

“Woe to Those Who Are at Ease in Zion”

God Will Judge His People

Amos - A Book of Warning, Promise & Hope



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Amos 1:1 (NKJV)

¹ The words of Amos, who was among the sheepbreeders 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.

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Amos 7:14-15 (NKJV)

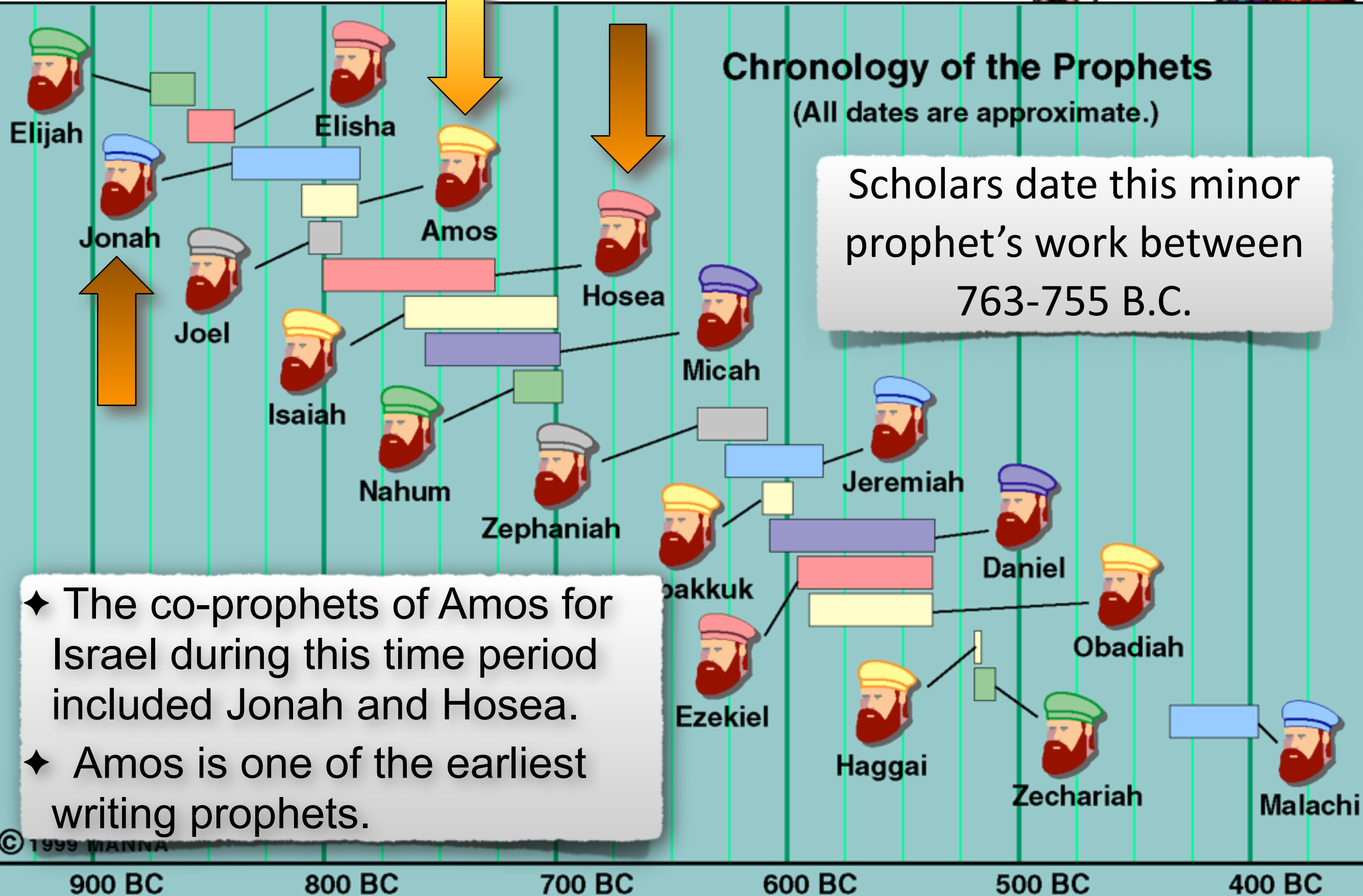
¹⁴ Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah: "*I was no prophet, Nor was I a son of a prophet, But I was a sheepbreeder And a tender of sycamore fruit.* ¹⁵ Then the LORD took me as I followed the flock, And the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.'

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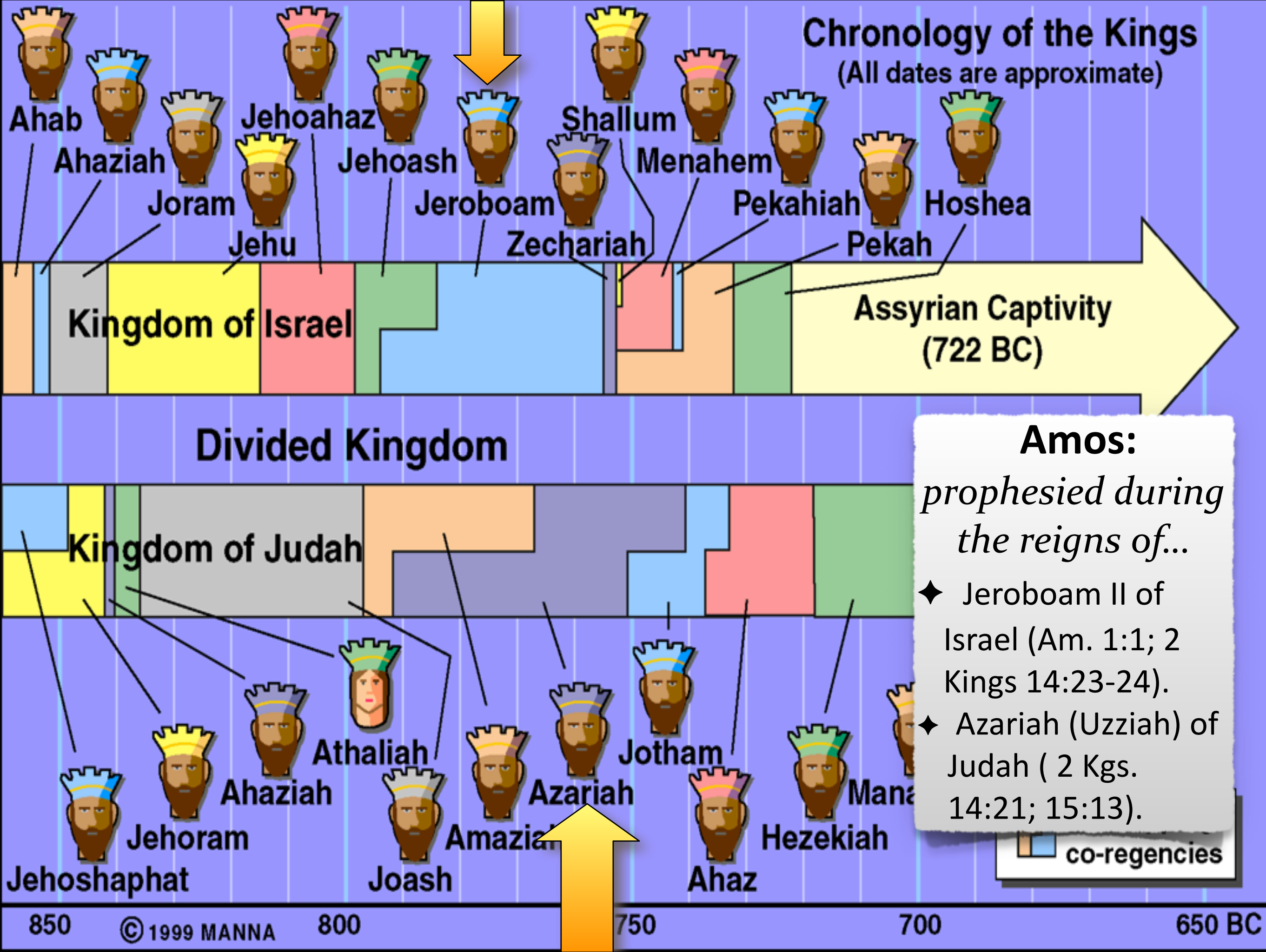
- ❖ Only three biblical references to his name 1:1; 7:8; 10-12
- ❖ Amos means “Burden-bearer”
- ❖ Came from Tekoa - (1:1) - *(Located 6 miles south of Bethlehem & 12 miles south of Jerusalem in the land of Judah)*
- ❖ Two years before a major earthquake - 1:1 - *(We have no further information about the earthquake only that it was remembered 400 years later Zech 14:5)*

Chronology of Prophets



Chronology of the Kings

(All dates are approximate)



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❖ Amos' vocation was agricultural

◆ He was the herdsman of sheep - *(The word indicates a specific type of sheep, a small ugly sheep called "nakads." - Its fine wool was of superior quality and quantity.)*

◆ He was a dresser of sycamore trees - 7:14 *(Found only at lower altitudes than Tekoa. The fruit of the Sycamore tree was like a fig but with a slightly woody texture which had to be bruised or pierced to ripen. Typically eaten by poorer people)*



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❖ Amos' Mission

- ◆ Amos was not previously a prophet nor the son of a prophet - 7:14 - *(He was not a schooled prophet holding permanent office - he was not of the order of prophets, or educated in their schools, and deriving a livelihood from exercising the public functions of a prophet).*
- ◆ Proclaimed God's message concerning eight nations, with an emphasis on the northern kingdom of Israel.



Judgment Of Nations (1:3-2:16)

Tyre in
Phoenicia (1:9,10)

Damascus in
Syria (1:3-5)

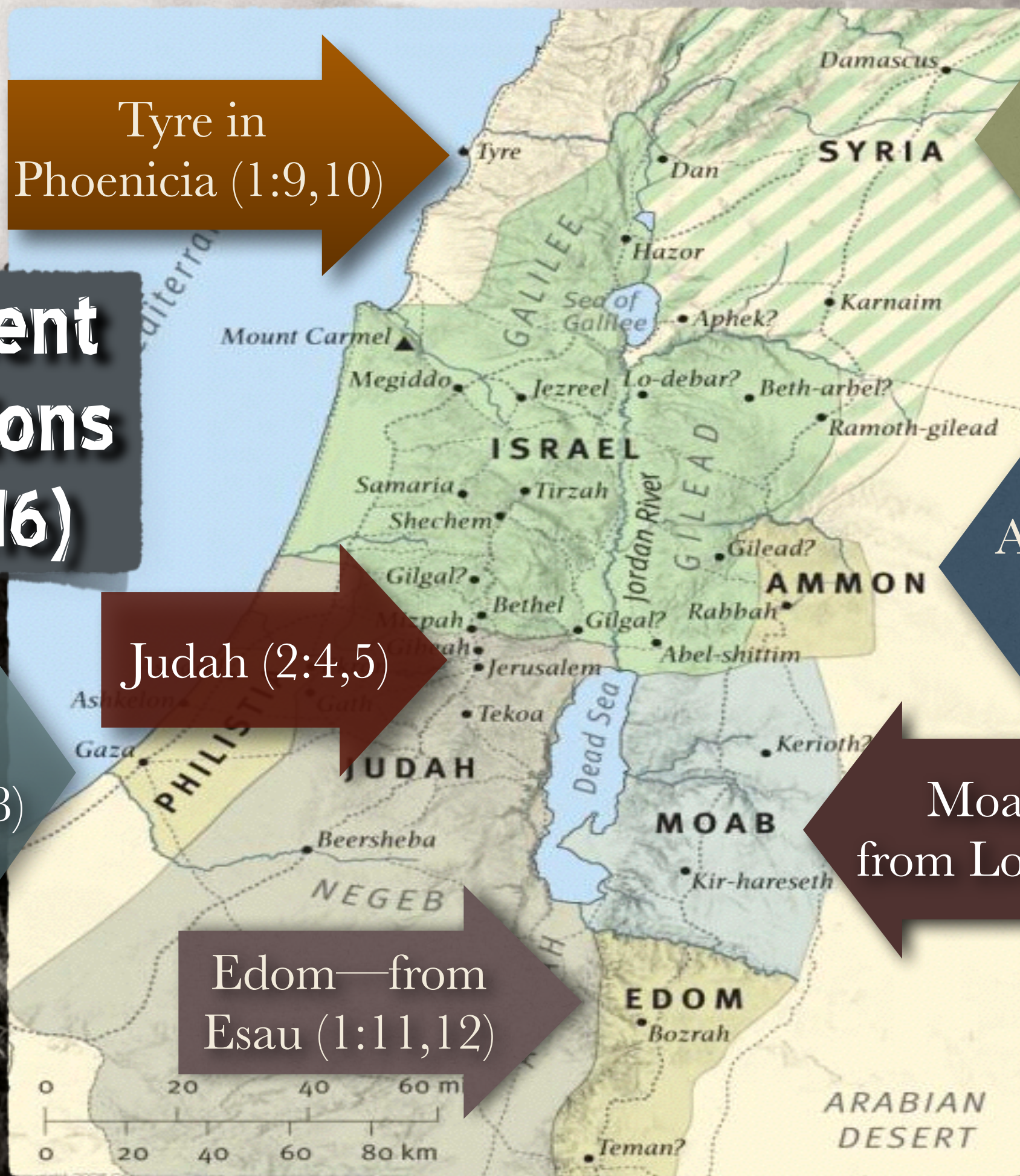
Ammon—from
Lot (1:13-15)

Moab —
from Lot (2:1-3)

Edom—from
Esau (1:11,12)

Gaza in
Philistia (1:6-8)

Judah (2:4,5)



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The Book of Amos Divided Into Three Sections...

(ch. 1-2)	(ch. 3-6)	(ch. 7-9)
A series of "oracles" concerning sin and judgment of eight nations	A series of "sermons" concerning the sin and judgment of Israel	A series of "visions" regarding the sin and judgment of Israel

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Amos 1:2 (NKJV)

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."



- ❖ The prophet Amos was sent to Israel during a time of prosperity.
- ❖ Israel & Judah were flourishing economically but morally corrupt and spiritually bankrupt.
- ❖ He strongly warned them to repent—or destruction was inevitable!

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Amos 2:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away its *punishment*, Because they sell the righteous for silver, And the poor for a pair of sandals.



- ❖ “Wickedness that called down the judgment was growing from year to year” (Farrar);
- ❖ “Repeated and cumulative guilt” (G.A. Smith)
- ❖ “The multiplying of their sins” (Keil)
- ❖ The cup of their iniquity was filled to overflowing & the cup of God’s wrath would be poured upon them.

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- ❖ Israel had violated the Mosaic Covenant in several ways,
 - ◆ Social injustice (v. 6b),
 - ◆ Legal perversion (v. 7a),
 - ◆ Sexual sin (v. 7b),
 - ◆ Abuse of collateral (v. 8a),
 - ◆ Idolatry (v. 8b).

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- ❖ Israel had violated the Mosaic Covenant in several ways,
- ◆ Out of all the nations of the earth, God chose to have a special relationship with Israel. (3:1-3)
- ◆ With this great privilege came great responsibility & they rejected it (3:2).
- ◆ Two cannot walk together unless they are agreed - (3:3)

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- ❖ Amos uses several figures to declare Israel is on the brink of destruction.
- ◆ They are like lion's prey blindly walking into trouble (3:3-4).
- ◆ A bird stepping into a trap (3:5).
- ◆ A city right before battle as the trumpet prepares the people for attack (3:6).
- ◆ A "basket of summer fruit"—ripe for destruction (8:1).

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❖ Religious Corruption

- ◆ Spiritual decay and apostasy lay behind the moral decay
- ◆ Jeroboam I introduced calf worship
Setting up golden calves at both Dan and Bethel discouraging Israel from going to Jerusalem to worship - I Kings 12:25-33
- ◆ Ahab and Jezebel introduced Baal worship I Kings 16:29-33



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- ❖ They were very religious 4:4-5
 - ◆ Tithes were offered every third day
 - ◆ That which was leavened was sacrificed
 - ◆ Make abundant free will offerings & advertise what they had given
 - ◆ These things they love, but they did not love God! - (8:5,6)

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Amos 4:6 (NKJV)

“... Yet you have not returned to Me,” Says the LORD.”

❖ Israel rejected correction (4:6-13)

◆ “I gave you cleanness of teeth” “. . . lack of bread” - (4:6)

◆ “I withheld rain from you” - (4:7,8)

◆ “I blasted you with blight & mildew” - (4:9)

◆ “I sent among you a plague . . . I killed your young men with a sword” - (4:10)

◆ “I overthrew some of you” - (4:11)



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Amos 4:6 (NKJV)

“... Yet you have not returned to Me,” Says the LORD.”

❖ Israel rejected correction (4:6-13)

Amos 4:12-13 (NKJV)

¹² "Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel; Because I will do this to you, Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"

¹³ For behold, He who forms mountains, And creates the wind, Who declares to man what his thought is, And makes the morning darkness, Who treads the high places of the earth-- The LORD God of hosts *is* His name.



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Amos 5:4 (NKJV)

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

- ❖ A lamentation for Israel - (5:1-3)
- ❖ A call to repentance - (5:4-15)
 - ◆ Seek the Lord, BUT not in Bethel, Gilgal or Beersheba but in justice & righteousness - (5:5-9)
 - ◆ They hated rebuke & those who spoke the truth - (5:10)
 - ◆ They oppressed the poor and lived in luxury off them - (5:11)
 - ◆ God knew ALL their sins - (5:12)



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Amos 5:13-15 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore the prudent keep silent at that time, For it *is* an evil time. ¹⁴ Seek good and not evil, That you may live; So the LORD God of hosts will be with you, As you have spoken. ¹⁵ Hate evil, love good; Establish justice in the gate. It may be that the LORD God of hosts Will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.



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Amos 5:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good *is* the day of the LORD to you? It *will be* darkness, and not light.

- ❖ The day of the Lord - (5:1-3)
 - ◆ There would be wailing... and cries of anguish throughout land (5:16,17)
 - ◆ They presumed God was with them, but God was against them and hated their religious perversions - (5:18-24)
 - ◆ Their rebellion against God had increased to the point that He was now going to send them into captivity beyond Damascus - (5:25-27)



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Amos 6:1 (NKJV)

¹ Woe to you *who are* at ease in Zion, And trust in Mount Samaria, . . . ³ who put off the day of doom, who cause the seat of violence to come near.”

- ❖ Pride & Selfishness lay at heart of their sins - (6:1-8)
- ◆ Amos pointed them to the cities that had already perished, suggesting that they consider their own fate, “are you better than these?” (6:2)
- ◆ In verse 3, he issued another “woe,” to those who were not concerned about the day of doom—IT WAS COMING.



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- ❖ Pride & Selfishness lay at heart of their sins - (6:1-8)
- ◆ Reclined in comfort - (6:4)
- ◆ Dined upon the best foods - (6:4)
- ◆ Given to recreation, entertainment & pleasure - (6:5)
- ◆ Drank wine in abundance - (6:6)
- ◆ Pampered their flesh with luxurious oils - (6:6)



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❖ Pride & Selfishness lay at heart of their sins - (6:1-8)

Amos 6:6-7 (NKJV)

⁶ . . . But are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph. ⁷ Therefore they shall now go captive as the first of the captives, And those who recline at banquets shall be removed.



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❖ Pride & Selfishness lay at heart of their sins - (6:1-8)

Amos 6:8 (NKJV)

⁸ The Lord GOD has sworn by Himself, The LORD God of hosts says: "I abhor the pride of Jacob, And hate his palaces; Therefore I will deliver up *the* city And all that is in it."



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❖ Making Application:

- ◆ There is work to be done - are you a worker for the Lord or are you at ease in Zion? - Eccl 9:10; Rom 12:11; Col 3:23,24; John 4:35
- ◆ Have we allowed the love of this world to choke out our service to God? - (1 John 2:15-17)
- ◆ Are we ignorant of what God wants from us? - (Hos. 4:6; 2 Tim 2:15)



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❖ Making Application:

- ◆ Do we presume that God is with us because of what we have done in the past, or because we do a few things for him - (Mat 7:21-23; 15:7-9)
- ◆ Are we unwilling to give God our all, are we lazy, content to place our duties on the shoulders of others? (Eccl. 10:18; Mat 25:26; 2 Tim 2:15)



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❖ Making Application:

- ◆ Are we indifferent towards the things of God - Rev 3:14ff
- ◆ Perhaps we are too comfortable and content satisfying our own wants & desires to care about the church, for the lost, for the things of God.
- ◆ If a person is not moved to care, he will do nothing to change things for the better.



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❖ Making Application:

- ◆ WAKE UP! The clock is ticking - (Rom 13:11-14; 2 Cor 13:5)
- ◆ REPENT - True repentance leads to real change - (Rev 3:19; Ezek 18:27,28)
- ◆ OBEY - Serve the Lord gladly, keep His commandments - this is the **ONLY** path to success & true happiness - (1 John 5:1-5; Ps 19:7-11)



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- ❖ Amos says, “A lion has roared! Who will not fear?” (Amos 3:8).
- ❖ Sadly, many are blinded to their own impending doom.
- ❖ Israel taken into Assyrian captivity less than 40 years later (722 B.C.) -
- ❖ Are you prepared to meet your God - (Amos 4:12)

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“Woe to Those Who Are at Ease in Zion”

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Amos 6:1-8 (NKJV)

¹ Woe to you *who are* at ease in Zion, And trust in Mount Samaria, Notable persons in the chief nation, To whom the house of Israel comes! ² Go over to Calneh and see; And from there go to Hamath the great; Then go down to Gath of the Philistines. *Are you* better than these kingdoms? Or is their territory greater than your territory? ³ *Woe to you* who put far off the day of doom, Who cause the seat of violence to come near;



Amos 6:1-8 (NKJV)

⁴ Who lie on beds of ivory, Stretch out on your couches, Eat lambs from the flock And calves from the midst of the stall; ⁵ Who sing idly to the sound of stringed instruments, *And* invent for yourselves musical instruments like David; ⁶ Who drink wine from bowls, And anoint yourselves with the best ointments, But are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.



Amos 6:1-8 (NKJV)

⁷ Therefore they shall now go captive as the first of the captives, And those who recline at banquets shall be removed. ⁸ The Lord GOD has sworn by Himself, The LORD God of hosts says: "I abhor the pride of Jacob, And hate his palaces; Therefore I will deliver up *the* city And all that is in it."

