

Amos 2

Amos 2.1-3

-This is the final prophecy against foreign countries around Israel

V1 – Which country does Amos preach against this time? Moab

-location: southeast of the Southern Kingdom of Israel, between Edom and Ammon

-**What had the king of Moab done?** Burned the bones of the king of Edom

-Apparently, the Moabites dug up the body of the king of Edom and burned it into lime

-This was considered a great insult

A word of caution about cremation:

Traditionally, God's people have buried the body of a loved one

-Cremation is popular in pagan countries

-Think of "planting" the body in *1 Cor. 15*

-Our Lord was buried, not cremated

-There are also emotional problems for the survivors who had a loved one cremated (the body being fed to the flames, etc.). It can haunt people for many years

-Also, if there is any kind of criminal investigation, the evidence has been destroyed

-This is not an air-tight case, but should give us cause to consider the subject carefully

-The evil that the Moabites did shows that the cremation of the king of Moab was their sin

-It is interesting that King Saul was cremated in *1 Sam. 31.12*.

V2 – Punishment on Moab? Fire and destruction

V3 – Their judges were also to be killed

-All the prophecies in *Amos 1.6* through *2.3* were fulfilled by the Chaldeans (Babylonians)

-See *Ezek. 25*

-The people of the day did not consider the Babylonians any kind of serious threat

-But God was working in the world, and his plan can never be defeated

Amos 2.4-5

V4 – Remember that Amos was preaching in the Northern Kingdom

-now he started preaching against the Southern Kingdom of Israel (the tribes of Judah and Benjamin)

-The people probably started to squirm a little: "He's getting close to home."

-Judah (another name for the Southern Kingdom)

-**What had Judah done?** Rejected God's law, told lies (maybe a reference to idolatry)

V5 – The punishment? They would see their country destroyed by fire

-This was carried out in 586 BC with the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians (see the book of *Lamentations* for more details)

-The listeners were probably thinking, "Hey, wait a minute – we have people who have rejected the law of God and who lie"

Amos 2.6-8

V 6 – **Against whom?** Israel (another name for the Northern Kingdom)

-So the attention of Amos shifts from the Southern Kingdom to the Northern Kingdom

-**What had they done, according to verse 6?** Sold righteous people for money and the needy people for a pair of sandals

-In other words, they took bribes and betrayed people for even a small amount of money

V 7 – **What did they do about the land?** "Panted" after it

-They stole it from poor people

-**What else?** A father and a son went to the same prostitute (or just a "girl" in the neighborhood)

-This would have been considered incest, as well as fornication – very shameful

V 8 – According to *Exodus 22.26*, a pawned garment had to be returned by evening

-and with money for the temple, they bought wine and got drunk

-It was probably getting very uncomfortable for the audience about now!

Amos 2.9-16

-A list of the good things that God had done for the Jews

V 9 – **What people were destroyed?** The Amorites

-**Describe the Amorites:** tall, fierce looking

-But totally broken (fruit and roots)

V 10 – **What else had God done?** Let the Israelites out of slavery, led them in the wilderness for 40 years

V 11 – **What else had God provided for Israel?** He had sent them prophets (remember Joel) and also Nazirites (*Numbers 6*)

-No contact with the grape, no cutting of hair, etc. – Samson, Samuel, John the Baptist

-Notice the question at the end of *verse 11* – very dramatic

V 12 – **But what had the Northern Kingdom done?** They had forced the Nazirites to drink wine, had told the prophets to keep quiet

-They were not interested in the Word of God

V 13 – God was burdened with the sins of the Israelites

-A simile – "like" a wagon loaded with hay" (think about the overloaded trucks carrying hay today)

V 14 – **Would the Northern Kingdom escape?** No

V 15 – **What would not save the Northern Kingdom?** Archer, runner, horseman

V 16 – Even the bravest man will run away without his clothes

-Message? Helplessness in the face of God's plan

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