

# AMOS CHAPTER 1

Judgment of the Nations, Judah and Israel

# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **Amo 1:1** The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds from Tekoa. He perceived these words concerning Israel during the days of Uzziah, king of Judah, and during the days of Jeroboam son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake
- **the earthquake:** Zec 14:
- **1:1: Superscription.** The superscription introduces the book and characterizes it as a prophetic book. It associates the book with *Amos*, sets its world in the monarchic period, specifically in the days of Uzziah and Jeroboam of the 8th century BCE, and provides additional information about Amos. The v. tells the readers that Amos was a herdsman, a sheep and cattle breeder (see also 7:14). As such, Amos was a relatively wealthy man (cf. Mesha, 2 Kings 3:4). He was not a poor shepherd, as is at times erroneously claimed. He was from Tekoa, a Judahite town about 8 km (5 mi) south of Bethlehem. He prophesied concerning Israel: The meaning is ambiguous; it certainly points to the Northern Kingdom to the exclusion of Judah, but particularly from the perspective of a post-monarchic readership, it points to “the LORD’s people” (e.g., 9:14) who stand in a covenantal relationship with the LORD, and as such to both the former kingdoms, northern and southern, as well as to the much later intended readership of the book.

# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **Amo 1:2 He said: Adonai roars from Zion, From Jerusalem He gives His voice. The shepherds' pastures mourn, and the top of Mount Carmel withers.**
- **The Lord:** Amo 3:7-8; Pro 20:2; Isa 42:13; Jer 25:30; Hos 13:8; Joe 2:11, Joe 3:16
- **the habitations:** Amo 4:7-8; Isa 33:9; Jer 12:4, Jer 14:2; Joe 1:9-13, Joe 1:16-18
- **Carmel:** 1Sa 25:2; Isa 35:2; Jer 50:19; Nah 1:4

# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **Trei Asar**
- *From the Holy of Holies in Jerusalem (Rashi), the Almighty makes His voice heard to His prophets and communicates to them His prophecies. This is part of the introduction to the prophecies of Amos. Although he lives amidst a nation steeped in sin, his attainment of prophecy is nevertheless possible because it is transmitted via the Holy of Holies which contains the Holy Ark and house the Shechinah (Abarbanel).*
- **1:2: Motto and theophany.** The book is unique in opening with a motto, a short, general thematic statement that is meant to (re)focus how the book should be understood. Its general imagery follows that of many theophanic reports. **It is common in these reports to depict a manifestation of the deity's power as leading to an upheaval in the natural world. Further, the LORD is likened to a lion (cf. Hos. 5:14; 11:10; 13:7), a relatively common motif in the ancient Near East.** But one detail in the text is of utmost importance: The lion *roars from Zion*. The Jerusalem-centric message is abundantly clear, and the book presents itself as a work that conveys the message of that roaring lion from Zion, namely Jerusalem.



# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **1:3–2:16: Reports of announcements of judgment against the nations.** The unit is kept together not only by its unifying theme, but also by a careful balance between repetition and differentiation among the different subunits. **Nations other than Israel and Judah are condemned for transgressions against other nations; Judah for the rejection of God's teaching and Israel for actions against God's teaching.** (The nations mentioned here are neighbors of Israel/Judah. Assyria, for instance, is not mentioned.) Rhetorically, the readers are sucked into this passage, eagerly anticipating the punishment of their neighbors, until the prophecy is turned against them as well. While Judah and Israel are condemned for covenant infractions, their neighbors are condemned for violating basic norms of decency.

# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **Amo 1:3 Thus says Adonai: For three crimes of Damascus, even for four, I will not relent. For they threshed Gilead with iron threshing sledges,**
- **Damascus: [Isa 7:8](#), [Isa 8:4](#), [Isa 17:1](#); [Jer 49:23-27](#); [Zec 9:1](#)**
- **Trei Asar**
- **He first directs his words to six countries neighboring Israel, and foretells the punishment that is destined to befall them for their persecution of the Jewish people.** He then addresses the Jewish people themselves and castigates them for their evil deeds (Radak)
- The proximity of these nations to the Land of Israel guaranteed that the Jewish People would witness their downfall. As such, it was incumbent upon them to draw the following conclusion: if all of these nations were punished so severely for their misdeed's, surely we- who were chosen by Hashem from among all the nations to be His servants- will suffer great misfortune if we do not repent. (Alshich)

# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **Amo 1:4** I will send fire into Hazael's palace. It will devour Ben-hadad's citadels.
- **Amo 1:5** I will break the Damascus gate-bar and cut off the inhabitant from the Valley of Aven, wielding Beth-eden's scepter. So the people of Aram will go into exile to Kir. Adonai has said it.
- **Hazael:** 1Ki 19:11-15; 2Ki 8:7-15
- **Benhadad:** 1Ki 20:1-22; 2Ki 6:24, 2Ki 13:3, 2Ki 13:22-25; 2Ch 16:2
- **break:** Isa 43:14; Jer 50:36, Jer 51:30; Lam 2:9; Nah 3:13

# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **Trei Asar'**
- The first nations cited by the prophet is Aram – or Syria- whose capital city was Damascus.
- **4–5:** *Hazael* and *Ben-hadad* are the names of two kings of Aram Damascus (see 2 Kings 8:7–15; 13:22–25). The territory of the kingdom of Aram Damascus (or simply Aram, as often in the Bible) partially overlaps that of Syria today. *Vale of Aven* and *Beth-eden*: Although Beth-eden points to an area near the Euphrates River, the wordplay is clear; the first name means “valley of disaster, nothingness” (or valley of delusion; cf. 5:5), the second “house of bliss.” Within the book of Amos, *Kir* is the place of origin for the Arameans (see 9:7). Its whereabouts are unknown, but 2 Kings 16:9 reports that the Assyrians deported the Arameans to Kir, after they put an end to the kingdom of Aram.



# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **Amo 1:6 Thus says Adonai: “For three crimes of Gaza, even for four, I will not relent. For they exiled an entire population, giving them over to Edom.**
- **Amo 1:7 So I will send fire on the wall of Gaza—it will devour its citadels.**
- **Amo 1:8 I will cut off Ashdod’s inhabitant, wielding Ashkelon’s scepter. I will turn My hand against Ekron and the rest of the Philistines will perish. My Lord Adonai has said it.**
- **Gaza:** 1Sa 6:17; 2Ch 28:18; Isa 14:29-31; Jer 47:4-5; Eze 25:15-16; Zep 2:4-7; Zec 9:5; Act 8:26
- **carried: etc. or, carried them away with an entire captivity,** 2Ch 21:16-17, 2Ch 28:18; Joe 3:6
- **to Edom:** Amo 1:9, Amo 1:11; Eze 35:5; Oba 1:11
-

# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **Tris Asar**
- The prophet does not specify the three sins, indicating that they are well-known transgressions. **It is therefore apparent that this refers to the three cardinal transgressions of Idolatry, murder and promiscuity (Abarbanel)**
- *We see the same sins plaguing America, once a country founded upon Judeo Christian values is now spiraling out of control and only a remnant left to stand up for truth! (My comment)*
- The prophet now turns to the people of Philistia and foretells the retribution to be exacted from them for their oppression of the Jewish people. According to the majority of commentators, the oppression cited, as well as the retribution thereof, occurred centuries after the times of Amos, during the Roman invasion of the Land of Israel. Nevertheless, the prophet alludes to these events in the past tense, in the style of prophetic writings.

# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **Personal Note:** America does not have a covenant with God, like Israel does. Only Israel (the Jewish nation) and those grafted into Israel via their faith in Messiah have a covenant with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob/Israel.
- **If America becomes a Socialistic, Anti-God Nation, it will fall. The reason America is blessed is because it was founded on Judeo-Christian principles and has been blessed only as America has been loyal to the God of Israel and Messiah Yeshua.**
- **We say we are One Nation Under God, if we continue to be and continue standing for Biblical Truth and stand with Israel, we will continue to be a blessed Nation. However God is not under any covenant obligation to bless us if we turn our backs on Him.**

# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- Trei Asar'
- *For three transgressions of Azzah... but for four I will not acquit them.* I have borne the three cardinal transgressions of idolatry, murder and adultery without responding; the fourth- their persecution of the Jewish nation – cannot be left unavenged (Abarbanel; Malbim)
- *For their effecting a total exile by delivering them to Edom*
- They cannot be forgiven for having assisted the Roman conqueror (Rome is identified with Edom) in exiling the Jewish people when they destroyed the Second Temple.



# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – FORWARD TO 70 CE

- *The Destruction of the Second Holy Temple*
- *A Historical Overview*
- *The history of the Second Holy Temple, from its construction through its destruction 420 years later by the Roman armies.*
- *The Second Holy Temple stood in Jerusalem for 420 years (349 BCE–70 CE). Unlike the period of the First Temple, when the Jews were for the most part autonomous, for the vast majority of the Second Temple era the Jews were subject to foreign rule: by the Persians, the Greeks, and eventually the Romans.*
- *Aside for the troubles caused by these external powers, the Jews were also plagued internally by tumultuous politics, and they divided into many factions—a phenomenon that ultimately led to the Temple's destruction and our nation's torturous exile.*
- [https://www.chabad.org/library/article\\_cdo/aid/913023/jewish/The-Second-Temple.htm](https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/913023/jewish/The-Second-Temple.htm)

# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – FORWARD TO 70 CE

- *The Destruction of the Second Holy Temple cont.*
- *Nevertheless, for 420 years, the Temple constituted a divine presence in our midst, the point where heaven and earth met. Its presence is sorely missed, its absence mourned. Our sole consolation is the knowledge that very soon we will merit to see the Third Temple, an edifice that will last for all eternity, and which will eclipse both of the first Temples in every way imaginable.*
- *Below is a concise history of the Second Temple. The lessons to be learned from this often-sad saga speak for themselves.*

# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – FORWARD TO 70 CE

- *The Destruction of the Second Holy Temple cont. In the time of Yeshua and the Apostles/Shlichim*

## The Second Temple is Built

The Second Temple era spanned 420 years, ending with the Romans' destruction of the Holy Temple in 70 CE. But for much of this period, Judea was under foreign domination.

## The Beginning of the Roman Takeover

By allowing Pompey to become involved in the internal affairs of the Holy Land, Hyrkanus and Aristobulus had inadvertently given Judea into the hands of the Roman Empire...

## Herod the Great

The Roman governors allowed lawlessness to reign. Arab gangs and corrupt Roman officers plundered and killed. Former High Priests formed their own militias to control the Temple.

# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – FORWARD TO 70 CE

- *The Destruction of the Second Holy Temple cont. In the time of Yeshua and the Apostles/Shlichim*

## The Factions of the Second Temple Era

If the Jews had been united, they would have merited G-d's protection. It was the factionalism among Jews that ultimately brought about the destruction of the Second Temple.

## Revolt against Rome

But now the Jews began revolting against the Romans throughout the land. In ever-increasing numbers they joined the movement of the Zealots who were openly preparing for war...

## The Story of Kamtza and Bar Kamtza

Bar Kamtza stood up, brushed the dust from his clothing and said to himself: "Since the rabbis were present at the feast and did not stop him, this shows they agreed with him. I'll slander them to the Emperor!"



# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – FORWARD TO 70 CE

- *The Destruction of the Second Holy Temple cont. In the time of Yeshua and the Apostles/Shlichim*

## Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai's Request

Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai wisely foresaw that Jerusalem was doomed and understood the need to transplant the center of Torah scholarship to another location.

## The Last Passover

The extremists, pretending to be Jews coming to offer sacrifices, also entered. Once inside, they took out their swords and began to kill moderates as well as visiting Jews...

# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – FORWARD TO 70 CE

- *The Destruction of the Second Holy Temple cont. In the time of Yeshua and the Apostles/Shlichim*

## Battle

Now, finally, all the factions in Jerusalem had no choice but to work together and fight their common enemy. The outnumbered Jewish defenders fought with great courage.

## Starvation

The best of friends would snatch food from each other. The Talmud recounts the sorry tale of a woman who killed and consumed her own baby.

## The Seventeenth of Tammuz

Titus saw that the Jews were now weakened by hunger. He had his soldiers cut down all the trees in a thirteen-mile swath around Jerusalem in order to build a new rampart for their assault.

# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – FORWARD TO 70 CE

- *The Destruction of the Second Holy Temple cont. In the time of Yeshua and the Apostles/Shlichim*

## The Destruction of the Temple

Romans and Jews were crowded together, and their dead bodies fell on top of each other. The sound of screaming filled the air and the floor of the Temple was covered with bodies...

## The Fall of the Upper City

Whoever the Romans found alive they slaughtered and fed to their dogs. They burned all the houses filled with the starved dead.

# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – FORWARD TO 70 CE

- *The Destruction of the Second Holy Temple cont. In the time of Yeshua and the Apostles/Shlichim*

## The Aftermath

The victorious troops marched through the arch with Titus at their head and in front of him the young and handsome captives, carrying the golden vessels of the Temple.

## Titus's Death

"Wicked one, the son of a wicked one, descendant of Esau the wicked, I have an insignificant creature in My world called a gnat. Come ashore and do battle with it!"



# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **6:** *Gaza* here represents all the Philistine cities. Three others are mentioned by name, *Ashdod*, *Ashkelon*, and *Ekron*. The same four cities are mentioned in the same order in Zeph. 2:4. Map of **Places mentioned in the oracles against the nations**



# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – FAST FORWARD TODAY

- **Modern day Gaza is once again controlled by enemies of Israel.**
- *While the Strip's current inhabitants are not descended from ancient non-Arab Philistines, they bring Gaza's ancient past – and its intractable resistance to peaceable coexistence with the Jewish state – into the present.*

# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – FAST FORWARD TODAY

- *By Dr. Dany Shoham, The BESA Center*
- The first Philistines (not to be confused with present-day Palestinians) were invading seamen originating from Kaphtor (Cyprus or Crete) who arrived on the Gaza coast, close to Grar Stream. They were aggressive and determined. After establishing a foothold in the territory, they gradually moved northward to Sorek Stream and beyond. Biblical Philistia contained the “Five Lords of the Philistines” (from south to north): Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath (between Kiryat Gat and Beit Shemesh of today), Ashdod, and Ekron (near today’s Kiryat Ekron).
- During the most recent round of fighting between Israel and Gaza (May 2019), Hamas frequently targeted Ashkelon, Kiryat Gat, Beit Shemesh, Ashdod, and Kityat Ekron. Their aim, as ever, was to kill Jewish civilians, though this time their further purpose was to condense their barrages in an effort to overwhelm the Iron Dome system. This was not the first time that Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since 2007, has targeted Gush Dan over the past decade.



# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – FAST FORWARD TODAY

- There is a powerful historical echo to these clashes. The Biblical Tribe of Dan, who were of course Israelites, dwelt for years directly in front of Northern Philistia, domain to domain, head to head.
- **‘A Hostile Entity’**
- In the summer of 2005, Israel completed its disengagement from Gaza by unilaterally removing the 8,000-strong residents of the dozen Israeli villages that had existed in the southern tip of the Strip for decades, prompting a painful dispute inside Israel. In 2007, Hamas, which had won the first-ever parliamentary Palestinian elections the previous year, forcibly seized control of the Strip from the PLO/PA. In response, Israel declared the Strip “a hostile entity.”
- In the 12 years that have passed since 2007, many changes have taken place in the Gaza Strip of varying degrees of significance – but the ancient core embodying Gaza, the last of the Five Lords of the Philistines, remains in place. While the Strip’s current inhabitants are not descended from ancient non-Arab Philistines, they bring Gaza’s ancient past – and its intractable resistance to peaceable coexistence with the Jewish state – into the present.
- <https://unitedwithisrael.org/gazas-past-and-gazas-present-anti-coexistence-with-jews/>
- For complete article please go to this link



# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **Amo 1:9** Thus says Adonai: **For three crimes of Tyre**, even for four, I will not relent. For they gave an entire population over to Edom, and did not remember the covenant of brothers.
- **Amo 1:10** I will send fire on the wall of Tyre—it will devour its citadels.
- **Tyrus:** Isa 23:1-18; Jer 47:4; Ezek. 26:1-28:26; Joe 3:4-8; Zec 9:2-4
- **brotherly covenant:** Heb. covenant of brethren, 2Sa 5:11; 1Ki 5:1-11, 1Ki 9:11-14; 2Ch 2:8-16
- **9: Tyre**, situated in Lebanon of today, along with Sidon, two of the most important Phoenician cities for many centuries.

# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **Prophecy Fulfilled -Tyre's fortresses would fail**
- **Bible prophecy: Amos 1:9-10 -Prophecy written: About 750 BC  
Prophecy fulfilled: 333-332 BC**
- In Amos 1:9-10, the prophet said that God would cause Tyre's protective fortresses to fail, as punishment for the way that Tyre treated Israel. That prophecy was fulfilled in 586-573 BC when Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar attacked the mainland of Tyre, and in 333-332 BC when Alexander the Great conquered the island of Tyre. Alexander's army built a land bridge from the mainland to the island so that they could use a battering ram to break through the island's fortress

# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **Trei Asar;**
- The city of Tyre in Phoenicia enjoyed harmonious relations with the Jewish people during the era of the First Temple. However, they too were destined to persecute the Jewish people during the time of the destruction of the Second Temple and would in turn be punished for their treachery.

# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- Amo 1:11 Thus says Adonai: For **three crimes of Edom** even for four, I will not relent. For he pursued his brother with a sword and stifled his compassion. For his anger tore continually, and he kept his wrath forever.
- **Edom:** Isa 21:11-12, Isa 34:6-7, Isa 63:1-7; Jer 49:7-10, 17-22; Eze 25:12-14, Eze 35:1-15; Ezek 26 – Amman, Moab, Edome, Philistia; Oba 1:1-14; Mal 1:4
- **because: Esau/Edomites** Gen 27:40-41; Num 20:14-21; Deu 2:4-8, Deu 23:7; 2Ch 28:17; Psa 83:3-8; Psa 137:7; Lam 4:21-22; Eze 25:12, Eze 35:5-6, Eze 35:11; Joe 3:19; Oba 1:10-14; Mal 1:2
- **did cast off all pity:** Heb. corrupted his compassions



# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **Trei Asar;**
- Next to be castigated is the nation of Edom, the historical nemesis of the Jewish people. Time and again they have been involved in the persecution of the Children of Israel, and they too will receive their just punishment. **Some commentators understand the retribution described to refer to the ultimate annihilation of Edom in the times of Messiah.** Alshich contends that only partial destruction is discussed by the prophet.
- The descendants of Esau have totally destroyed the feelings of mercy they should naturally feel towards their brothers, the Children of Israel and have responded to them instead with hate and cruelty.
- Thus throughout history, Edom has seized every opportunity to oppress the Jewish people. (Malbim)
- **11:** Cf. Obad. 10–14. **Edom was situated in the area south of the Dead Sea.** The last lines of the v. translated, “and destroyed his womenfolk, because his anger raged unceasing and he kept his wrath forever.”

# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **Amo 1:12** So I will send fire in Teman—it will devour Bozrah's citadels.
- **12:** *Teman* and *Bozrah* are elsewhere situated in Edomite territory (cf. Isa. 34:6; 63:1; Jer. 49:7; Obad. 9).
- **Amo 1:13** Thus says Adonai: For three crimes of the sons of Ammon even for four, I will not relent. For they ripped open pregnant women of Gilead to expand their territory,
- **Amo 1:14** I will kindle fire on Rabbah's wall and it will devour its citadels, amid shouting on a day of battle, with storm on a day of whirlwind.
- **Amo 1:15** Their king will go into exile, he and his princes together. Thus Adonai has said.
- **Trie Asar;**
- Ammon and Moab were the two nations that descended from Lot, the nephew of Abraham (Gen. 19:30-35). Despite this relationship, Ammon eventually pursued policies of aggression against the Jewish nation, and retribution is therefore forthcoming.

# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **13–14:** *Gilead* was a region north of Ammon. It was a disputed area that changed hands several times in the monarchic period. From the perspective of the Bible it was Israelite territory, though not always under Israelite control. *Rabbah*, the capital of Ammon, is situated within the area of today's Amman. **On the imagery, cf. 2 Kings 8:12; Isa. 13:16; Hos. 10:14; 14:1; Nah. 3:10; Ps. 137:9.**
- **Today, Israel** is persecuted, surrounded by **enemies**—Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, etc. But this hatred and persecution of **Israel** is only a hint of what will happen in the end times (Matthew 24:15-21).
- Berlin, A., Brettler, M. Z., & Fishbane, M. (Eds.). (2004). *The Jewish Study Bible* (pp. 1177–1179). New York: Oxford University Press.

# AMOS CHAPTER 1

- **Israel's Enemies Today are not New but Ancient....**
- **Jewish Voice**
- **Israel's Hostile Neighbors**
- **Israel's enemies can be divided into two groups: the surrounding Islamic nations that have historically been their opponents in past wars, and radical terrorist organizations formed more recently who are committed to their destruction working in Lebanon, the West Bank, and Gaza. Let's first examine the surrounding nations that oppose Israel:**
- <https://www.jewishvoice.org/identifying-israels-enemies>
-



# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – ANCIENT ENEMIES TODAY

- **EGYPT**

- Egypt was the leading nation that fought against Israel in all of her past wars (1948, 1967, and 1973). However, after the 1978 Camp David meetings of U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Egypt became the first Arab nation to recognize Israel's existence, signing a peace treaty March 26, 1979. This treaty normalized relations between Israel and Egypt, and the two countries became economic and trade partners. Reaction in the Arab world was bitter. In October 1981, soldiers linked to the Muslim Brotherhood assassinated Sadat in retaliation for his involvement.

# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – ANCIENT ENEMIES TODAY

- **EGYPT**

- He was succeeded by his vice president, Hosni Mubarak, who ruled for thirty years and honored the peace agreement until his ouster in early 2011, when Tunisia's uprisings spread to Egypt, bringing demands for open elections. It spelled the end of Mubarak's regime. On February 11, 2011, Mubarak was forced from power. Now, it is almost certain that Egypt will be much more hostile toward Israel than in the past. Of great concern is the Muslim Brotherhood. Founded in 1928, the organization's expressed purpose is two-fold: to implement Sharia worldwide, and to re-establish the global Islamic Caliphate. Outlawed in Egypt since 1954, the Muslim Brotherhood has now emerged as a legitimate political party under a new name—the Freedom and Justice Party. Watch for growing hostility toward Israel as Egypt falls to greater influence of Muslim fanatical leadership.

# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – ANCIENT ENEMIES TODAY

- **SYRIA**

- Syria has been another opponent of Israel in all her past wars and remains an enemy of Israel to this day. The revolution that spread from Tunisia to Egypt reached Syria in January 2011. In response, the government of Bashar al-Assad instituted a harsh military crackdown. It is believed that Syrian soldiers loyal to the regime in Damascus have already killed nearly one thousand protestors. Although the army has shown no signs of abandoning the current regime, the people have not yet abandoned their efforts to overthrow the government. Syria is a constant danger for Israel, continuing to demand the return of the Golan Heights, which Israel captured in 1967. Syria used this high ground to launch missile attacks on Israel's communities in the valleys below. Fanatical Islam has strong roots, especially in southern Syria, near the Israeli border. Any new government might well be even more radicalized by these fanatics. This would result in a more volatile relationship with Israel than what currently exists. At least the current Assad government desires to maintain stable political ties with the West, and therefore exercises some restraint in dealing with Israel. This restraint would disappear if Syria were to fall into the hands of a radicalized Muslim leadership, possibly leading to an all out war against Israel.



# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – ANCIENT ENEMIES TODAY

- **IRAN**

- Iran is the greatest threat Israel currently faces. This radical Shi'ite theocracy that has ruled the country since the revolution in 1979 is dedicated to Israel's utter destruction. Under their fanatical President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Iran has been on a fast track to produce nuclear capabilities while promising to "wipe Israel off the map." Iran finances and trains Hamas and Hezbollah terrorists, equipping them with arms to use against Israel. The international community has done little if anything to take action against Iran to stop them from achieving their nuclear goals. It is possible Israel may be forced into a pre-emptive strike for her own survival—and to save the Middle East from a nuclear holocaust. However, acting alone, she will still draw the wrath of the Arab world. It is still a disastrous scenario.



# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – ANCIENT ENEMIES TODAY

- **JORDAN**

- Jordan shares the longest border with Israel. The Hashemite Kingdom also shares the experience of suffering numerous terrorist attacks through its history, due to signing a peace treaty with Israel in 1994 and a generally perceived pro-Israel stance that is not shared by a significant portion of the largely Sunni Muslim country. Because of Jordan's close proximity and the length of their shared border, continued good relations between Israel and Jordan are vital to Israel's security. A breakdown of the current peace would be horrific. Yet, the same wave of unrest touching other Arab countries came to Jordan in early 2011. Protestors took to the streets, calling for the dismissal of the Prime Minister, and for Parliament to be dissolved. The government is widely viewed as corrupt and in the pockets of a few wealthy families with no regard for the common people, creating fertile ground for discontent. We need to pray that Jordan remains stable under the leadership of their moderate King, Abdullah II.

# AMOS CHAPTER 1 – ANCIENT ENEMIES TODAY

- **TURKEY**

- Turkey is now being watched closely. At the pinnacle of its power, the Ottoman Turks ruled over territory from Europe to Asia to North Africa. This powerful caliphate was the head of the Muslim world in the golden age of Islam. For decades, Turkey and Israel enjoyed a friendly relationship. However, Turkey has increasingly yielded to the growing influence of Islamic fundamentalism, a growing anti-Israel attitude, and has been a major player in the “aid flotillas” that have attempted to break the arms embargo on Gaza. Some speculate that Turkey will soon emerge as the leader of a revised Islamic empire. What we can say with certainty is that Turkey poses a growing threat to Israel as they move closer toward Muslim domination and Sharia law.

# ANCIENT PROPHECIES PARTIALLY FULFILLED

- **1. Israel will prevail over its enemies**
- Bible passage: Isaiah 41:12-14-Written: perhaps between 701-681 BC -Fulfilled: late 1900s
- In Isaiah 41:12-14, the prophet said God would help Israel during times of conflict with enemies (if the people have faith in God). Isaiah said this during a time when the northern kingdom of Israel had already been conquered by the Assyrian Empire. And the southern kingdom, Judah, was about to be conquered by Babylon. (The Bible explains that Israel and Judah lost their independence because so many of the residents had turned to false religions). But, since 1948 when Israel was re-established, Israel has been attacked by much-larger countries. And Israel has prevailed in each of those attacks. This prophecy has found partial fulfillment; Christian scholars believe that a time will come when all of Israel's enemies are destroyed.
- *Here is Isaiah 41:12-14*
- Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Do not be afraid, O worm Jacob, O little Israel, for I myself will help you," declares the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.



# ANCIENT PROPHECIES PARTIALLY FULFILLED

- **2. The ruins of Israel would be rebuilt**
- Bible passage: Amos 9:11, 13-Written: about 750 BC =Fulfilled: late 1900s
- In Amos 9:11, 13, the prophet said that God would restore the land of David. (King David ruled Israel from about 1010 BC to about 970 BC). The land of David - Israel - was conquered and destroyed by the Babylonians, Assyrians and Romans. The land has been in ruins for much of the past 2000 years. The Jews, who had been scattered throughout the world, began to return in large numbers during the past 100 years. Since then, they have been rebuilding many of Israel's ancient cities. Amos also said there would be continuous planting and harvesting. During the past 100 years, the Jews have been using advanced farming and irrigation techniques to turn barren land into productive farmland. Today, Israel is a source of food for many countries.
- *Here is Amos 9:11, 13*
- "In that day I will restore David's fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be," ... "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills."



# ANCIENT PROPHECIES PARTIALLY FULFILLED

- **3. Ezekiel prophesied prosperity for modern-day Israel**
- Bible passage: Ezekiel 36:11 -Written: between 593-571 BC =Fulfilled: late 1900s
- In Ezekiel 36:11, the prophet said that there would come a time when Israel would be more prosperous than it was in the past. The Bible describes Israel as being a prosperous nation during the time of King David and King Solomon about 3000 years ago. But, Ezekiel knew a very different Israel. In Ezekiel's day (he lived about 2600 years ago), the northern kingdom of Israel already had been decimated by the Assyrians, and the southern kingdom (called Judah) was being destroyed by the Babylonians. In the centuries that followed these destructions, Jews rebuilt the city of Jerusalem, but their homeland was destroyed again, by the Romans, about 1900 years ago. Since then, a majority of Jews have lived in exile. But during the past 100 years, millions of Jews from around the world moved to Israel and they have been rebuilding the country once again. Today, Israel again is an independent nation, as it was in the days of King David, and it is one of the world's most prosperous countries. In 1999, Israel had the highest per capita Gross Domestic Product of any nearby country, even though the surrounding countries have many oil resources.
- *Here is Ezekiel 36:11*
- I will increase the number of men and animals upon you, and they will be fruitful and become numerous. I will settle people on you as in the past and will make you prosper more than before. Then you will know that I am the Lord.

# ANCIENT PROPHECIES PARTIALLY FULFILLED

- **4. Trees again would grow in Israel**
- Bible passage: Isaiah 41:18-20 -Written: perhaps between 701-681 BC =Fulfilled: late 1900s
- In Isaiah 41:18-20, the prophet's talk of a future restoration of Israel coincides with an occurrence in modern Israel - the construction of a vast irrigation system to improve farming. The lack of available water, including rain, is one reason why Israel had been a desolate, unproductive land during much of the past 2000 years. But, during the 1900s, when many Jews returned to their ancient homeland, they built a network of irrigation systems. And during the past century, more than 200 million trees have been planted in Israel.
- *Here is Isaiah 41:18-20*
- I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs. I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set pines in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together, so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the Lord has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it.

# ANCIENT PROPHECIES PARTIALLY FULFILLED

- **5. Isaiah said Israel's fruit would fill the world**
- Bible passage: Isaiah 27:6 -Written: perhaps between 701-681 BC -Fulfilled: late 1900s
- In Isaiah 27:6, the prophet said Israel would one day blossom and fill the world with fruit. This prophecy has been at least partially fulfilled, literally and symbolically. Today, the land of Israel, which had been barren for centuries, is a leading producer of agricultural products, exporting food to many countries. This prophecy also has been fulfilled symbolically with the worldwide spread of Christianity. Christianity, which began with Jesus in Israel, now has about 2 billion followers worldwide.
- *Here is Isaiah 27:6*
- In days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit.



# ANCIENT PROPHECIES PARTIALLY FULFILLED

- **6. Jerusalem would become the world's most important religious site**
- Bible passage: Micah 4:1 -Written: sometime between 750-686 BC -Fulfilled: Today
- In Micah 4:1, the prophet said that the Temple mount in Jerusalem would become the focal point of the world. This prophecy has not yet been fulfilled. But, it is interesting to note that Jerusalem is, and has been for centuries, the world's most important religious site. Christians and Jews regard the city as the world's most important, and Christians and Jews comprise about one-third of the world's population. No other city in the world is a religious focal point to as many people.
- *Here is Micah 4:1*
- In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.



# ANCIENT PROPHECIES PARTIALLY FULFILLED

- **7. Egypt would never again rule over other nations**
- Bible passage: Ezekiel 29:15 -Written: between 593-571 BC -Fulfilled: 1967, etc.
- In Ezekiel 29:15, the prophet says that Egypt would recover from a desolation (perhaps Babylon's attack about 2600 years ago), but that it would never again rule over other nations. Up until the time of Ezekiel, Egypt had been a world power for centuries, dominating many nations, including Israel. But for most of the past 2500 years, Egypt has been controlled by foreign powers, including the Romans, Ottomans and Europeans. Today, Egypt is an independent nation again. In 1948, 1967 and 1973, Egypt tried to dominate Israel but was unsuccessful each time, despite the fact that Egypt is 10 times larger than Israel. Since the time of Ezekiel, Egypt no longer rules over other nations.
- *Here is Ezekiel 29:15*
- It will be the lowliest of kingdoms and will never again exalt itself above the other nations. I will make it so weak that it will never again rule over the nations.

# ANCIENT PROPHECIES PARTIALLY FULFILLED

- **8. Zechariah prophesied the Jews return to Jerusalem**
- Bible passage: Zechariah 8:7-8 -Written: between 520 and 518 BC -Fulfilled: 1967, etc.
- In Zechariah 8:7-8, the prophet said God would bring the Jews back from the east and the west to their homeland (Israel) and that they would be able to live in the city of Jerusalem again. This prophecy has been fulfilled more than once. About 2600 years ago, Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and took many Jews as captives to Babylon. But many Jews later returned from Babylon. The Jews rebuilt Jerusalem but the city was destroyed about 1900 years ago by the Romans. The Romans killed more than 1 million Jews and forced many more into exile. The Jews did not have control of Jerusalem again until 1967 when the Jews recaptured the city during the Six Day War.
- *Here is Zechariah 8:7-8*
- This is what the Lord Almighty says: "I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God."

# ANCIENT PROPHECIES PARTIALLY FULFILLED

- **9. Israel's deserts will become like the Garden of Eden**
- Bible passage: Isaiah 51:3 -Written: perhaps between 701-681 BC -Fulfilled: Being fulfilled now
- In Isaiah 51:3, the prophet said that God will restore Israel and make it a paradise, like the garden of Eden. This foreshadows what is currently happening in Israel. The Jews have been irrigating, cultivating and reconditioning the land during much of the 1900s. Many of the country's swamps, which had been infested with malaria, have been converted into farmland. And water from the Sea of Galilee has been channeled through portions of the deserts, allowing some of the deserts to bloom. Much work remains, but parts of Israel are blooming again. Although it was described as a wasteland as recently as the late 1800s, Israel is now a food source for many countries. And at least 200 million of trees have been planted there during the past century.
- *Here is Isaiah 51:3*
- The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.



# ANCIENT PROPHECIES PARTIALLY FULFILLED

- **10. Isaiah foretold of the worldwide return of Jews to Israel.**
- Bible passage: Isaiah 43:5-6 -Written: perhaps between 701-681 BC
- Fulfilled: late 1900s
- In Isaiah 43:5-6, the prophet Isaiah said that the Jews would return to their homeland from the east, the west, the north and the south. Isaiah lived about 2700 years ago. At that time, the Assyrians had forced many Jews in the northern kingdom of Israel into exile. Those Jews were taken to other areas in the Middle East. Then, about 1900 years ago, the Romans destroyed the city of Jerusalem and killed and exiled hundreds of thousands of Jews. Since then, the Jews have been scattered to virtually every country in the world. But, during the past century, millions of Jews have returned to Israel, from the east, the west, the north and the south.



# ANCIENT PROPHECIES PARTIALLY FULFILLED

- **10. Isaiah foretold of the worldwide return of Jews to Israel.**
- Bible passage: Isaiah 43:5-6 -Written: perhaps between 701-681 BC
- Fulfilled: late 1900s
- **From the east:** Many Jews living in the Middle East moved to Israel by the early 1900s.
- **From the west:** During mid-1900s, hundreds of thousands of Jews living in the West (Europe and the United States) began moving to Israel.
- **From the north:** The former Soviet Union (Russia) is north of Israel. It refused to allow its Jewish residents to move to Israel. But, after years of pressure from other countries, Russia finally began to allow Jews to return to Israel during the 1980s. So far, hundreds of thousands of Russian Jews have moved to Israel.
- **From the south:** Ethiopia, which is south of Israel, also refused to allow its Jews to return to Israel. But, in 1985, Israel struck a deal with Ethiopia's communist government to allow the Jews of Ethiopia to move to Israel. On the weekend of May 25, 1991, 14,500 Ethiopian Jews were airlifted to Israel.

# ANCIENT PROPHECIES PARTIALLY FULFILLED

- **10. Isaiah foretold of the worldwide return of Jews to Israel.**
- Bible passage: Isaiah 43:5-6 -Written: perhaps between 701-681 BC
- Fulfilled: late 1900s
- Isaiah's prophecy was also correct in saying that the north (Russia) and the south (Ethiopia) would have to be persuaded to give up their Jews. Many countries pressured Russia for years before it began to allow its Jews to leave. And Ethiopia had to be paid a ransom to allow its Jews to leave.
- Isaiah's prophecy was also correct in saying that the Jews would return "from the ends of the earth," and Isaiah said that many centuries before the Jews had been scattered to the ends of the earth. During the past 100 years, Jews living as far east as China, as far west as the West Coast of the United States, as far north as Scandinavia, and as far south as South Africa, have moved to Israel.
- *Here is Isaiah 43:5-6*
- "Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth...."