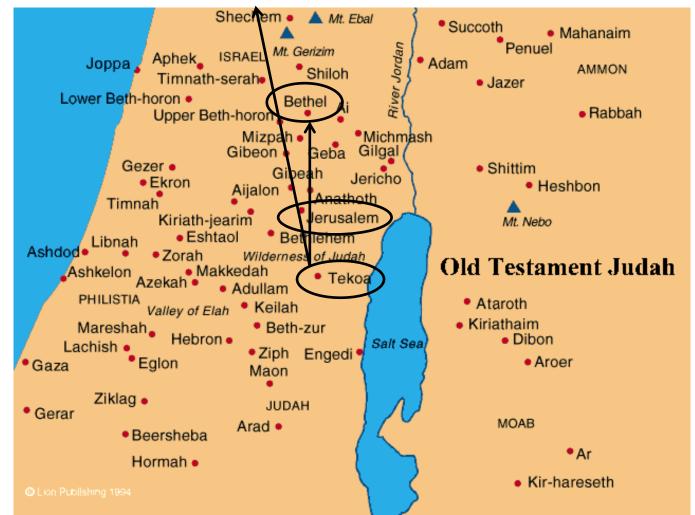
# A Prophetic Book

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- Amos was a shepherd and farmer from Tekoa, a village 18 kms south of Jerusalem. See 1:1 & 7:14-15.
- He prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, king of Judah, and Jeroboam II was king of Israel. See 1:1.
- ➤ Thus his ministry happened around 760-750 B.C. (Assyria→Israel = 722BC, Babylon→Judah = 597-586BC.
- Though he came from Judah, in the south, God sent him north to Israel (see 1:1, 3:1, 5:1) & Bethel (7:13).
- At this time, Israel was politically secure, economically well off, socially unjust, morally corrupt, and spiritually decaying... (Just like conditions in The West today! ③...)

# Chs.1&2 Warnings to ALL the Nations

- Damascus- Cruelty 1:3...
- Gaza- Forced Slavery 1:6...
- Tyre- Slaves & Treachery 1:9...
- Edom- No Compassion 1:11...
- Ammon- Violence 1:13...
- Moab- Cruel Insults 2:1...
- Judah- Three things 2:4...
- Israel- Many things! 2:6...



#### Chs.1&2 Warnings to God's People

#### • JUDAH → 2:4-5

Rejected God's Law, Disobeyed God's commands, Led astray into idolatry...

#### • ISRAEL → 2:6-16

Injustice, Oppression, Dishonesty, Gross immorality, Idolatry, Revelry, Corrupting God's servants...



#### **Prophesied Judgement of the Nations:**

Resulting Judgement = "FIRE" / Painful Destruction // Hell?!

- Damascus = 1:4
- ➢ Gaza = 1:7
- ➤ Tyre = 1:10
- ➢ Edom = 1:12
- ➤ Ammon = 1:14
- > Moab = 2:2
- ➤ Judah = 2:5
- Israel = ? ... 5:6!



#### Ch.3 God warns Israel – His People

"Listen to this message that the LORD has spoken about you, people of Israel. It concerns the entire family that I brought from the land of Egypt: 'You alone have I known from among all of the families of mankind; therefore I will hold you accountable for all your iniquities'...Truly the Lord GOD will do nothing without revealing his purposes to his servants the prophets... The Lord GOD has spoken! ... 'They do not know how to act right' declares the LORD... 'I will punish Israel for her sins'... 'I will destroy the altars'... 'The mansions will be demolished', declares the LORD..."

God chooses Israel of all the nations, and **speaks** to them through **prophets**, but they won't listen and obey Him... So God will tear them down, leaving only a small remnant.

# Ch.4 God Punishes so they'll Return

God had already punished Israel in various different ways... "...Yet you have not returned to me" x 5 times!

- v.6 Hunger & Famine...
- v.8 Thirst & Draught...
- v.9 Failed Harvests...
- v.10 Plagues & Death...
- v.11 Overthrown & Charred



→ Therefore: "Prepare to meet your God O Israel"! (v.12)

# **Ch.5 A People of Religious Rituals**

#### God hates religious ceremonies and rituals! See 5:21-24.

- Religious Feasts...
- Assemblies...
- Offerings...
- Fellowship...
- Songs...
- Music...



→ 5:24 & 14-15 We too are called to seek the Lord and live, to love good and hate evil, to maintain justice in our dealings with others around us, and to live righteously!

## **Ch.6 Woe to the Complacent & Proud**

#### Complacent, Secure, Notable Men, Foremost Nation. 6:1.

- Described in **6:4-6,12**.
- Lie on luxury beds...
- Lounge on couches...
- Dine choice meat...
- Make music...
- Drink wine...
- Use finest lotions...



• Turned justice  $\rightarrow$  poison & righteousness  $\rightarrow$  bitterness

➔ The Lord will cause YOU to be oppressed, from North to South, by a Foreign Nation that God will stir up! 6:14.

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- Am I living the Life and Values of the World, exposing myself to the consequences of Hell Fire & Damnation?
- Am I ignoring the Words the Lord God has spoken to me, hardening my heart against doing the right thing?
- Am I suffering some form of the Lord's Discipline in my life, yet stubbornly refusing to return to Him & repent?
- Am I observing all the right Brethren Religious Rituals, but denying what is Just & Right to others around me?
- Am I Complacent and Proud, enjoying the Canadian Lifestyle, but unconcerned about the ruin of God's People, and unwilling to help His weak Church grow?
- Am I causing Poison & Bitterness in the lives of others?

To Obey is Better Than Sacrifice

> by Keith Green 1953 – 1982



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