

Outline of Amos

The book of Amos was written about 760 B.C. We know this because he prophesied during the reigns of Jeroboam II (793-753 B.C.) of Israel and Uzziah (790-740 B.C.) of Judah, and because he mentions an earthquake that archeologists calculate to have occurred about 760 B.C. Like Hosea, he specifically prophesies against the Northern Kingdom. During this time, the nation of Israel (the northern kingdom) was marked by total apostasy, idolatry, immorality, and such like. Amos prophesies against them ahead of their 722 B.C. destruction at the hands of the Assyrians. Amos' name means *burden*. He was from Tekoa, about 10 miles south of Jerusalem.

As many have noted, the first six chapters use the *oracle* or “word-based” prophecy format, whereas chapters seven through nine are conveyed through *visions*.

I. Introduction	1:1
II. Judgment Prophecies Against Gentiles	1:2-2:3
A. Punishment of Damascus (capital of Syria)	1:2-5
B. Punishment of Gaza (capital of Philistia).....	1:6-8
C. Punishment of Tyre (capital of Phoenicia).....	1:9-10
D. Punishment of Edom	1:11-12
E. Punishment of Ammon.....	1:13-15
F. Punishment of Moab	2:1-3
III. Judgment Prophecies Against Judah and Israel	2:4-16
A. Punishment of Judah	2:4-5
B. Punishment of Israel.....	2:6-16
IV. Judgment Against Israel.....	3:1-6:14
A. Destruction for idolatry, violence.....	3:1-15
B. Deportation, famine, drought for oppression, idolatry.....	4:1-13
C. Seek God and good, not idols and evil.....	5:1-27
D. Life of ease about to end	6:1-14
V. Visions of the Future and Amos' Intercession	7:1-9:10
A. Vision of the locusts.....	7:1-3
B. Vision of the fire	7:4-6
C. Vision of the plumb line.....	7:7-9
VI. Opposition to Amos and His Message	7:10-17
VII. More Visions of the Future	8:1-9:10
A. Vision of the fruit basket.....	8:1-14
B. Vision of the altar.....	9:1-10
VIII. Vision of Eschatological Restoration.....	9:11-15

Notes

- Clearly 9:11-15 are not fulfilled yet and will not be until the millennial kingdom.
- However, much of Amos is not far fulfillment either. Therefore, we have to determine which judgments and prophecies were to be fulfilled soon after the writing, and which were to be fulfilled in the far future.
- Making a division at 9:11 seems to be a good starting point. Everything before that is near fulfillment; everything after is far fulfillment.

- But is the Day of the Lord (DOL) in 5:18-20 a reference to the far future? It does not seem so. Is there more than one DOL then? Or is there one in the far future, with this passage referring to that single DOL in illustration of what will happen in the near future?
- Note the use of Amos 9:11-12 in Acts 15:16-18. James understands Amos to allow the present age of calling out the Gentiles after which (“after this”) the Lord will re-establish the house (monarchy/rule) of David. It is therefore consistent that since there will be Gentiles “called by My name” that the Gentiles do not need to come into Israel through circumcision. The works of the law are not required for salvation.