

# Week 5

## Judgement Surprise

---

### Amos 1-2



The book of Amos<sup>1</sup> begins with prophetic words of judgment against the nations surrounding Israel, the northern kingdom of the Israelite people. It also begins with words of judgement against God's people. The nations have mistreated Israel as well as each other. Judah too is accused of rejecting God's law. The only nation left standing after the first 20 verses is Israel. You can almost see the Israelites up north nodding their head in agreement with Amos's preaching. "You tell 'em, Amos! Sinners all of them! Judah too!" But Amos isn't through yet.

### Against the Nations (1-2:3)

1. Read Amos 1-2:3. God reigns sovereignly over all things, all places, and all people, and all must give an account to him for their actions. Although the oracles of chapters 1-2 condemn nations for their mistreatment, the moral principles at issue translate very much to today. List the sin of Damascus (vv. 3-5), Gaza (vv. 6-8), Tyre (vv. 9-10), Edom (vv. 11-12), Ammon (vv. 13-15), and Moab (2:1-3).
2. How do we commit the same sins as the people of Damascus, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, and Moab? For example, Damascus treated Gilead like they were less than human; nothing more than a pile of grain to crush.<sup>2</sup> Do we sometimes treat people as less than human?

<sup>1</sup>Visit [www.bibleproject.com/explore/jonah](http://www.bibleproject.com/explore/jonah) for an illustrated summary of Jonah.

<sup>2</sup>Humans are made in the image of God (Gen 1:27). Therefore, an attack on another human being is an attack on God himself. In Genesis 9:6 the Lord made this clear to Noah: "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image." All human life is valuable and must be treated with respect regardless of race, age, status, ability, or any other characteristic by which we distinguish people.

## Against Judah (2:4-5)

Those who have heard the word of God—his law and his good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ—are held to an even higher standard of accountability. Not only do they have the general knowledge of God from creation; they also have benefited by hearing directly from him through his Word about who he is and what he requires of humanity. Therefore, those who hear the Word of God and reject it are in dangers of even greater judgement.

3. Read verses 4-5 of chapter 2. What has Judah done to deserve God's judgement? What lies have led Judah astray?
4. Read Hebrews 10:26-28. How is judgment against Judah different from judgment against other nations named so far in Amos?

## Even Against Israel! (2:6-16)

After announcing judgment on the nations around Israel, including even Judah, Amos suddenly turns and announces judgment on Israel too, his homeland! Even though God saved Israel from slavery in Egypt, brought them into the Promised Land, and helped them defeat all their enemies, Israel has turned from the Lord, even rejecting his prophets. Judgement is coming even for them.

5. Read 2:6-16. What are the sins of Israel listed in these verses? Group them into categories if you can. The Amorites mentioned in verses 9-10 represent people living in the promised land when God gave the land to the Israelites. How does God's deliverance and provision of Israel add weight to his judgement against them?
6. As a follower of Jesus, who has saved us from sin and death, has fought against the powers of darkness on our behalf, and has given us eternal life, how are you challenged by these verses?