

AMOS



Read Amos 1–2

Amos, a shepherd/rancher, hears the voice of God in a vision and then goes on to prophesy. Through Amos, God addresses oracles against the nations. They have all sinned in how they treat people, especially the poor. God did much for the people of Israel and they sinned in not following the commandments.

Reflect: People harm each other continually in history. Violence has too often characterized human relationships. God does not wish people to suffer violence. God will punish those who inflict punishment on others, especially on the poor and the innocent.

Pray: Prayer should never be divorced from the needs of people. Prayer demands an inclusion of those most in need of comfort and solace. Pray for the homeless and the weak.

Act: Pay attention to those who serve you in grocery stores. Treat them with respect.

1 The 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^a before the earthquake.

Judgment on Israel's Neighbors

2 And 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.

3 Thus says the LORD:

For three transgressions of Damascus,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment;^b
because they have threshed Gilead
with threshing sledges of iron.

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

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

says the LORD.

6 Thus says the LORD:

For three transgressions of Gaza,

^a Or during two years

^b Heb cause it to return

- and for four, I will not revoke the punishment;^a
because they carried into exile entire communities,
to hand them over to Edom.
- 7 So I will send a fire on the wall of Gaza,
fire that shall devour its strongholds.
- 8 I will cut off the inhabitants from Ashdod,
and the one who holds the scepter from Ashkelon;
I will turn my hand against Ekron,
and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish,
says the Lord GOD.
- 9 Thus says the LORD:
For three transgressions of Tyre,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment;^a
because they delivered entire communities over to Edom,
and did not remember the covenant of kinship.
- 10 So I will send a fire on the wall of Tyre,
fire that shall devour its strongholds.
- 11 Thus says the LORD:
For three transgressions of Edom,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment;^a
because he pursued his brother with the sword
and cast off all pity;
he maintained his anger perpetually,^b
and kept his wrath^c forever.
- 12 So I will send a fire on Teman,
and it shall devour the strongholds of Bozrah.
- 13 Thus says the LORD:
For three transgressions of the Ammonites,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment;^a
because they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead
in order to enlarge their territory.
- 14 So 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;
15 then their king shall go into exile,
he and his officials together,
says the LORD.

- 2** Thus says the LORD:
For three transgressions of Moab,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment;^a
because he burned to lime the bones of the king of Edom.
- 2 So 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;
- 3 I will cut off the ruler from its midst,
and will kill all its officials with him,
says the LORD.

Judgment on Judah

- 4 Thus says the LORD:
For three transgressions of Judah,
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment;^a
because they have rejected the law of the LORD,
and have not kept his statutes,

^a Heb *cause it to return*

^b Syr Vg: Heb *and his anger tore perpetually*

^c Gk Syr Vg: Heb *and his wrath kept*

but they have been led astray by the
same lies

after which their ancestors walked.

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

Judgment on Israel

- ⁶ Thus says the LORD:
For three transgressions of Israel,
and for four, I will not revoke the
punishment;^a
because they sell the righteous for
silver,
and the needy for a pair of
sandals—
⁷ they 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;
⁸ they 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.
⁹ Yet 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.

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

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

- ¹² But you made the nazirites^b drink
wine,
and commanded the prophets,
saying, “You shall not prophesy.”

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

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

- ¹⁵ those 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;

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

Israel's Guilt and Punishment

3 Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against
you, O people of Israel, against the whole family
that I brought up out of the land of Egypt:

- ² You only have I known
of all the families of the earth;
therefore I will punish you
for all your iniquities.

- ³ Do two walk together
unless they have made an appointment?

- ⁴ Does a lion roar in the forest,
when it has no prey?

^a Heb *cause it to return*

^b That is, *those separated* or *those consecrated*

^c Meaning of Heb uncertain

Read Amos 3

God roars like a lion and people should pay attention. Violence against the needy will not go unpunished. The wealthy in their houses of ivory will perish. The priests and their altars will be no more. The lion has roared and God has spoken.

Reflect: Amos's wisdom is drawn from observance of ordinary life. He learns from the animals. He learns from experience. People need to depend upon God, not upon human defenses such as wealth.

Pray: Wisdom comes from experience. In your prayer, talk to the Lord about what you have learned in life during the past week.

Act: Pay attention to animals and nature. What might you learn from your observation of the ordinary aspects of daily life?

- Does a young lion cry out from its den,
if it has caught nothing?
- 5 Does a bird fall into a snare on the earth,
when there is no trap for it?
Does a snare spring up from the ground,
when it has taken nothing?
- 6 Is a trumpet blown in a city,
and the people are not afraid?
Does disaster befall a city,
unless the LORD has done it?
- 7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing,
without revealing his secret
to his servants the prophets.
- 8 The lion has roared;
who will not fear?
The Lord GOD has spoken;
who can but prophesy?
- 9 Proclaim to the strongholds in Ashdod,
and to the strongholds in the land of Egypt,
and say, "Assemble yourselves on Mount^a
Samaria,
and see what great tumults are within it,
and what oppressions are in its midst."
- 10 They do not know how to do right, says the LORD,
those who store up violence and robbery in
their strongholds.
- 11 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:
An adversary shall surround the land,
and strip you of your defense;
and your strongholds shall be plundered.

12 Thus says the LORD: As the shepherd rescues
from the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear,
so shall the people of Israel who live in Samaria be res-
cued, with the corner of a couch and part^b of a bed.

- 13 Hear, and testify against the house of Jacob,
says the Lord GOD, the God of hosts:
- 14 On the day I punish Israel for its transgressions,
I will punish the altars of Bethel,
and the horns of the altar shall be cut off
and fall to the ground.
- 15 I will tear down the winter house as well as the
summer house;
and the houses of ivory shall perish,
and the great houses^c shall come to an end,
says the LORD.

4 Hear this word, you cows of Bashan
who are on Mount Samaria,
who oppress the poor, who crush the needy,

^a Gk Syr: Heb *the mountains of*

^b Meaning of Heb uncertain

^c Or *many houses*

Read Amos 4

The shepherd observes the well-fed cows and uses the image to attack the rich, the “fat cats.” Wealth will not protect them from the violence coming from the north. God has done so much for them, and even when God punished them they paid no attention and did not repent for their sins. Now they will have to suffer even more.

Reflect: People should learn from experience. Misfortune can open our eyes to reality. Wealth can come and go. How we treat people provides greater security for the future than money does.

Pray: Pray to be satisfied with what you have. Desire for more can be destructive of the soul. Acknowledge in your prayer how grateful you are for all you have received.

Act: Take a possession you have enjoyed for a long period of time and give it away, with the stipulation that the recipient do the same in the future.

who say to their husbands, “Bring something to drink!”

- 2 The Lord GOD has sworn by his holiness:
The time is surely coming upon you,
when they shall take you away with hooks,
even the last of you with fishhooks.
- 3 Through breaches in the wall you shall leave,
each one straight ahead;
and you shall be flung out into Harmon,^a
says the LORD.
- 4 Come to Bethel—and transgress;
to Gilgal—and multiply transgression;
bring your sacrifices every morning,
your tithes every three days;
- 5 bring a thank offering of leavened bread,
and proclaim freewill offerings, publish them;
for so you love to do, O people of Israel!
says the Lord GOD.

Israel Rejects Correction

- 6 I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities,
and lack of bread in all your places,
yet you did not return to me,
says the LORD.
- 7 And I also withheld the rain from you
when there were still three months to the
harvest;
I would send rain on one city,
and send no rain on another city;
one field would be rained upon,
and the field on which it did not rain withered;
- 8 so two or three towns wandered to one town
to drink water, and were not satisfied;
yet you did not return to me,
says the LORD.
- 9 I struck you with blight and mildew;
I laid waste^b your gardens and your vineyards;
the locust devoured your fig trees and your
olive trees;
yet you did not return to me,
says the LORD.
- 10 I sent among you a pestilence after the manner
of Egypt;
I killed your young men with the sword;
I carried away your horses;^c
and I made the stench of your camp go up
into your nostrils;
yet you did not return to me,
says the LORD.

^a Meaning of Heb uncertain

^b Cn: Heb *the multitude of*

^c Heb *with the captivity of your horses*

11 I overthrew some of you,
as when God overthrew Sodom
and Gomorrah,
and you were like a brand
snatched from the fire;
yet you did not return to me,
says the LORD.

12 Therefore thus I will do to you,
O Israel;
because I will do this to you,

prepare to meet your God,
O Israel!

13 For lo, the one who forms the
mountains, creates the wind,
reveals his thoughts to mortals,
makes the morning darkness,
and treads on the heights of the
earth—
the LORD, the God of hosts, is his
name!

Read Amos 5

The prophet laments over Israel. The temples are busy with religious activities, but God desires nothing of what is offered. Sacrifice must express the offering of the heart—otherwise it is a lie. God wants justice and righteousness, not useless rituals.

Reflect: Martin Luther King quoted Amos 5:24: “But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” God wants us to seek good and do justice. Then truly will the Lord be with us.

Pray: Pray for civil leaders to establish justice. Pray for church leaders to increase justice in the church for all.

Act: Pay attention to candidates for public office. Learn about their qualifications and positions on matters that promote justice.

A Lament for Israel’s Sin

5 Hear this word that I take up over you in lamentation, O house of Israel:

2 Fallen, no more to rise,
is maiden Israel;
forsaken on her land,
with no one to raise her up.

3 For thus says the Lord GOD:
The city that marched out a thousand
shall have a hundred left,
and that which marched out a hundred
shall have ten left.^a

4 For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel:
Seek me and live;

5 but do not seek Bethel,
and do not enter into Gilgal
or cross over to Beer-sheba;
for Gilgal shall surely go into exile,
and Bethel shall come to nothing.

6 Seek the LORD and live,
or he will break out against the house of
Joseph like fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

7 Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!

8 The one 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,

9 who makes destruction flash out against the
strong,
so that destruction comes upon the fortress.

10 They hate the one who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

^a Heb adds *to the house of Israel*

- 11 Therefore because you trample on
the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn
stone,
but you shall not live in them;
you have planted pleasant
vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.
- 12 For I know how many are your
transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who
take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the
gate.
- 13 Therefore the prudent will keep
silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.
- 14 Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts,
will be with you,
just as you have said.
- 15 Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the LORD, the God of
hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of
Joseph.
- 16 Therefore thus says the LORD, the
God of hosts, the Lord:
In all the squares there shall be
wailing;
and in all the streets they shall
say, "Alas! alas!"
They shall call the farmers to
mourning,
and those skilled in lamentation,
to wailing;
- 17 in all the vineyards there shall be
wailing,

for I will pass through the midst of
you,
says the LORD.

The Day of the LORD a Dark Day

- 18 Alas for you who desire the day of
the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the
LORD?
It is darkness, not light;
- 19 as if someone fled from a lion,
and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a
hand against the wall,
and was bitten by a snake.
- 20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness,
not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
- 21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your
solemn assemblies.
- 22 Even though you offer me your
burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of
your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
- 23 Take away from me the noise of
your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of
your harps.
- 24 But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-
flowing stream.

25 Did you bring to me sacrifices and
offerings the forty years in the wilderness,
O house of Israel? ²⁶You shall take up
Sakkuth your king, and Kaiwan your star-
god, your images,^a which you made for
yourselves; ²⁷therefore I will take you into
exile beyond Damascus, says the LORD,
whose name is the God of hosts.

Complacent Self-Indulgence Will Be Punished

6 Alas for those who are at ease in Zion,
and for those who feel secure on Mount
Samaria,
the notables of the first of the nations,
to whom the house of Israel resorts!

^a Heb *your images, your star-god*

Read Amos 6

The northern kingdom (Israel) is doomed. The rich enjoy the pleasures of money and position and fail in bringing justice to all. They have relied on walls, but the city will be destroyed. God will punish the people for their sins against justice and righteousness.

Reflect: Money brings power and position and often smugness. Relying on money makes money an idol and brings heartache. How do you use what you have?

Pray: Generosity is a virtue. Pray to be generous with your time, talent, and treasure.

Act: Look at your tax return. Think about how much money you have given away in the past year.

- 2 Cross over to Calneh, and see;
from there go to Hamath the great;
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.
Are you better^a than these kingdoms?
Or is your^b territory greater than their^c territory,
- 3 O you that put far away the evil day,
and bring near a reign of violence?
- 4 Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory,
and lounge on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock,
and calves from the stall;
- 5 who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,
and like David improvise on instruments of
music;
- 6 who drink wine from bowls,
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
- 7 Therefore they shall now be the first to go into
exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass
away.
- 8 The Lord GOD has sworn by himself
(says the LORD, the God of hosts):
I abhor the pride of Jacob
and hate his strongholds;
and I will deliver up the city and all that is in it.
- 9 If ten people remain in one house, they shall die.
10 And if a relative, one who burns the dead,^d shall take
up the body to bring it out of the house, and shall say
to someone in the innermost parts of the house, "Is any-
one else with you?" the answer will come, "No." Then
the relative^e shall say, "Hush! We must not mention the
name of the LORD."
- 11 See, the LORD commands,
and the great house shall be shattered to bits,
and the little house to pieces.
- 12 Do horses run on rocks?
Does one plow the sea with oxen?^f
But you have turned justice into poison
and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood—
- 13 you who rejoice in Lo-debar,^g
who say, "Have we not by our own strength
taken Karnaim^h for ourselves?"
- 14 Indeed, I am raising up against you a nation,
O house of Israel, says the LORD, the God of
hosts,
and they shall oppress you from Lebo-hamath
to the Wadi Arabah.

^a Or *Are they better*

^b Heb *their*

^c Heb *your*

^d Or *who makes a burning for him*

^e Heb *he*

^f Or *Does one plow them with oxen*

^g Or *in a thing of nothingness*

^h Or *horns*

Read Amos 7

The people of the northern kingdom (Israel) will not listen to Amos. He must flee to the south. He has prophesied doom because God called him to proclaim the destruction of the northern kingdom. They will die in exile.

Reflect: Why do people not want to listen when a person points out evil, the absence of God? Why do people not pay attention when a person says that continuing to act in a certain way will bring destruction? Why do people not pay attention to environmental problems when scientists predict doom?

Pray: The world is a gift. Pray for those who study the earth and strive to preserve it. Pray for contemporary prophets in civil society and in the church.

Act: Do something that protects the environment.

Locusts, Fire, and a Plumb Line

7 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: he was forming locusts at the time the latter growth began to sprout (it was the latter growth after the king's mowings). ² When they had finished eating the grass of the land, I said,

"O Lord GOD, forgive, I beg you!
How can Jacob stand?
He is so small!"

³ The LORD relented concerning this;
"It shall not be," said the LORD.

4 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: the Lord GOD was calling for a shower of fire,^a and it devoured the great deep and was eating up the land. ⁵ Then I said,

"O Lord GOD, cease, I beg you!
How can Jacob stand?
He is so small!"

⁶ The LORD relented concerning this;
"This also shall not be," said the Lord GOD.

7 This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸ And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;

⁹ the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam
with the sword."

Amaziah Complains to the King

10 Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹ For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.'

¹² And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³ but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

14 Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am^b no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am^b a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵ and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

^a Or for a judgment by fire

^b Or was

16 “Now therefore hear the word of the LORD.

You say, ‘Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac.’

17 Therefore thus says the LORD:

‘Your wife shall become a prostitute in the city,

and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be parceled out by line; you yourself shall die in an unclean land, and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land.”

Read Amos 8

The vision of the basket of ripe fruit signifies not just the end of the season but the actual end. Death and silence will reign. Because the rich have raised the price (shekel) and lessened the quantity (ephah), the poor suffer. As a consequence, the rich will hunger and thirst. The kingdom will fall, never to rise again.

Reflect: Hurting other people brings hurt to everyone. When one person hungers and thirsts, all hunger and thirst—and we know that at least thirty thousand children die daily of hunger. How can the richest country in the world continue to survive and thrive in the midst of such pain?

Pray: Pray for the poor, the homeless, the abandoned, the hungry, and the thirsty.

Act: Do something for the homeless today. Even a dollar is better than nothing.

The Basket of Fruit

8 This is what the Lord GOD showed me—a basket of summer fruit.^a ² He said, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A basket of summer fruit.”^a Then the LORD said to me,

“The end^b has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass them by.

³ The songs of the temple^c shall become wailings in that day,”

says the Lord GOD;

“the dead bodies shall be many, cast out in every place. Be silent!”

⁴ Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵ saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶ buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

⁸ Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who lives in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?

⁹ On that day, says the Lord GOD, I will make the sun go down at noon, and darken the earth in broad daylight.

¹⁰ I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on all loins, and baldness on every head;

I will make it like the mourning for an only son, and the end of it like a bitter day.

^a Heb *qayits*

^b Heb *qets*

^c Or *palace*

- 11 The time is surely coming, says the Lord GOD,
when I will send a famine on the land;
not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water,
but of hearing the words of the LORD.
- 12 They shall wander from sea to sea,
and from north to east;
they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD,
but they shall not find it.

- 13 In that day the beautiful young women and the young men shall faint for thirst.
- 14 Those who swear by Ashimah of Samaria,
and say, "As your god lives, O Dan,"
and, "As the way of Beer-sheba lives"—
they shall fall, and never rise again.

Read Amos 9

No one can escape the wrath of God. But God remains faithful. God will restore the people. They will rebuild their ruined cities. They will again drink wine. God promised the land and God will restore the land. This, however, is for the future. Now the people will go into exile. (The northern kingdom was destroyed in 722 BC.)

Reflect: God remains faithful even if people do not remain faithful. Failure on the part of people never negates God's love. God's love demands that we live as God's loving people, and that when we fail we turn to God for forgiveness.

Pray: Pray for fidelity to your vocation in life. Pray each day that you will persist in seeking the will of God. When you fail, ask for forgiveness.

Act: Examine your conscience. In what area of your life do you need the Lord's help? Talk to the Lord about what you need and trust that you will receive the Lord's help.

The Destruction of Israel

9 I saw the LORD standing beside^a the altar, and he said:

- Strike the capitals until the thresholds shake,
and shatter them on the heads of all the people;^b
and those who are left I will kill with the sword;
not one of them shall flee away,
not one of them shall escape.
- 2 Though they dig into Sheol,
from there shall my hand take them;
though they climb up to heaven,
from there I will bring them down.
- 3 Though they hide themselves on the top of Carmel,
from there I will search out and take them;
and though they hide from my sight at the bottom of the sea,
there I will command the sea-serpent, and it shall bite them.
- 4 And though they go into captivity in front of their enemies,
there I will command the sword, and it shall kill them;
and I will fix my eyes on them
for harm and not for good.
- 5 The Lord, GOD of hosts,
he who touches the earth and it melts,
and all who live 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 Ethiopians^c to me,
O people of Israel? says the LORD.

^a Or on

^b Heb all of them

^c Or Nubians; Heb Cushites

- Did I not bring Israel up from the
land of Egypt,
and the Philistines from Caphtor
and the Arameans from Kir?
8 The eyes of the Lord GOD are upon
the sinful kingdom,
and I will destroy it from the face
of the earth
—except that I will not utterly
destroy the house of Jacob,
says the LORD.
- 9 For lo, 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 ground.
- 10 All the sinners of my people shall
die by the sword,
who say, “Evil shall not overtake
or meet us.”

The Restoration of David's Kingdom

- 11 On that day I will raise up
the booth of David that is fallen,
and repair its^a breaches,
and raise up its^b ruins,
and rebuild it as in the days of old;
- 12 in order that they may possess the
remnant of Edom
and all the nations who are called
by my name,
says the LORD who does this.
- 13 The time is surely coming, says the
LORD,
when the one who plows shall
overtake the one who reaps,
and the treader of grapes the one
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 upon their land,
and they shall never again be
plucked up
out of the land that I have given
them,
says the LORD your God.

^a Gk: Heb *their*

^b Gk: Heb *his*