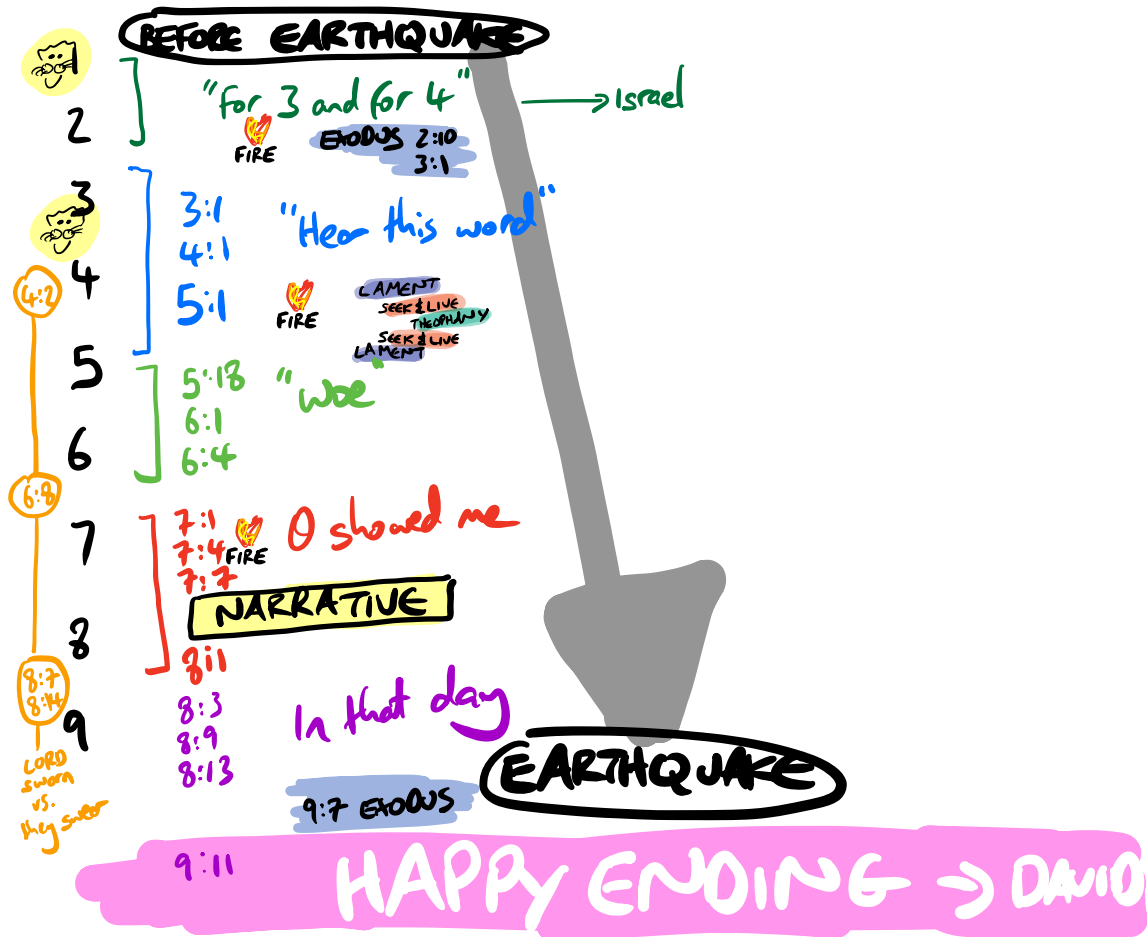
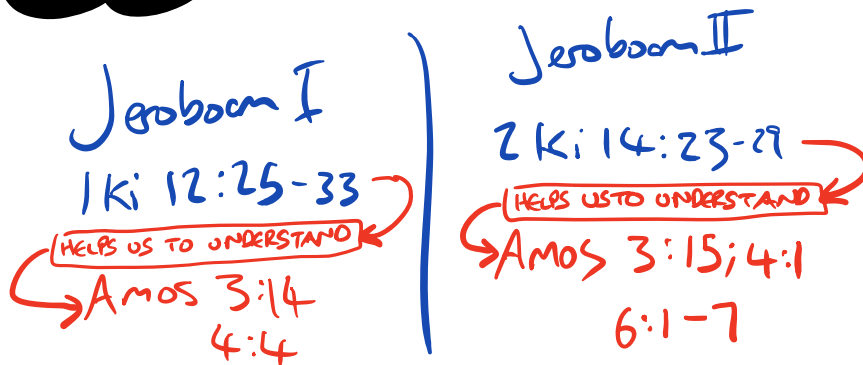


STRUCTURE OF AMOS



CONTEXT





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

² And he said:

“The LORD roars from Zion
and utters his voice from Jerusalem;
the pastures of the shepherds mourn,
and the top of Carmel withers.”

³ 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.”

⁶ Thus says the LORD

For three transgressions of **Gaza**,
and for four, I will not revoke the
punishment,
because they cast into exile a whole
people
to deliver them up to Edom...

Thus says the LORD:

For three transgressions of Tyre,
and for four, I will not revoke the
punishment,

...because they delivered
to Edom.
...did not remember the covenant of
brotherhood...

11 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 his shield,
and his anger was kindled continually,
and he kept his wrath forever...

¹³ Thus says the LORD

“For three transgressions of the Ammonites, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,” because they have ripped open their flanks for women in Gilead, that they might enlarge their borders.

2 Thus says the LORD:

For three transgressions of Moab,
and for four, I will not revoke the
punishment,
because he has sold to lime
the bones of his king of Edom...

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 despised his statutes,
but their lies have led them astray,
those anathema, each their fathers
walked...

⁶ Thus says the LORD:

“For three transgressions of ...

3⁸ The lion has roared;

who will not fear?]
The Lord GOD has spoken;
who can but prophesy?"

Amos 1:1 – 3:8

- God is a lion
- He prowls around those who oppress his people (1:3, 6, 9, 11, 13)
 - (and those who oppress those who oppress his people, 2:1)
- In particular, he is ready to devour corrupt *kings* (1:5, 8, 15; 2:3)
- But here is the central “plank” of the argument...

CHAPTER 4

Amos 4:1 "Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to your husbands, 'Bring, that we may drink!'"

2 "The Lord God has sworn by his holiness that, behold, the days are coming upon you, when they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks."

3 "And you shall go out through the breaches, each one straight ahead; and you shall be cast out into Harmon," declares the Lord.

Amos 4:4 "Come to Bethel, and transgress; to Gilgal, and multiply transgression; bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes every three days; offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened, and proclaim 'freewill offerings, proclaim them; for so you love to do, O people of Israel!'" declares the Lord God.

Amos 4:5 "I will send locusts in all your cities, and lack of bread in all your places, yet you have not returned to me," declares the Lord.

Amos 4:6 "I have withheld the rain from you when there were yet three months to the harvest; I would send rain on one city, and send drought on another city, one field would have rain, and the field on which it did not rain would wither; so two or three cities would wander to another city to drink water, and would not be satisfied; yet you did not return to me," declares the Lord.

Amos 4:7 "I struck you with blight and mildew; your many fig trees and your vineyards, your fig trees and your olive trees the locust devoured; yet you did not return to me," declares the Lord.

Amos 4:8 "I sent among you locusts in the morning of Egypt; I killed your young men, I plucked the tower, and I carried away your horses, and I made the stench of your camp go up into your nostrils; yet you did not return to me," declares the Lord.

Amos 4:9 "I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were 'as a brand' plucked out of the burning; yet you did not return to me," declares the Lord.

Amos 4:10 "Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"

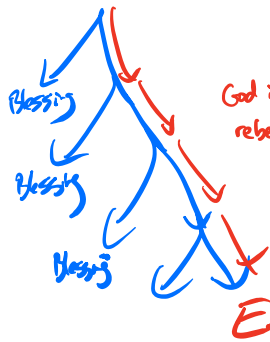
Amos 4:11 For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth—the Lord, the God of hosts, is his name!

Deut 28

Lev 26

v17
v23-24
v22
v38
v21
v26

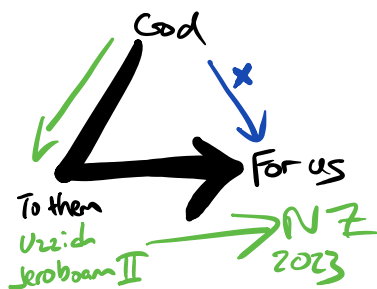
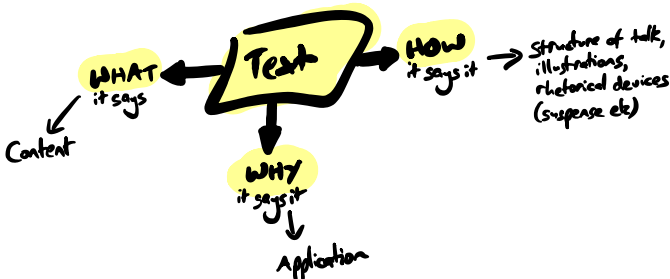
v26
v19
v25
v17



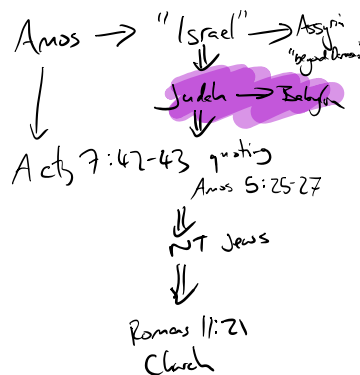
God is slow to anger. Only by persisted rebellion can you end up in exile

and even then in chapter 5

God offers life: "Seek me and live"
"Seek the LORD and live"
"Seek good not evil that you may live"



BUT is a better shaped triangle than



We get a big clue how to apply Amos from Stephen's speech in Acts 7, where he quotes it a little differently

AMOS 5:25-27: Israel will go into exile "Beyond Damascus"

Stephen quoting Amos: Israel will go into exile "Beyond Babylon"

ie Amos message has been reapplied to Judah who face their own later exile. But then Stephen reapplies this again to his apostate Jewish persecutors

Then we can apply the warning to apostate 1st century Jews to a mixed Jew-Gentile church by way of Romans 11:21

CHAPTER 7

① This is what the Sovereign LORD showed me: He was preparing swarms of locusts after the king's share had been harvested and just as the late crops were coming up. ² When they had stripped the land clean, I cried out, "Sovereign LORD, forgive! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!"
³ So the LORD relented.

② "This will not happen," the LORD said.
 This is what the Sovereign LORD showed me: The Sovereign LORD was calling for judgment by fire; it dried up the great deep and devoured the land. ⁵ Then I cried out, "Sovereign LORD, I beg you, stop! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!"
⁶ So the LORD relented.

③ "This will not happen either," the Sovereign LORD said.
 This is what he showed me: The LORD was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸ And the LORD asked me, "What do you see, Amos?"
 "A plumb line," I replied.

Then the LORD said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer."
⁹ "The high places of Isaac will be destroyed and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined; with my sword I will rise against the house of Jeroboam."
¹⁰ Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: "Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. ¹¹ For this is what Amos is saying:
 "Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land."
¹² Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. ¹³ Don't prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king's sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom."
¹⁴ Amos answered Amaziah, "I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. ¹⁵ But the LORD took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' ¹⁶ Now then, hear the word of the LORD. You say,
 "Do not prophesy against Israel, and stop preaching against the descendants of Isaac."
¹⁷ Therefore this is what the LORD says:
 "Your wife will become a prostitute in the city, and your sons and daughters will fall by the sword. Your land will be measured and divided up, and you yourself will die in a pagan country. And Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land."
 This is what the Sovereign LORD showed me: a basket of ripe fruit. ² "What do you see, Amos?" I asked.
 "A basket of ripe fruit," I answered.

Then the LORD said to me, "The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer."
³ "In that day," declares the Sovereign LORD, "the songs in the temple will turn to wailing. Many, many bodies—flung everywhere! Silence!"

AMOS PRAYS
MERCY x2

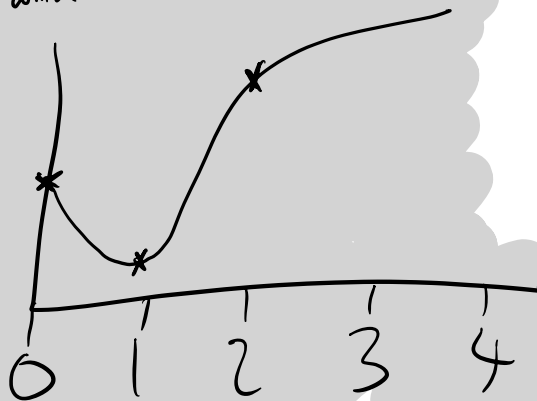
AMAZIAH
REJECTS WORD
JUDGEMENT
x2

THEME: FROM PROPHECY TO SILENCE

- ① Hear x3
 - ② (they don't hear)
 - ③ Woe
 - ④ "Shut up Amos"
 - ⑤ "Silence!"
 - ⑥ Famine of God's word
- ④-⑤ God starts to speak in riddles — 73x in walls and fruit baskets (cf. Jesus using parables in response to rejection)

ASIDE ON COMMENTARIES

Amount you engage with the text



Number of
Commentaries

Amos 9:1-10 (ESV)



⁹ I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and he said:

“Strike the capitals until the thresholds shake, and shatter them on the heads of all the people; and those who are left of them I will kill with the sword; not one of them shall flee away; not one of them shall escape.

² “If they dig into Sheol, from there shall my hand take them; if they climb up to heaven, from there I will bring them down.

³ If they hide themselves on the top of Carmel, from there I will search them out and take them; and if they hide from my sight at the bottom of the sea,

there I will command the serpent, and it shall bite them.

⁴ And if they go into captivity before their enemies,

there I will command the sword, and it shall kill them; and I will fix my eyes upon them for evil and not for good.”

⁵ The Lord God of hosts, he who touches the earth and it melts, and all who dwell in it mourn, and all of it rises like the Nile, and sinks again, like the Nile of Egypt; ⁶ who builds his upper chambers in the heavens and founds his vault upon the earth; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth—the Lord is his name.

⁷ “Are you not like the Cushites to me, O people of Israel?” declares the Lord. “Did I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt,

and the Philistines from Caphtor and the Syrians from Kir?”

⁸ Behold, the eyes of the Lord God are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the surface of the ground, except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob,” declares the Lord.

⁹ “For behold, I will command, and shake the house of Israel among all the nations as one shakes with a sieve, but no pebble shall fall to the earth.

¹⁰ All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, who say, ‘Disaster shall not overtake or meet us.’”

Introduction: the end of the world is nigh?



1) God warned of an “earthquake” and it will surely come

- a physical earthquake during the reign of Uzziah (Amos 1:1; cf. Zechariah 14:4-5)
- a political “earthquake” when the Assyrians invaded in 722BC (Amos 5:5, 27; 6:7; 7:11, 17)
- an iconoclastic “earthquake” when God destroys the golden-calf shrine (Amos 9:1)
- a final “earthquake” still to come (e.g. Matthew 25:31-32; Acts 17:31; Hebrews 12:26; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 1:7)

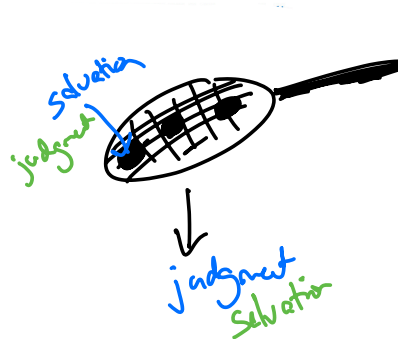
2) There’s nowhere you can hide (vv2-4) ...

3) ... from your Creator (vv5-6) ...

For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth—the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name! (Amos 4:13)

He who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the LORD is his name (Amos 5:8)

4) ... on the day of separation (vv7-10)



Amos 9:11-15 (ESV)

¹¹ “In that day I will raise up
the booth of David that is fallen
and repair its breaches,
and raise up its ruins
and rebuild it as in the days of old,
¹² that they may possess **the remnant of Edom**
and **all the nations who are called by my name,”**
declares the Lord who does this.
¹³ “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“when the ploughman shall overtake the reaper
and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed;
the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
and all the hills shall flow with it.
¹⁴ I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel,
and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine,
and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.
¹⁵ I will plant them on their land,
and they shall never again be uprooted
out of the land that I have given them,”
says the Lord your God.



Quoted
in Acts 15

How would you fix the world?

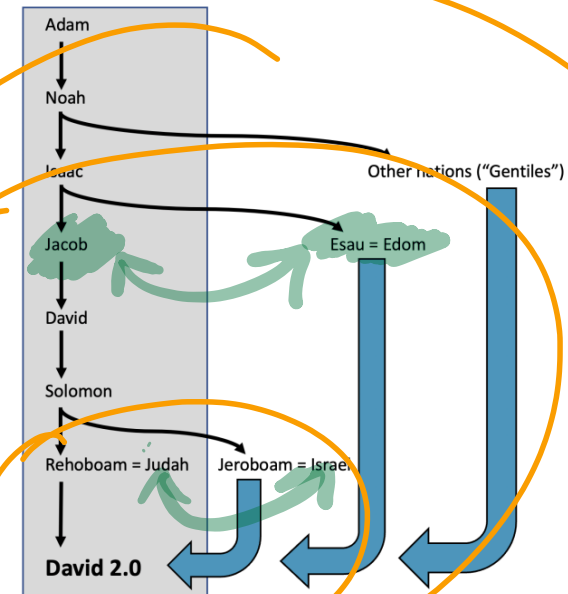
1) Watch God crown the rightful King - “David” (v11)

Get off the throne, Jeroboam!
(and anyone else who shouldn’t be there)

2) Experience the glorious blessing of his reign (v13-14)

3) For ever (v15)

4) For everyone who turns to God (v12; Acts 15:14-19)



Assyria
722 Bc

686/7 Bc
Babylon

Ezra/Nehemiah

**SOUTHERN
TRIBES RETURN
(EZRA/NEHEMIAH)**

NT

BUT RETURN OF
NORTHERN TRIBES,
WHO HAVE MIXED WITH
GENTILES, MEANS INGATHERING
OF GENTILES.

See how Acts 15 uses
Amos 9

And how Romans 9:24-26
applies Hosea

And the conclusion in John 4
that Jesus' welcome of a Samaritan
means he is "Saviour of the world"