

his wombs"; cf. v. 13. Because his anger raged unceasing
And his fury stormed
stormed Cf. Akkadian shamaru and Jer. 3.5. unchecked.

1:12 I will send down fire upon Teman,
And it shall devour the fortresses of Bozrah.

1:13 Thus said GOD:For three transgressions of the Ammonites,
For four, I will not revoke the decree:
othe decree See note at v. 3. Because they ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead
In order to enlarge their own territory.

1:14 I will set fire to the wall of Rabbah,
And it shall devour its fortresses,
Amid shouting on a day of battle,
On a day of violent tempest.

1:15 Their king and his officers shall go
Into exile together—said GOD.

2:1 Thus said GOD:For three transgressions of Moab,
For four, I will not revoke the decree:
athe decree See note at 1.3. Because he burned the bones
Of the king of Edom to lime.

2:2 I will send down fire upon Moab,
And it shall devour the fortresses of Kerioth.
And Moab shall die in tumult,
Amid shouting and the blare of horns;

2:3 I will wipe out the ruler from within her
And slay all her officials along with him—said GOD.

2:4 Thus said GOD:For three transgressions of Judah,
For four, I will not revoke the decree:
bthe decree See note at 1.3. Because they have spurned the Teaching of GOD
And have not observed divine laws;
They are beguiled by the delusions
After which their ancestors walked.

2:5 I will send down fire upon Judah,
And it shall devour the fortresses of Jerusalem.

2:6 Thus said GOD:For three transgressions of Israel,
For four, I will not revoke the decree:
cthe decree See note at 1.3. Because they have sold for silver
Those whose cause was just,
And the needy for a pair of sandals.

2:7 [Ah,] you who trample the heads of the poor
Into the dust of the ground,
And make the humble walk a twisted course!
dwho trample the heads of the poor / Into the dust of the ground, /
And make the humble walk a twisted course!

Understanding sho'aphim as equivalent to shaphim. Emendation yields: "Who crush on the ground / The heads of the poor, / And push off the road / The humble of the land"; cf. Job 24.4. Father and son go to the same woman,
And thereby profane My holy name.

2:8 They recline by every altar
On garments taken in pledge,
And drink in the House of their God
Wine bought with fines they imposed.

2:9 Yet I
Destroyed the Amorite before them,
Whose stature was like the cedar's
And who was stout as the oak,
Destroying his boughs above
And his trunk below!

2:10 And I
Brought you up from the land of Egypt
And led you through the wilderness forty years,
To possess the land of the Amorite!

2:11 And I raised up prophets from among your sons
And nazirites from among your young men.
Is that not so, O people of Israel?—says GOD.

2:12 But you made the nazirites drink wine
And ordered the prophets not to prophesy.

2:13 eMeaning of verse uncertain; alternatively: "I will slow your movements / As a threshing sledge (cf. Isa. 28.27–28) is slowed / When clogged by cut grain." Ah, I will slow your movements
As a wagon is slowed
When it is full of

cut grain.

2:14 Flight shall fail the swift,The strong shall find no strength,And the warrior shall not save his life.

2:15 The archer shall not hold his ground,And the fleet-footed shall not escape,Nor the horseman save his life.

2:16 Even the most stouthearted warriorShall run away unarmedfunarmed Lit. “naked.” that day—declares GOD.

3:1 Hear this word, O people of Israel,That GOD has spoken concerning you,Concerning the whole family that I brought up from the land of Egypt:

3:2 You alone have I singled outOf all the families of the earth—That is why I will call you to accountFor all your iniquities.

3:3 Can two walk togetherWithout having met?

3:4 Does a lion roar in the forestWhen it has no prey?Does a great beast let out a cry from its denWithout having made a capture?

3:5 Does a bird drop on the ground—in a trap—With no snare there?Does a trap spring up from the groundUnless it has caught something?

3:6 When a ram’s horn is sounded in a town,Do the people not take alarm?Can misfortune come to a townIf GOD has not caused it?

3:7 Indeed, my Sovereign GOD does nothingWithout having revealed the purposeTo God’s servants the prophets.

3:8 A lion has roared,Who can but fear?My Sovereign GOD has spoken,Who can but prophesy?

3:9 Proclaim in the fortresses of AshdodaAshdod Septuagint reads “Assyria.” And in the fortresses of the land of Egypt!Say:Gather on the hillhill Heb. plural; but cf. 4.1; 6.1. of SamariaAnd witness the great outrages within herAnd the oppression in her midst.

3:10 They are incapable of doing right—declares GOD;They store up lawlessness and rapineIn their fortresses.

3:11 Assuredly,Thus said the Sovereign GOD:An enemy, all about the land!He shall strip you of your splendor,And your fortresses shall be plundered.

3:12 Thus said GOD:As a shepherd rescues from the lion’s jawsTwo shank bones or the tip of an ear,cAs a shepherd rescues ... tip of an ear Cf. Exod. 22.9, 12. So shall the Israelites escapeWho dwell in Samaria—With the legdleg Meaning of Heb. uncertain. of a bed or the headhead Meaning of Heb. uncertain. of a couch.

3:13 Hear [this], and warn the House of Jacob—says the Sovereign GOD, the God of Hosts—

3:14 That when I punish Israel for its transgressions,I will wreak judgment on the altarfaltar Heb. plural, but cf. “altar” in next line. of Bethel,And the horns of the altar shall be cut offAnd shall fall to the ground.

3:15 I will wreck the winter palaceTogether with the summer palace;The ivory palaces shall be demolished,And the great houses shall be destroyed—declares GOD.

4:1 Hear this word, you cows of BashanOn the hill of Samaria—Who defraud the poor,Who rob the needy;Who say to youyour Heb. “their.” husbands,“Bring, and let’s carouse!”

4:2 My Sovereign GOD swears irrevocably:birrevocably Lit. “by His

holiness.” Behold, days are coming upon you
When you will be carried off in
baskets, And, to the last one, in fish baskets,

4:3 And taken out [of the city]—Each one through a breach straight
ahead—And flung on the refuse heap
When you will be carried off ... on the
refuse heap Meaning of Heb. uncertain. —declares GOD.

4:4 Come to Bethel and transgress;
To Gilgal, and transgress even more:
Present your sacrifices the next morning
And your tithes on the third day;

4:5 And burn a thank offering of leavened bread;
dthank offering of leavened
bread Cf. Lev. 7.12–14; where, however, the bread is not to be burned. And
proclaim freewill offerings loudly.
For you love that sort of thing, O
Israelites—declares the Sovereign GOD.

4:6 I, on My part, have given you
Cleanness of teeth in all your towns,
And lack of food in all your settlements.
Yet you did not turn back to Me—declares GOD.

4:7 I therefore withheld the rain from you
Three months before harvest
time: I would make it rain on one town
And not on another; One field would be rained
upon While another on which it did not rain
Would wither.

4:8 So two or three towns would wander
To a single town to drink water,
But their thirst would not be slaked.
Yet you did not turn back to Me—declares GOD.

4:9 I scourged you with blight and mildew;
Repeatedly Repeatedly Meaning of Heb.
uncertain. your gardens and vineyards,
Your fig trees and olive trees
Were devoured by locusts.
Yet you did not turn back to Me—declares GOD.

4:10 I sent against you pestilence
In the manner of Egypt; fpestilence / In the
manner of Egypt Alluding to the plagues at the time of the Exodus. I slew your
young men with the sword,
Together with your captured horses,
And I made the stench of your armies
Rise in your very nostrils.
Yet you did not turn back to
Me—declares GOD.

4:11 I have wrought destruction among you
As when God destroyed Sodom and
Gomorra; You have become like a brand
plucked from burning.
Yet you have not turned back to Me—declares GOD.

4:12 Assuredly, Because I am doing that to you, g
Because I am doing that to you
Emendation yields “Because you are acting thus toward Me.” Even so will I
act toward you, O Israel—Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!

4:13 Behold the One who formed the mountains,
And created the wind, And whose
wisheshwishes Meaning of Heb. uncertain. have been made known to mortals,
Who turns blacknessblackness Cf. Joel 2.2. Emendation yields “darkness”; cf.

5.8. into daybreak, And treads upon the high places of the earth,
Whose name is GOD—the God of Hosts.

5:1 Hear this word that I intone
As a dirge over you, O House of Israel:

5:2 Fallen, not to rise again, Is Maiden Israel;
Abandoned on her soil
With none to lift her up.

5:3 For thus said the Sovereign GOD
About the House of Israel: The town that
marches out a thousand strong
Shall have a hundred left, And the one that
marches out a hundred strong
Shall have but ten left.

5:4 Thus said GOD To the House of Israel:
Seek Me, and you will live.

5:5 Do not seek Bethel, Nor go to Gilgal,
Nor cross over across over Into Judah;
cf. 1 Kings 19.3. to Beer-sheba; For Gilgal shall go into exile,
And Bethel shall become a delusion.

5:6 Seek GOD, and you will live. Otherwise, [God] will rush like fire upon will
rush like fire Meaning of Heb. uncertain. the House of Joseph And consume
Bethel c Bethel Septuagint reads “the House of Israel.” with none to quench
it.

5:7 [Ah,] you who turn justice into wormwood And hurl righteousness to the
ground! [Seek GOD,]

5:8 Who made the Pleiades and Orion, Who turns deep darkness into dawn And
darkens day into night, Who summons the waters of the sea And pours them out upon
the earth—Whose name is GOD!

5:9 d Meaning of verse uncertain. It is [God] who hurls destruction upon
strongholds, So that ruin comes upon fortresses!

5:10 They hate the arbiter in the gate, And detest the one whose plea is just.

5:11 Assuredly, Because you impose a tax impose a tax Meaning of Heb. uncertain.
on the poor And exact from them a levy of grain, You have built houses of hewn
stone, But you shall not live in them; You have planted delightful vineyards, But
shall not drink their wine.

5:12 For I have noted how many are your crimes, And how countless your
sins—You enemies of the righteous, You takers of bribes, You who subvert in the
gate The cause of the needy!

5:13 Assuredly, At such a time the prudent keep silent, f keep silent Or
“moan.” For it is an evil time.

5:14 Seek good and not evil, That you may live, And that the ETERNAL, the God of
Hosts, May truly be with you, As you think.

5:15 Hate evil and love good, And establish justice in the gate; Perhaps the
ETERNAL, the God of Hosts, Will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

5:16 Assuredly, Thus said GOD, The Sovereign—the God of Hosts: In every square
there shall be lamenting, In every street cries of “Ah, woe!” And the farm
hand shall be Called to mourn, And those skilled in wailing To lament;

5:17 For there shall be lamenting In every vineyard, too, When I pass through
your midst—said GOD.

5:18 Ah, you who wish For the day of GOD! Why should you want The day of GOD? It
shall be darkness, not light!

5:19 —As if someone were to run from a lion And get attacked by a bear; Or,
upon making it indoors, Were to lean their hand on the wall And get bitten by a
snake!

5:20 Surely the day of GOD shall be Not light, but darkness, Blackest night
without a glimmer.

5:21 I loathe, I spurn your festivals, I am not appeased by your solemn
assemblies.

5:22 If you offer Me burnt offerings—or your grain offerings—I will not
accept them; I will pay no heed To your gifts of fatlings.

5:23 Spare Me the sound of your hymns, And let Me not hear the music of your
lutes.

5:24 But let justice well up like water, Righteousness like an unfailing stream.

5:25 Did you offer sacrifice and oblation to Me Those forty years in the
wilderness, O House of Israel?

5:26 g This verse and the next would read well after 6.14. And you shall carry

off your “king”—Sikkuth and Kiyyun,^hSikkuth and Kiyyun Two Akkadian names applied to Saturn, here deliberately pointed with the vowels of Heb. shiqqus, “detestable thing.” The images you have made for yourselves
Of your astral deity—

5:27 As I drive you into exile beyond Damascus—Said GOD, whose name is God of Hosts.ⁱwhose name is God of Hosts I.e., who is Sovereign of all the astral bodies.

6:1 Ah, you who are at ease in Zion
Zion Emendation yields “Joseph,” cf. v. 6, and 5.6, 15, where “Joseph” denotes the northern kingdom. And confident on the hill of Samaria,
You notables of the leading nation
On whom the House of Israel pin their hopes:
pin their hopes Taking ba’ l- as synonymous with ba’ ‘ad; see Isa. 45.24 and second note there.

6:2 Cross over to Calneh and see,
Go from there to Great Hamath,
And go down to Gath of the Philistines:
Are [you] better than those kingdoms,
Or is their territory larger than yours?
cOr is their territory larger than yours?
Emendation yields “Or is your territory larger than theirs?”

6:3 dMeaning of verse uncertain. Yet you ward off [the thought of] a day of woe
And convene a session of lawlessness.

6:4 They lie on ivory beds,
Lolling on their couches,
Feasting on lambs from the flock
And on calves from the stalls.

6:5 They hum snatches of song
To the tune of the lute—They account themselves musicianse
They hum snatches ... account themselves musicians
Meaning of Heb. uncertain. like David.

6:6 They drink [straight] from the wine bowls
And anoint themselves with the choicest oils—
But they are not concerned about the ruin of Joseph.

6:7 Assuredly, right soon
They shall head the column of exiles;
They shall loll no more at festive meals.

6:8 The Sovereign GOD wholeheartedly swears:
I loathe the Pride of Jacob,^fPride of Jacob
A poetic designation of the northern kingdom. And I detest his fortresses.
I will declare forfeit city and inhabitants alike—declares the ETERNAL, the God of Hosts.

6:9 If ten people are left in one house, they shall die.

6:10 And if someone’s kinsman—who is to burn incense for one of the deceased
gwho is to burn incense for one of the deceased Or “along with an embalmer.”—comes to carry the remains out of the house,^hAnd if someone’s kinsman ... out of a house
Meaning of Heb. uncertain. and he calls to the one at the rear of the house, “Are there any alive besides you?” the answer will be, “No, none.” And he will say, “Hush!”—so that no one may utter GOD’s name.

6:11 For GOD will command,
And the great house shall be smashed to bits,
And the little house to splinters.

6:12 Can horses gallop on a rock?
Can it be plowed with oxen?ⁱCan it be plowed with oxen?
Meaning of Heb. uncertain; emendation yields “Can one plow the sea with oxen?”
Yet you have turned justice into poison weed
And the fruit of righteousness to wormwood.

6:13 [Ah,] those who are so happy about Lo-dabar,
Who exult, “By our might
We have captured Karnaim”!^jLo-dabar...Karnaim
Two towns east of the Jordan

recovered for Israel by Jeroboam II (see 2 Kings 14.25). For Lo-dabar, cf. 2 Sam. 9.4, 5; 17.27; for Karnaim, cf. Gen. 14.5.

6:14 But I, O House of Israel, Will raise up a nation against you—declares the ETERNAL, the God of Hosts—Who will harass you from Lebo-hamath To the Wadi Arabah.

7:1 This is what my Sovereign GOD showed me: [A plague of] locusts was created at the time when the late-sown crops were beginning to sprout—the late-sown crops after the king's reaping. the late-sown crops after the king's reaping Meaning of Heb. uncertain. The king's reaping of fodder apparently occurred near the end of the rainy season, and whatever the locust destroyed after that could not be replaced for another year.

7:2 When it had finished devouring the herbage in the land, I said, "O my Sovereign, ETERNAL One, pray forgive. How will Jacob survive? He is so small."

7:3 GOD relented concerning this. "It shall not come to pass," said GOD.

7:4 This is what my Sovereign GOD showed me: Lo, my Sovereign GOD was summoning to contend by to contend by Emendation yields "flaming." fire that consumed the Great Deep and was consuming the fields.

7:5 I said, "Oh, my Sovereign, ETERNAL One, refrain! How will Jacob survive? He is so small."

7:6 GOD relented concerning this. "That shall not come to pass, either," said my Sovereign GOD.

7:7 This is what I was shown: [God] was standing on a wall checked with a plumb line checked with a plumb line Or "destined for the pickax"; meaning of Heb. uncertain. while holding a plumb line. dplumb line Or "pickax"; meaning of Heb. uncertain.

7:8 And GOD asked me, "What do you see, Amos?" "A plumb line," eplumb line See second note at v. 7. I replied. And my Sovereign declared, "I am going to apply a plumb line plumb line See previous note. to My people Israel; I will pardon them no more.

7:9 The shrines of Isaac shall be laid waste, and the sanctuaries of Israel reduced to ruins; and I will turn upon the House of Jeroboam with the sword."

7:10 Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent this message to King Jeroboam of Israel: "Amos is conspiring against you within the House of Israel. The country cannot endure the things he is saying.

7:11 For Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall be exiled from its soil.'"

7:12 Amaziah also said to Amos, "Seer, off with you to the land of Judah! Earn your living Earn your living Lit. "eat bread." there, and do your prophesying there.

7:13 But don't ever prophesy again at Bethel; for it is a king's sanctuary and a royal palace."

7:14 Amos answered Amaziah: "I am not a prophet, hnot a prophet By profession. and I am not a prophet's disciple. I am a cattle breeder icattle breeder Meaning of Heb. uncertain; emendation yields "sheep breeder"; cf. the next verse and 1.1. and a tender of sycamore figs.

7:15 But GOD took me away from following the flock, and GOD said to me, 'Go,

prophesy to My people Israel.’

7:16 And so, hear the word of GOD. You say I must not prophesy about the House of Israel or preach about the House of Isaac;

7:17 but this, I swear, is what GOD said: Your wife shall play the whore; play the whore. Emendation yields “be abused”; cf. Lam. 5.11. in the town, your sons and daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be divided up with a measuring line. And you yourself shall die on impure soil; impure soil Cf. Hos. 9.3 and note. for Israel shall be exiled from its soil.”

8:1 This is what my Sovereign GOD showed me: There was a basket of figs. figs Heb. qayis, lit. “summer fruit.”

8:2 I was asked, “What do you see, Amos?” “A basket of figs,” I replied. And GOD said to me: “The hour of doom; hour of doom Heb. qes. has come for My people Israel; I will not pardon them again.

8:3 And the singing women of the palace shall howl on that day—declares the Sovereign GOD: So many corpses left lying everywhere! Hush!”

8:4 Listen to this, you who devour the needy, annihilating the poor of the land, who devour the needy, annihilating the poor of the land. Emendation yields “who on every new moon devour the needy, and on every sabbath the humble of the land”; cf. v. 5.

8:5 saying, “If only the new moon were over, so that we could sell grain; the sabbath, so that we could offer wheat for sale, using an ephah that is too small, and a shekel that is too big, using an ephah that is too small, and a shekel that is too big. I.e., giving short measures of grain, but using oversize weights for the silver received in payment. tilting a dishonest scale,

8:6 and selling grain refuse as grain! We will buy the poor for silver, the needy for a pair of sandals.”

8:7 GOD swears by the name of Jacob: “I will never forget any of their doings.”

8:8 Shall not the earth shake for this? And all that dwell on it mourn? Shall it not all rise like the Nile? And surge and subside like the Nile of Egypt?

8:9 And in that day—declares the Sovereign GOD—I will make the sun set at noon, I will darken the earth on a sunny day.

8:10 I will turn your festivals into mourning and all your songs into dirges; I will put sackcloth on all loins and tonsures on every head. I will make the earth mourn. Heb. “it”; cf. vv. 8 and 9d. mourn as for an only child. All Lit. “the end.” of it as on a bitter day.

8:11 A time is coming—declares the Sovereign GOD—when I will send a famine upon the land: not a hunger for bread or a thirst for water, but for hearing the words of GOD.

8:12 People shall wander from sea to sea and from north to east to seek the word of GOD, but they shall not find it.

8:13 In that day, the beautiful maidens and the young men shall faint with thirst—

8:14 Those who swear by the guilt of Samaria, saying, “As your god lives, Dan,” “As your god lives, Dan” See 1 Kings 12.28–29. And “As the way to Beer-sheba lives” “As the way to Beer-sheba lives” See 5.5 with note.—They shall fall to rise no more.

9:1 I observed my Sovereign standing by the altar and saying: Strike the capitals so that the thresholds quake, and make an end of the first of them all. Strike the capitals ... first of them all Meaning of Heb. uncertain. And I will slay the last of them with the sword; not one of them shall escape, and not one of them shall survive.

9:2 If they burrow down to Sheol, From there My hand shall take them; And if they ascend to heaven, From there I will bring them down.

9:3 If they hide on the top of Carmel, There I will search them out and seize them; And if they conceal themselves from My sight At the bottom of the sea, There I will command The serpent to bite them.

9:4 And if they go into captivity Before their enemies, There I will command The sword to slay them. I will fix My eye on them for evil And not for good.

9:5 It is the Sovereign GOD of Hosts—At whose touch the earth trembles And all who dwell on it mourn, And all of it swells like the Nile And subsides like the Nile of Egypt;

9:6 Who built the chambers in heaven And founded the vault on the earth, Who summons the waters of the sea And pours them over the land—Whose name is GOD.

9:7 To Me, O Israelites, you are Just like the Cushites^b Cushites People of Cush, the region south of Egypt. —declares GOD. True, I brought Israel up From the land of Egypt, But also the Philistines from Caphtor And the Arameans from Kir.

9:8 Behold, my Sovereign GOD is keeping an eye On the sinful kingdom: I will wipe it off The face of the earth! But, I will not wholly wipe out The House of Jacob—declares GOD.

9:9 For I will give the order And shake the House of Israel—Through all the nations—As one shakes [sand] in a sieve, ^csieve A coarse sieve used for cleansing grain of straw and stones, or sand of pebbles and shells. And not a pebble falls to the ground.

9:10 All the sinners of My people Shall perish by the sword, Who boast, “Never shall the evil Overtake us or come near us.”

9:11 In that day, I will set up again the fallen booth of David: I will mend its breaches and set up its ruins anew. I will build it firm as in the days of old,

9:12 So that they shall possess the rest of Edom And all the nations once attached to My named So that they shall possess the rest of Edom / And all the nations once attached to My name I.e., the House of David shall reestablish its authority over the nations that were ruled by David.—declares GOD who will bring this to pass.

9:13 A time is coming—declares GOD—When the plower shall meet the reaper, ^ethe plower shall meet the reaper Cf. Lev. 26.5. And the treader of grapes The one who holds the [bag of] seed; When the mountains shall drip wine And all the hills shall wave [with grain].

9:14 I will restore My people Israel. They shall rebuild ruined cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink their wine; They shall till gardens and eat their fruits.

9:15 And I will plant them upon their soil, Nevermore to be uprooted From the soil I have given them—said the ETERNAL your God.