are left; and
where a hundred came out, ten are
left to the House of Israel."
Thus says the EVER-LIVING to the 4

- House of Israel—"Seek Me and you
5 will live; but seek not Bethel, and go
not to Gilgal, nor pass on to Bar-
sheba,—for Gilgal will be carried off,
and Bethel become empty."
6 Seek the LIFE and you shall live!—
If not He will fall like fire on the House
of Joseph, and consume and be un-
7 quenchable in Bethel!—You who
turn Justice into distress, and fling
8 right to the ground!—concocting
clouds and stupidity, and pouring the
shadow of death on the morning, and
dark Night upon Day, and demand
the waters of the Sea, and pour them
on the face of the land!—
9 His Name is the LIFE, "Who flashes
destruction on Power, and brings
destruction on the Mighty!
10 They hate the public reprove,—
abhor the speaker of truth.
11 Therefore, although you trample
upon the poor, and take a tax on his
corn, to build yourselves houses of
cut stone,—you shall not reside in
them. You plant delightful vineyards,
12 but shall not drink their wine. For
I know your many vices, and your
mighty sins!—you oppressors of
right;—you takers of bribes;—and
you wrong the wretched in the Courts
13 of Justice. So the Prudent in this
age is dumb!—for it is a bad period!
14 Seek Good and not evil! that you
may live,—and then the LORD GOD
OF HOSTS will be with you, as you
15 assert.—Hate Evil and love Good,—
Establish justice in your Law Courts!
—Perhaps the LORD OF HOSTS will
be merciful to the fragments of
Joseph!
16 However, thus says the LORD GOD
OF HOSTS, THE MIGHTY,—“There
shall be mourning in all the squares!
and they shall exclaim in all the
streets, ‘Alas! Alas!’ and call the
farmer to grieve, and the professors
17 of wailing to mourn;—And all
vine-dressers to lament, when I
pass through your breast,” says the
EVER-LIVING.
18 Woe to you, wishing for the Day of
the LORD!—It will be darkness and
19 not Light! As a man flying from
the presence of a lion,—and a bear
meets him, or entering a house, and
laying his hand on the wall, and a
20 serpent bites,—The Day of the LORD
will be Darkness and not Light,—and
Blackness and without splendour!

A Denunciation of Hypocrisy.

I hate, I reject your feasts! I am 21
not pleased with your assemblings!
When you offer burnt-offerings with 22
foods, I am not gratified!—and I will
not look at your fat thank-offerings!
Take away the drone of your songs!
And let Me not hear the tone of your 23
lutes!—But let Justice flow like
brooks, and right like a constant river! 24
Did you present to Me for the forty 25
years in the Desert, sacrifices and
offerings?—House of Israel?—When 26
you erected your tent to Molok, and
shrines for your Star-god, Kion—
whom you made for yourselves?—
So I will transport you from here to 27
Damascus, the EVER-LIVING declares,
—Whose name is the LORD GOD OF
HOSTS!

Woe to the luxurious in Zion, and 6
the idle in Shomeron! What worth-
less chiefs of the heathen you go
to, House of Israel! You went to
Kalnah and looked; and from there to
Hamath the Great, and thence to the
House of Philistia! Are these king- 2
doms better? Their boundaries than
your boundaries?—You put off the 3
bad day,—but bring on destruction
and ruin! You lie on ivory and 4
stretch yourselves on cushions and
eat the fat lambs from the flock and
calves from the stall.—You trill songs 5
like lovers to the tune of the harp,
contriving the means of song.—You 6
quaff your cups of wine and dress
your heads with the finest oils,—and
grieve not for broken Joseph!—
Therefore now they shall be trans- 7
ported with the first transports—and
the sound of luxury cease!

The MIGHTY LORD has sworn by 8
His soul, says the LORD GOD OF
HOSTS, “I loathe the pride of Jacob,
and hate his palaces,—so I will
abandon his city and its contents.
And then if two men lodge in a single 9
house they shall die; and the man’s 10
relative will take him up from the
house and burn his bones in the
streets, and ask the others at the
back of the house,—‘Are there any
more with you?’ and they will reply
‘None,’ and add ‘Be silent,—for we
did not remember the Name of the
LORD!’”

For be sure the EVER-LIVING has 11
decreed it,—and will knock the Great
House to pieces, and the Cottage to
splinters!

12 "Can horses gallop up a precipice?
or bullocks plough it?—Yet you have
turned Justice to bitterness, and the
fruit of Righteousness into worm-
13 wood! You delighters in delusive
things, who say 'Have we not obtained
14 our horns by our own might?' Yet I
will rise against you, House of Israel,"
says the LORD GOD OF HOSTS, "a
Nation to afflict you, from the Pass of
Hamath, to the River of the Arbah."

The Vision of the Locusts.

7 The EVER-LIVING GOD showed me
the following;—

He formed locusts after the sprout-
ing of the aftermath which springs
2 up after the Royal mowing. And
when they had totally consumed the
grass from the earth I exclaimed,
"MIGHTY LORD! Pardon now,—can
Jacob endure it? for he is little!"

3 The EVER-LIVING had pity at that,
"It shall not continue," the LIFE
said.

4 Then the MIGHTY GOD enlightened
me, and summoned a great Fire,—
and it devoured the great deep and
5 would have consumed the land!—but
I exclaimed, "MIGHTY LORD! Stop
it. How can Jacob endure it? for he
is little."

6 The EVER-LIVING had pity for
that; "This also shall not continue,"
the MIGHTY LORD said.

7 Again he enlightened me, and I
saw a Prince stand on a wall to plumb
it,—with the plumb line in his hand.
8 And the EVER-LIVING asked me,
"What do you see now, Amos?"
And I replied, "A plumber."

Then the Noble said to me—"I
will drop a plummet into the breast
of My People Israel. I will not en-
9 dure them longer, but the Mounds of
Isaac shall be desolated, and the
Sanctuaries of Israel burnt to ashes,
and I will rise against the House of
Jerebam with a sword."

The Priest of Bethel Denounces Amos.

10 Amaziah the Priest of Bethel con-
sequently sent to Jerebam, King of
Israel, to say;—"Amos is conspiring
against you in the centre of the House
of Israel;—the country cannot bear

the load of all his speeches. For Amos 11
asserts that the Family of Jerebam
shall be killed by the sword, and that
Israel will be transported from its
own country!"

Amaziah also said to Amos:—"Go, 12
you Visionary,—fly to the land of
Judah! and eat your bread there,
and preach there, and never return 13
to Bethel to preach;—for it is a Royal
Temple, and Royal Palace!"

Amos, however, answered and said 14
to Amaziah, "I was not a Preacher,
nor the Pupil of a Preacher,—but a
herdsman, and gatherer of wild figs!
But the EVER-LIVING took me from 15
the flocks, and the LIFE said to
me;—'Go! preach to My People
Israel!' Therefore now listen to 16
the message from the EVER-LIVING!
—You say 'Preach not to Israel,'
and 'Do not drivel against the House
of Jacob!' But the EVER-LIVING, 17
however, says, 'Your wife shall be
outraged in this city, and your sons
and daughters will fall by the sword,
and your estate be divided by lots,
and yourself shall die in the degraded
land, and Israel will be transported
from its own soil!'"

The Vision of a Basket of Fruit.

Then the MIGHTY LORD en- 8
lightened me, and I saw a basket
of fruit, and He asked me, "What 2
are you looking at, Amos?" And I
replied, "A basket of fruit."

Then the EVER-LIVING said to me,
"The harvest of My People Israel
has come! I will not cease until it
is gone through!—And the Songs 3
in the Temple shall be howling at
that time," said the MIGHTY LORD,
"with plenty of corpses flung in
every place!"

A Denunciation of Villains.

Hear this, you devourers of the 4
poor!—who exhaust the wretched of
this country! Who ask "When will 5
the New Moon be passed, when we
can sell corn!—and the Sabbath so
that we may expose grain?"—Who
lessen the Ephah,—and increase the
shekel, and swindle by small scales!
Who buy the bankrupts for silver, 6
and the helpless for a pair of
slippers! But refuse to sell grain!

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob,
I will never forget your deeds!

Will not the land tremble for them?
And all of its residents mourn?—

7

8

And rise and toss like a swelling stream,
 Then sink like the river of Mitzer?
 9 And in that day, says the MIGHTY LORD,
 I will take away the Sun at its noon,
 And darken the earth in daylight;
 10 And change your Feasts to Mournings,
 And all your Songs into Wailings!
 And put sacks upon all your loins,
 And baldness on every head,
 And make it like grief for a loved one,
 And its end be a bitter day!
 11 "See! The days come," said the MIGHTY LORD,
 "When a famine I send to the land!—
 Not a rage for bread, or a water thirst,
 But for hearing the word of the LORD!
 12 When they will wander from sea to sea,—
 And flit from the West to the East,
 To seek the Word of the LORD,
 And shall not be able to find!
 13 "In that day the beautiful girls
 And the youths shall faint with thirst,
 14 Those who swear by Shomeron's Sins,
 And assert 'By the Life of Dan's God!'
 And 'the Life of the One of Barsheba,'
 Shall fall, and shall rise never more."

A Vision of Moab.

9 I saw the Prince standing upon the Altar and he said:—
 "Strike the tops of the columns,
 And then the bases will shake!
 And smash all their tops,
 When I will destroy with a sword,
 And none of them shall escape,—
 Nor to a refuge shall fly.
 2 And if they dig down to the Grave—
 Then My hand can take them from there!
 Or if they mount up to the skies,
 From there I can bring them all down.
 3 And if they should hide upon Karmel,
 I will search and will catch them there.—
 If they hide from my eyes in the South,
 To the depths of the sea I will go!
 And will order a serpent to sting!
 Or, if their foes take them as captives,
 4 Even there I can make the sword slay!
 Mine eyes will look on them for evil,
 And never for good!"
 5 For the MIGHTY LORD OF HOSTS
 Will touch the land and melt,
 And all its dwellers waste;
 And rising like a torrent
 Will o'erwhelm like Mitzer's stream.
 6 He built the Heavens, His Chambers,
 And formed the vault o'er earth;
 He called the Sea of Waters,
 And spread them over the land;
 And His Name is the LIFE!

God's Remonstrance to His People.

7 "Are you not the same to Me as the sons of the Kushites, sons of Israel?" the EVER-LIVING asks.—"Did I not bring Israel up from the land of the Mitzeraim? and the Philistine from Kapthor? And Aram from Kir? Be certain the eyes of the MIGHTY LORD are upon your sinful Kingdom, and He will destroy it from off the face of the ground.—Except that I will not quite destroy the Family of Jacob," says the EVER-LIVING, "for though I have commanded to roll the Family of Israel amongst the Heathen as they roll things in a sieve, yet not a seed shall fall to the ground. But

all the sinners of My People shall die by the sword, who say 'Misfortunes will not catch, or meet, or surround us!'"

God's Promise to His People.

"In a Time to Come, I will raise the fallen Tent of David, and repair its rags, and will restore his ruins, and will rebuild them as in the olden times,—so that they may possess the remnants of Edom, and all the Nations who call with them on My Name," says the EVER-LIVING, Who will effect it!

The Psalm of Promise.

"Be assured the times come," says the LORD,
 "When the ploughman shall follow the reaper,
 And the presser of grapes follow sowers of seeds,
 When the mountains shall drip with sweet wine,
 And with it the Highlands shall melt. 13

"When Israel My People from slavery I bring,
 To rebuild and dwell in their desolate Towns;
 Plant vineyards, and feast on their grapes,
 And make gardens, and eat of their fruits;—
 And plant in the soil I gave as their own. 14
 I will not pluck again from that ground 15
 That I gave to them," says the LORD GOD.

END OF THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET AMOS.