


Amos Chapter 2

V: 1 Continuing with the string of declarations of judgment upon those Gentile nations that came against Israel and against each other. In this case the judgment comes upon Moab because of the way they dealt with Edom, being kin to Israel.

“For three transgressions.... and for four...”. One transgression is actually enough.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death...”

- That is “sin” singular, just one will do the trick.
- Again as we described last week; *“For three transgressions...”* that’s the limit, “strike three” - that’s the full measure. *“And for four...”* - that is surpassing the limit, over the top, their cup is overflowing with sin. Thus making the ensuing judgement all the more justifiable.
- Moab, speaking of the Moabites, perennial enemies of Israel. 
- Having conquered Edom, and killing their king, they weren’t satisfied with just killing him. They threw his body into a lime pit so that his body would be completely dissolved by the lime, even his bones so that nothing would be left.

Romans 12:19 “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

- God doesn’t approve of the desecration of dead bodies.

Psalm 83:3-7 “³They have taken crafty counsel against your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. ⁴They have said, “come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more.” ⁵For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You: ⁶The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites; (Ishmaelites) ⁷Gebal, (Lebanon) Ammon, and Amalek; Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assyria also has joined with them; they have helped the children of Lot.”

V: 2-3 *“I will send fire...”* meaning judgment, both figuratively and literally.

- Moab shall be devoured with a tumult, the judges and princes, their leaders will be slain.

Jeremiah 48:25 “The horn of Moab is cut off, and his arm is broken,” says the LORD.” (Broken arm means no strength, no ability to defend themselves.)

V: 4-5 Judgment upon Judah. Their iniquity has overflowed - God will not turn away it's judgment:

“Because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept His commandments.”

- This is a deadly combination:

Proverbs 13:13 *“He who despises the Word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.”*

They were warned from the beginning:

Leviticus 26:14-18 *“¹⁴But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, ¹⁵and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, ¹⁶I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. ¹⁷I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you. ¹⁸And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.”*

Deuteronomy 28:15 *“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you.”*

- This is pretty much what ends up happening.

V: 6-8 Having dealt with the Southern kingdom of Judah, He now addresses the Northern kingdom of Israel - from a historical sense, in reverse order.

- Israel filled up it's measure of iniquity and went over the top.
- Amongst other things - listed in other prophecies; God notes that they've they've sold the righteous for silver, bribing the judges, skewing the laws, allowing injustice to reign.

Psalms 37:14 *“The wicked have drawn the sword and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, to slay those who are of upright conduct.”*

V: 7 What little the poor have, they want to take away.

- They've taken advantage of the poor, perverting the way of the humble.

Proverbs 31:9 “Open your mouth, judge righteously and plead the cause of the poor and needy.”

- They’ve engaged in immorality and idolatry.
- They have defiled His holy name, and there are always consequences to that.

Numbers 20:12 “Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, “because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.”

2 Samuel 12:14 “However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.”

V: 9-10 God reminds them of his having delivered them from the Amorites, that He brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.

Exodus 34:11 “Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.”

- Why is He reminding them of this basic fact? Because they later turned around and said that it was the golden calves that had done this - they followed the lie.

Jeroboam:

1 Kings 12:28 “Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt.”

- God is the One who delivered them, He had demonstrated His love and favor upon them, for which they should be grateful.

V: 11-12 He raised up prophets from their midst, along with Nazirites to remind them of the things that God had required.

- The Nazirites who consecrated themselves to the Lord were discouraged from drawing close to God, they gave them wine to drink - they stumbled them!

Matthew 18:6 “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

Rhetorical question:

- *“Is my wife or husband, or my children - are they stronger Christians because of me or in spite of me?”*

- They should have remembered the Law, valued it, have had respect for it - when they didn't He sent prophets to remind them, correct them, and encourage them to repent - all of which they ignored.

Isaiah 30:9-10 “⁹That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the LORD; ¹⁰who say to the seers, “do not see,” and to the prophets, “do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.”

Some things never change:

2 Timothy 4:3-4 “³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up on themselves teachers; ⁴and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

V: 13 Israel has become a burden to God: (Pain in the neck!)

Psalms 78:40 “How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, and grieved Him in the desert!”

Isaiah 1:14 “Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; they are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them.”

V: 14-16 “Therefore” - because of all these things - when the enemy approaches you will not be able to flee, you will have no strength or power to resist them, you will not escape, at best you'll flee naked from the battle.

Psalms 33:16-17 “¹⁶No king is saved by the multitude of an army; a mighty man is not delivered by great strength. ¹⁷A horse is a vain hope for safety; neither shall it deliver any by its great strength.”

Proverbs 21:31 “The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the LORD.”

Amos Chapter 3

V: 1 This is a word to the whole nation of Israel, whom He brought up from Egypt.

V: 2 You only have I known, I've singled you out - you have had a special place.

Deuteronomy 14:2 “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people or Himself, a peculiar people above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”

- Because you've had that special place, that privileged place you are responsible for what you've seen and experienced.

- They had been given divine revelation, God had revealed Himself to them. They'd been given His Word, His presence, He communed with them in the midst of their camp. He spoke to them, He showed Himself strong on their behalf, fought their battles, led them through the Red Sea, the wilderness - they truly were a privileged people.

Luke 12:47-48 “⁴⁷And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. ⁴⁸... For every one to whom much is given, from him much will be required...”

V: 3 God begins to ask a series of rhetorical questions, all of these are in light of the impending judgment for their sinful rebellion against God.

- They had despised and rejected God’s Law, His Word - something that He values very much:

Psalms 138:2 “I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth. For You have magnified Your Word above all Your name.”

- If we don’t value the same things, then we’re not in agreement.
- If you’re in rebellion against Me, we can’t walk together, I’m not going to walk with you.
- There are different ways to walk in relationship to God:

1. Walking with God, as Enoch & Noah, having fellowship with God.

Genesis 5:22 “... and Enoch walked with God...”

Amos 3:3 “How can two walk together, unless they are agreed?”

Micah 6:8 “He has shown you O man, what is good and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

2. Walking before God; means walking in His presence, aware that God is watching and observing.

Genesis 17:1 “... I am Almighty God, walk before Me and be blameless.” (Perfect)

3. Walking after God; is as a servant, serving God.

Deuteronomy 10:1 “You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.”

4. Walking in Him, signifies complete oneness and union with Him. Christ in me, the hope of Glory, through Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:6 “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.”

5. Sadly, walking away from God, going the wrong direction.

Jeremiah 32:33 “And they have turned to Me the back, and not he face, though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not listened to receive instruction.”

“How can two walk together unless they be agreed?”

- This is an illustration from every day life. There is the spiritual application given the context of this verse and God's impending judgment, but He's also describing something very practical from every day life. Just like the lion in the forrest, the snaring of birds, or the trumpet in the city.
- Can two walk together unless they are in agreement? Going the same direction, to the same destination, at the same pace? There has to be agreement for this to happen, and when it does, it's a wonderful thing.

Psalms 133:1 “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”

- Can two walk together in ministry unless they be agreed? I'd say not. You can get along with people of different views of things, I do. But ministering together in disagreement will not work.

This is similar to:

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 “¹⁴Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple or the living God. As God has said: I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ¹⁷Therefore “come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord, do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” ¹⁸I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.”

V: 4-6 Again, rhetorical questions - no, they won't. Lions typically only roar after they've captured their prey.

- How can a bird fall into a trap / snare if there is no trap or snare? No.

- The trumpet was blown to warn that the enemy was attacking the city. This was something that struck fear in the people.
- In this case when, the calamity comes, it's because the Lord has done it, He brought the enemy to attack them.

Jeremiah 25:9 “Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, says the LORD, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations.”

V: 7 Giving them advanced warning, in His mercy, giving them a chance to repent before judgment falls.

Isaiah 46:9-10 “⁹Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, ¹⁰declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.”

John 15:15 “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his Master is doing but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

- God never just judges out of the blue, He always gives warning.

V: 8 ⁴A lion has roared, he got his prey. You were warned! The LORD has spoken!

- Have we taken heed? Have we paid attention?

Amos 1:2 “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.”

- Who can but prophesy?

Jeremiah 20:9 “Then I said, I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name. But His Word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not.”

1 Corinthians 9:16 “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel.”

V: 9-10 They're being called out: Notice is being given amongst the Philistines of Ashdod, and the Egyptians - they will at some point assemble in the mountains of Samaria and great tumults will ensue, and they will be witness to it.

- They don't know how to do right, they store up violence and robbery:

Proverbs 4:16-17 “¹⁶For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; and their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. ¹⁷For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.”

V: 11 The adversary is coming, that will sap their strength and plunder their palaces.

Isaiah 7:17 “The LORD will bring the king of Assyria upon you and your people and your father's house - days that have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah.”

V: 12 There won't be much left when they're done! Amos is using an example from being a shepherd.

- When a shepherd was set to watch over sheep, generally speaking they were not his own. If a lion or predator takes one of the sheep the shepherd had to recover what he could to prove that a lion had taken it as opposed to the shepherd selling it off himself or having a BBQ. They would have to produce some parts to prove what had happened, otherwise they were held responsible.
- It's going to be a very small remnant.

Matthew 24:22 “And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved;”

V: 13-15 Testify, speak to the house of Jacob, warn them.

- Under Jeroboam they had been very prosperous, having winter homes and summer homes, homes of expensive ivory and so on, but that will end soon.
- The day of judgment is coming. He will also destroy the pagan altar of Bethel. There will be total destruction of their summer homes and palaces.
- The certainty of judgments, and the present opportunity to repent:

Isaiah 1:5-6, 18 “⁵Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints. ⁶From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; they have not been closed or bound up, or soothed with ointment.” - “¹⁸Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD, though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”