

'Amos 2

Oracles against the Nations, including Judah and Israel

- A. Judgment on Moab (2:1-3)
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- C. Judgment on Israel (2:6-16)
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Judgment on Moab

¹ Thus says the LORD:

"For three transgressions of Moab, and for four,
I will not turn away its *punishment*,
Because he burned the bones of the king of Edom to lime.

² But I will send a fire upon Moab,
And it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth;
Moab shall die with tumult,
With shouting *and* trumpet sound.

³ And I will cut off the judge from its midst,
And slay all its princes with him,"
Says the LORD.

Keriot: כְּרִיּוֹת *ha-kriyot* the cities. Two cities, one in southern Judah and the other in Moab.

Y'hudah Ish-Kriyot Judas Iscariot. Judah, a man of [the] 'cities.'

Judgment on Judah

⁴ Thus says the LORD:

"For three transgressions of Judah, and for four,
I will not turn away its *punishment*,
Because they have despised the law of the LORD,
And have not kept His commandments.
Their lies lead them astray,
Lies which their fathers followed.

⁵ But I will send a fire upon Judah,
And it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem."

See Daniyel 9.9-15

⁹ To the Lord our God *belong* mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. ¹⁰ We have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. ¹¹ Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him. ¹² And He has confirmed His words, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem.

¹³ “As *it is* written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth. ¹⁴ Therefore the LORD has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the LORD our God *is* righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. ¹⁵ And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as *it is* this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly!

Judgment on Israel

⁶ Thus says the LORD:

“For three transgressions of Israel, and for four,
I will not turn away its *punishment*,
Because they sell the righteous for silver,
And the poor for a pair of sandals.

⁷ They pant after the dust of the earth *which is* on the head of the poor,

Pant after the dust of the earth...: הַשְׁאָפִים עַל-עֲפָר-אֶרֶץ בְּרֹאשׁ דָּלִים *ha-sho'afim al afar eretz b'rosh dalim* the ‘snuffing up’

Perhaps a picture of unequal weights and measures which they forced on those who could not defend such treachery.

And pervert the way of the humble.
A man and his father go in to the *same* girl,
To defile My holy name.

⁸ They lie down by every altar on clothes taken in pledge,

Clothes taken in pledge: see Sh'mot (Exodus) 22.26–27

²⁶ If you ever take your neighbor's garment as a pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down. ²⁷

For that *is* his only covering, it *is* his garment for his skin. What will he sleep in? And it will be that when he cries to Me, I will hear, for I *am* gracious.

And drink the wine of the condemned *in* the house of their god.

⁹ “Yet *it was* *who* destroyed the Amorite before them,
Whose height *was* like the height of the cedars,
And he *was as* strong as the oaks;
Yet I destroyed his fruit above
And his roots beneath.

¹⁰ Also *it was* *who* brought you up from the land of Egypt,
And led you forty years through the wilderness,
To possess the land of the Amorite.

¹¹ I raised up some of your sons as prophets,
And some of your young men as Nazirites.

Is it not so, O you children of Israel?"

Says the LORD.

¹² "But you gave the Nazirites wine to drink,
And commanded the prophets saying,
'Do not prophesy!'

¹³ "Behold, I am weighed down by you,
As a cart full of sheaves is weighed down.

¹⁴ Therefore flight shall perish from the swift,
The strong shall not strengthen his power,
Nor shall the mighty deliver himself;

¹⁵ He shall not stand who handles the bow,
The swift of foot shall not escape,
Nor shall he who rides a horse deliver himself.

¹⁶ The most courageous men of might
Shall flee naked in that day,"

Says the LORD.