**The Book of the Prophet Amos**

**1) Introduction**

1:1I am Amos. I raise sheep near the town of Tekoa in the kingdom of Judah. When Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam was king of Israel, the Lord gave me several messages to deliver about Israel. I said:

When the Lord roars

in anger from Jerusalem,

 all the grass will dry up and turn brown:

from the north tip of Israel,

to the south tip of Judah.

**2) God Shows Amos a Vision**

7:7The Lord showed me a vision of himself standing beside a wall and holding a string with a weight tied to the end of it. The string and weight had been used to measure the straightness of the wall. 8Then he asked, "Amos, what do you see?"

   "A measuring line," I answered.

   The Lord said, "I'm using this measuring line to show that my people Israel don't measure up; I won't forgive them anymore. 9Their sacred places will be destroyed; I will send war against the nation of Israel."

**3) Amos vs. the Leaders of Israel**

10Amaziah the priest sent this message to King Jeroboam of Israel:

‘Amos is making plans against you. He is trying to make the people of Israel turn against their own government. He has been speaking so much, that the country cannot hold all his words. Amos has said, “Jeroboam will die by the sword, and the people of Israel will be taken as prisoners out of their country.”’

12Then Amaziah told me, ‘Amos, take your visions and get out of this country! Go back to Judah and earn your living there as a prophet. 13Don't do any more preaching here in the capital.

This is where the king goes to church!’

14I answered: I am not a professional prophet! And I wasn't trained to be one. I am a shepherd, and I take care of fig trees.

15But the Lord told me to leave my herds

and to preach to the people of Israel.

16And here you are, telling me not to preach!

17Now, listen to what the LORD says about *you*:

   Your wife will become

 a prostitute in the city,

   your sons and daughters

  will be killed in a war;

   your land will be divided among others.

   You will die in a country of foreigners,

   and the people of Israel

   will *definitely* be dragged from their homeland.’

**4) God Explains What’s Gone Wrong with the Country**

2:6The LORD said:

 ‘I will punish Israel for countless crimes,

 and I won't change my mind.

 They sell honest people for money,

 and the needy are sold

 for the price of two sandals.

 7They smear the face of the poor in the dirt,

 and they push aside those who are helpless.

 8:5They say,

 “When will the Sabbath be over,

 so that we can start selling our wheat?

 We can't wait to cheat and overcharge people.

 We will use dishonest scales

 6and mix sawdust in with the grain.

 If people are poor

 and the food is too expensive,

 they can pay on credit

 and we will make them our slaves.”

3:10These people have become rich

 from violence and robbery.

 They don't even know how to do right.

**5) What God Really Wants**

5:21I, the Lord, hate and despise

 your religious celebrations

 and your worship services.

22I won't accept your offerings or sacrifices –

 not even your very best.

23No more noisy songs!

 I won't listen when you play

 your musical instruments.

24Instead, you must let justice and fairness

 flow like a river that never runs dry.