A quill pen with a white shaft and a dark, pointed nib lies horizontally across a piece of aged, yellowed parchment paper. The paper has a textured, fibrous appearance and some darker spots. The quill's feathers are dark and fan out to the right.

THE MAJOR  
MESSAGE

OF THE MINOR  
PROPHETS

*Dr. Gregg Marutzky*

AMOS: The Righteousness of God

MAJOR  
STUDIES

FROM THE

minor prophets

*Dr. Gregg Marutzky*

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*Amos*

*The Righteousness  
of God*

# *Justice Prevails*

 **Amos 5:24** "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"

 God will bring justice through judgment. God cares and judges righteously.

# *The Shepherd Prophet*

- ✦ Amos “burden-bearer” lived among a group of shepherds in Tekoa (*Amos 7:14–15*).
- ✦ Written between 760 and 753 B.C during the reigns of Uzziah, king of Judah, and Jeroboam, king of Israel.
- ✦ Sins of the nations and of Israel included selling off needy people as slaves for commodities, taking advantage of the helpless through extortion, oppressing the poor with over-pricing, and the men were using women immorally (*Amos 2:6–8; 3:10; 4:1; 5:11–12; 8:4–6*)



# Key Verses

**Amos 2:4** *"This is what the LORD says: 'For three sins of Judah, even for four, I will not turn back [my wrath]. Because they have rejected the law of the LORD and have not kept his decrees, because they have been led astray by false gods, the gods their ancestors followed.'"*

**Amos 3:7** *"Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets."*

**Amos 9:14** *"I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit."*

# Key Verses

Amos can see that beneath Israel's external prosperity and power, internally the nation is corrupt to the core. The sins for which Amos chastens the people are extensive: neglect of God's Word, idolatry, pagan worship, greed, corrupted leadership and oppression of the poor. Amos begins by pronouncing a judgment upon all the surrounding nations, then upon his own nation of Judah, and finally the harshest judgment is given to Israel. His visions from God reveal the same emphatic message: judgment is near. The book ends with God's promise to Amos of future restoration of the remnant.

# Justice Rolls

**Amos 2:4** *"This is what the LORD says: 'For three sins of Judah, even for four, I will not turn back [my wrath]. Because they have rejected the law of the LORD and have not kept his decrees, because they have been led astray by false gods, the gods their ancestors followed.'" Amos announces judgment on Judah for four sins including idolatry, immorality, injustice, and independence. Judah looked away from God for prosperity, justice, and peace.*

# *Justice Rolls*

**Amos 3:7** *"Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing His plan to His servants the prophets."* Amos proclaimed **two oracles and a dirge** to Israel that they should repent, but their coming judgment will certainly occur because of their arrogant sin against the weak and upright. Israel's sins included: idolatry, materialism, and abuse of power. God defends the cause of the needy.

**Proverbs 14:31** *"Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God."*



Amos  
Cap. 7. 2. 2  
Amos

Amos  
Cap. 7. 7  
Amos

# *Visions Against the Nations*

✦ Amos had prophetic visions concerning Israel two years before the great earthquake.

✦ **Lion:** (Vs. 1:2) Through the imagery of a lion who attacks his prey, Amos speaks with the authority of the Lord from Jerusalem of upcoming judgment for Israel

# *Judgments on the Nations*

✦ **Arameans:** (Vs. 1:3-5) The LORD promises to judge the Arameans for their abusive treatment of those in Gilead. Damascus as the capital of Syria will receive certain judgment because of their abusive treatment of those of Gilead **1:3**. The centers of power and pagan worship will be destroyed as the Arameans are taken into captivity under Tiglath-pleaser III (Vs. 1:4-5).

HOLY

PROPHET  
AMOS

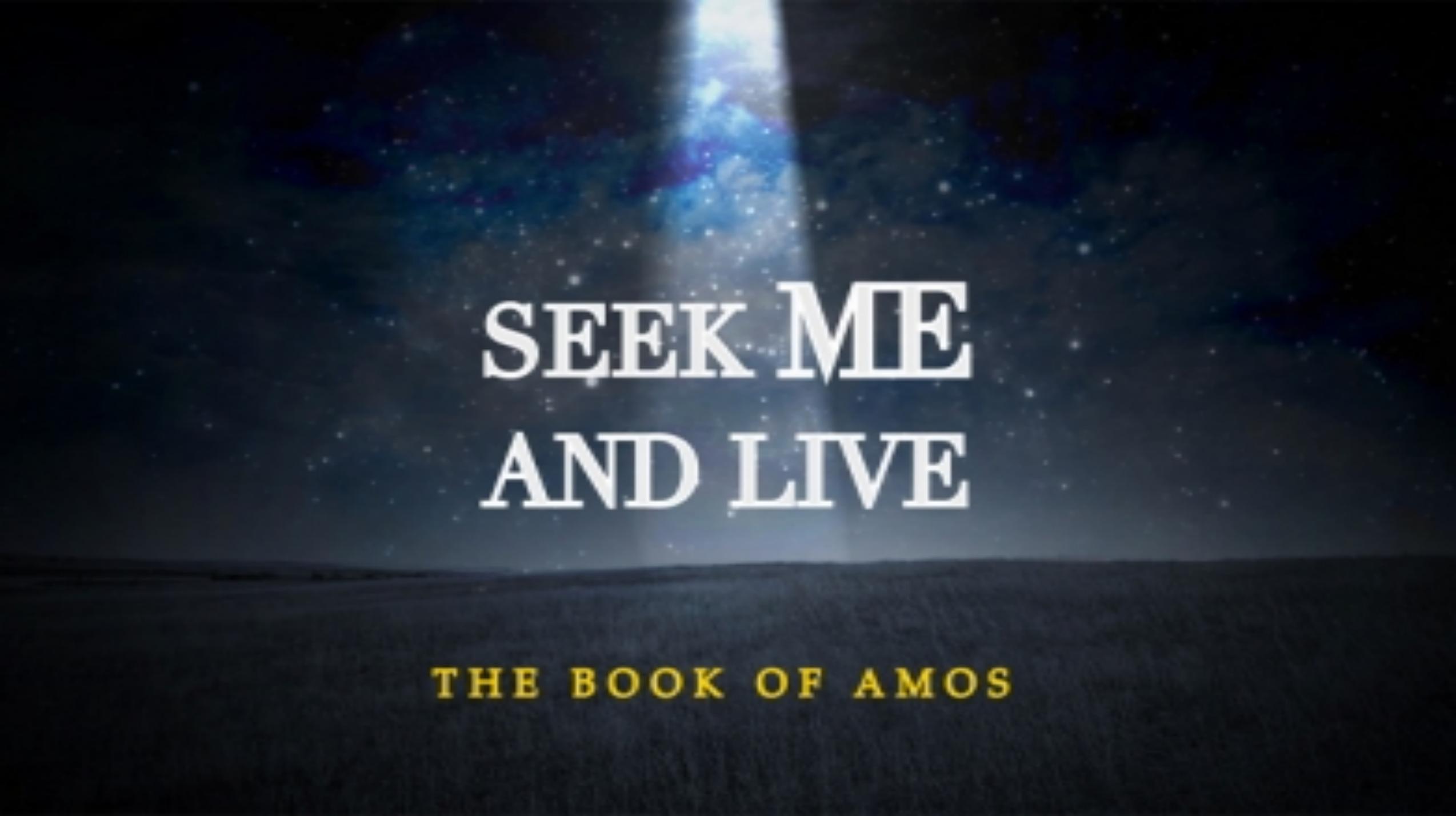


# *Judgments on the Nations*

✦ **Philistines:** (Vs. 1:6-8) The LORD promises to judge the Philistines because of their abusive treatment of captives sold to Edom in slavery. Gaza as a city of Philistia will receive certain judgment because of their abusive treatment of people as slaves to Edom (Vs. 1:6). The LORD vows to destroy the centers of power for the Philistines with no surviving remnant (Vs. 1:7-8).

# *Judgments on the Nations*

✦ **Tyre:** (Vs. 1:9-10) The LORD promises to judge Tyre because of their abusive treatment of Israeli captives sold to Edom in slavery. Tyre will receive certain judgment because of their abusive treatment of Israeli captives as slaves to Edom (Vs. 1:9). The LORD vows to destroy the walls and strongholds of Tyre (Vs. 1:10).



**SEEK ME  
AND LIVE**

**THE BOOK OF AMOS**

# *Judgments on the Nations*

✦ **Edom:** (Vs. 1:11-12) The LORD promises to judge Edom because of their abusive treatment of their Israeli brothers. Edom will receive certain judgment because of their abusive treatment of their Israeli brothers (Vs. 1:11). The LORD vows to destroy the central cities of Edom (Vs. 1:12).

# *Judgments on the Nations*

✦ **Ammon:** (Vs. 1:13-15) The **LORD** promises to judge the people of Ammon because of their treatment of the people of Gilead (territory of Israel). The people of Ammon will receive certain judgment because of their abusive treatment of the people of Gilead (Vs. 1:13). The **LORD** vows to destroy the capital city and strongholds of the Ammonites, and to take her into captivity (Vs. 1:14-15).



But let justice roll down like waters, and  
righteousness like an everflowing stream.

# *Judgments on the Nations*

✦ **Moab:** (Vs. 2:1-10) The LORD promises to judge the people of Moab because of their treatment of the King of Edom. Moab will receive certain judgment because of their abusive treatment of the King of Edom (vs. 2:1). The LORD vows to completely destroy the capital strongholds and leaders of Moab (Vs. 2:2-3). Israel rebelled against the LORD even though he brought them into the land (Vs. 2:9-10).



# *Judgment on God's People*

**Judah & Israel:** (Vs. 2:4-16) The **LORD** promises to judge the combined nations of Israel because of their departure from the Law and thus their abuse of His/their own people. The **LORD** promises to judge Judah because of their rejection of the Law of the **LORD** (Vs. 2:4-5). The **LORD** promises to Judge Israel because of her rebellion against Him through the abuse of His/their own people (Vs. 2:6-16). Israel will receive certain judgment because of their abusive treatment of the righteous, needy, helpless, and humble, women, and children (Vs. 2:6-8). Israel abused the spiritual leaders whom the **LORD** raised up in the nation (Vs. 2:11-12).

# *Oracles of Judgment*

**Amos 3:1-6:14** Amos proclaimed oracles and a dirge to Israel that they should repent, but their coming judgment will certainly occur because of their arrogant sin against the weak and upright.

**First Oracle/Sermon Amos 3:1-15** exhorts the nations to witness God's coming judgment upon His chosen people Israel because of their sin after being in a special relation with Him. Through a series of proverbs, the LORD proclaims that the coming judgment is certain and must be proclaimed by His prophet (**vs. 3:3-8**). Israel's sins included: idolatry, materialism, and abuse of power (**Vs. 3:9-15**).

# *Oracles of Judgment*

**Second Oracle/Sermon** Amos 4:1-13 proclaims the women will be brutally taken away into captivity (Vs. 4:1-3) and the men of Israel will be captives for profane worship in spite of discipline from the Lord (Vs. 4:4-13). The LORD worked through many calamities (famine, drought, scorching wind, mildew, pestilence, plagues, defeat in war) and gracious deliverance to cause Israel to repent, but they would not (Vs. 4:6-11).

# *Oracles of Judgment*

**Funeral Dirge/Song** Amos 5:1-6:14 challenges Israel to repent and proclaims a coming exile at the hands of another nation for their arrogant and abusive sin against their own people. God proclaims that the Israel will be (90%) destroyed beyond repair (Vs. 5:2-3). Israel is called to repent of their evil and not to flee to their shrines lest they experience the consuming judgment of the great LORD of creation (Vs. 5:4-9). The prophet pronounces judgment upon Israel for their abuse of the weak (Vs. 5:10-14). Israel is exhorted to repent of their evil so that the Lord might be gracious to them, and yet discipline will be necessary (Vs. 5:15-17).

# *Oracles of Judgment*

**Funeral Dirge/Song** Amos 5:1-6:14 Israel is challenged to not look for the Day of the Lord when God will go before His people because Yahweh will come to judge not bless. (Vs. 5:18-20). The Lord of Hosts announces the nation Israel will go into captivity beyond Damascus because of her hypocritical actions (Vs. 5:21-27). Amos proclaims a woe upon the “great/proud” of Israel who do evil with their power because they will be subject to judgment and exile at the hands of another nation (Vs. 6:1-14).

## ***3+1 Visions***

**Amos 7:1-9:6** A series of three visions are interrupted by a historical interlude illustrating the rebelliousness of the nation, and then a fourth vision is proclaimed (note the 3 plus one motive from chapters 1- 2). Amos announces judgment leading to captivity upon Israel for their abusive actions towards the poor and needy in the land.

# ***3+1 Visions***

- 1. Locust** - Amos 7:1-3
- 2. Fire** - Amos 7:4-6
- 3. Plumb Line** - Amos 7:7-9
- 4. Historical Interlude** - Amos 7:10-17
- 5. Ripe Fruit** - Amos 8:1-14
- 6. Image of Fire** - Amos 9:1-6



## ***1st & 2nd Visions***

**Locust** - **Amos 7:1-3**: In the vision of the locust-swarm which would destroy the crop of the people of Israel, Amos interceded for the nation, and the LORD God changed His mind

**Fire** - **Amos 7:4-6**: In a vision of fire that would destroy the people of Israel by destroying their sources of water and the farmland. Amos interceded for the nation and God again changed His mind.

## ***3rd Vision***

**Plumb Line** - **Amos 7:7-9**: In a vision of the plumb line that the LORD was holding against a wall to measure Israel. Amos learns that the LORD is going to judge the nation and especially the house of Jeroboam for their corrupt worship.

**Historical Interlude** - **Amos 7:10-17**: Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, reported to Jeroboam the prophecies of judgment by Amos. The king demanded that Amos leave Israel, but Amos explained that he was only proclaiming the word of The LORD. He proclaimed again the coming judgment and exile upon Israel for their rejection of the God's words.



# AMOS

Amos 7:7-9

Plumb Line

## ***4th Vision***

- ✦ **Ripe Fruit** - **Amos 8:1-14**: In a vision of ripe fruit which has been picked, Amos learns that the LORD God is going to bring about a thorough, humbling judgment upon Israel for her prideful abuse of the poor and the needy in the land.
- ✦ **Image of God** - **Amos 9:1-6**: The image of fire has the LORD standing by the altar (religious system). Amos learns that Israel's judgment will begin at the centers of idolatry and thoroughly reach to all of the land by the hand of the Creator.



# ***Restoration***

**Amos 9:14** *"I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit." Even through Israel will be judged as any other evil nation for their sin, **God promises to restore them in bountiful prosperity to the land one-day.** The LORD promises to rise up the falling house of David to possess all of those from the nations who will obey the LORD in a future day of restoration. **Yahweh promises a future day when He permanently restores the nation Israel to the Promise Land abundant in blessings.***

# *Restoration*

**Amos 9:7-15** Even though Israel will be judged as any other evil nation for their sin, God promises to restore them in bountiful prosperity to the land one-day. The LORD promises to rise up the falling house of David to possess all of those from the nations who will obey the LORD in a future day of restoration (**Vs. 9:11-12**). Yahweh promises a future day when He will permanently restore the nation of Israel to the **Promise Land** that will be abundant in blessings (**Vs. 9:13-15**).

# ***Justice Lessons***

- 1. Check Out How the Wind is Blowing!**
- 2. What Goes Around Comes Around!**
- 3. God Sees the Big and the Small!**
- 4. Life is Not Fair But We Better Be Fair!**
- 5. Will be Measured, Weighed, & Judged!**
- 6. Its Not Over Until Its Over!**
- 7. Last one Out Turn Out the Lights!**