

## Welcome to the Prophet Amos!

We have chosen 1:2 as a key verse reflecting the theme of God's roaring punishment upon Israel. Punishment in the Scriptures is distinct from the concept of discipline. Discipline is hopeful for a change of heart. Punishment comes because change has not or will never take place. As you study this book consider the concept of punishment for choosing iniquity and the severe consequences for those who reject God's truth.

# AMOS Roaring Punishment

## Four Sins

2:4-8

## No Return

4:1-6

## Five Visions

7:12-8:3

1-2

3-6

7-9

*"The Lord roars from Zion." 1:2*

Also read the passages listed within the overview chart above. How does each passage relate to the corresponding section title? What do you learn about the subject of punishment and how God feels about uncovered and unrepentant sin?

In 4:12 Amos tells Israel to "prepare to meet your God." We can ridicule and revile authority all we want as a culture and as a nation, but God's bottom line is judgment based on our response to His rulership! Amos understood that the people during his time (around 750 bc. during the reign of Jeroboam) needed a sharp and penetrating message to cut through their spiritual dullness and obvious complacency. His life as a shepherd (1:1) probably fitted him for this difficult task!

## Open your heart as you read!

We study the book of Amos to motivate us in our understanding of the ultimate consequences of evil and to be impressed with the necessity of continuous revival. Are you aware of your need to be revived? Do you believe that God has a right to punish for sin?



# Amos Chapter Chart

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Questions	Chapter	Title	Verse
For what kinds of sin were the other nations judged?	1		
What do you see as Judah and Israel's primary sin? How do these sins compare with those of the other nations?	2		
There are two strong pictures of God's judgement in the book of Amos. The roaring lion is described in this chapter. Try to visualize the character of God's judgement that is represented by this word picture. What is the other instrument of judgment?	3		
How many different evidences of pride can you see exposed in this chapter?	4		
God points out Israel's religious hypocrisy. What are the acts of idolatry that God exposes and warns against? (2 Corinthians 10:5)	5		
What actions have turned the blessings of God into a curse? (vs. 13)	6		
What was the Plumbline supposed to accomplish? What does it have to do with the theme of the book?	7		
What lesson did the summer fruit teach and how would it impact the hearers?	8		
What does God say will happen in the future and to what future events do you think he is referring?	9		

## What about today?

Punishment comes as a result of hard-heartedness and lack of response to God's entreaties. It appears that all God has wanted from the beginning is for mankind to choose Him above self-interest and/or idols. What about your life? Do you take care to hold your life to God's plumb line and to find the way of escape and hope?