EDIFIED EDITION

Amos

A modern rendering of the Holy Scriptures

9	146	Old	30
chapters	verses	Testament	book of 66

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Edified Edition (EDE): a modern rendering of the Holy Scriptures from the original Hebrew and Greek, in everyday British English. www.edifiededition.com

Numbered notes follow each chapter.

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Chapter 1

Amos 1 introduces Amos, a sheep breeder from Tekoa, who prophesied concerning Israel two years before the earthquake. The LORD roars from Zion, and the pastures wither. Then come oracles against the nations, each condemning crime upon crime: Damascus threshed Gilead with iron sledges; Gaza deported whole communities to Edom; Tyre did the same and forgot a covenant of brotherhood; Edom pursued his brother with the sword and kept his anger for ever; and the Ammonites ripped open pregnant women in Gilead to enlarge their borders. On each the LORD will send fire to consume its fortresses.

[1]These are the words of Amos, a sheep breeder from Tekoa. He saw them concerning Israel while Uzziah reigned in Judah and Jeroboam son of Joash reigned in Israel, two years before the earthquake.[1]

[2]He said: The LORD roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem; the shepherds' pastures mourn, and the top of Carmel withers.

[3]This is what the LORD says: For three crimes of Damascus, yes, for four, I will not turn back My sentence, because they have threshed Gilead with sledges of iron.[2]

[4]So I will send fire on the house of Hazael, and it will consume the fortresses of Ben-hadad.

[5]I will break the gate bar of Damascus and cut off the ruler from the Valley of Aven and the one who holds the sceptre from Beth-eden. The people of Aram will go into exile to Kir, says the LORD.

[6]This is what the LORD says: For three crimes of Gaza, yes, for four, I will not turn back My sentence, because they carried off whole communities into exile and handed them over to Edom.

[7]So I will send fire on the walls of Gaza, and it will consume her fortresses.

8 I will cut off Ashdod's ruler and Ashkelon's
sceptre-bearer; I will raise My hand against
Ekron, and what is left of the Philistines will die
out, says the Lord GOD.

9 This is what the LORD says: For three crimes of
Tyre, yes, for four, I will not turn back My
sentence, because they handed over whole
communities to Edom and did not remember the
covenant of brotherhood.

10 So I will send fire on the walls of Tyre, and it
will consume her fortresses.

11 This is what the LORD says: For three crimes of
Edom, yes, for four, I will not turn back My
sentence, because he pursued his brother with the
sword and stifled all compassion. His anger raged
on and on, and he nursed his fury for ever.

12 So I will send fire on Teman, and it will consume
the fortresses of Bozrah.

13 This is what the LORD says: For three crimes of
the Ammonites, yes, for four, I will not turn back
My sentence, because they ripped open the
pregnant women of Gilead in order to enlarge
their territory.

14 So I will kindle a fire on the walls of Rabbah,
and it will consume her fortresses amid war cries
on the day of battle, amid a storm on the day of
the whirlwind.

15 Their king will go into exile, he and his officials
together, says the LORD.

1 About 760 BC. Tekoa was a village in Judah, south of Bethlehem; Amos prophesied in the northern kingdom. The earthquake is remembered in Zechariah 14:5.

2 'For three … yes, for four' means 'for crime upon crime'. The fourth is then named.

Chapter 2

Amos 2 continues with Moab, which burned the bones of Edom's king to lime, and then turns to God's own people. Judah has rejected the law of the LORD and been led astray by lies. Israel sells the righteous for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, tramples the heads of the poor, profanes His holy name by sexual sin and drinks wine taken in fines in the house of their god. Yet it was the LORD who destroyed the Amorite before them, brought them out of Egypt and raised up prophets and Nazirites, whom they silenced and made to drink wine. Now He will press them down like a loaded cart, and on that day not even the swiftest or bravest will escape.

1 This is what the LORD says: For three crimes of
Moab, yes, for four, I will not turn back My
sentence, because he burned the bones of the king
of Edom to lime.

2 So I will send fire on Moab, and it will consume
the fortresses of Kerioth. Moab will die amid
uproar, with war cries and the blast of the ram's
horn.

3 I will cut off the judge from her midst and kill all
her officials with him, says the LORD.

4 This is what the LORD says: For three crimes of
Judah, yes, for four, I will not turn back My
sentence, because they have rejected the law of
the LORD and have not kept His statutes. Their
lies have led them astray, the lies their fathers
followed.

5 So I will send fire on Judah, and it will consume
the fortresses of Jerusalem.

6 This is what the LORD says: For three crimes of
Israel, yes, for four, I will not turn back My
sentence, because they sell the righteous for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals.

7 They trample the heads of the poor into the dust
of the ground and push the humble out of the way.
Father and son sleep with the same girl and so
profane My holy name.

8 They lie down beside every altar on garments
taken in pledge, and in the house of their god they
drink wine taken as fines.[1]

9 Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before
them, though he was as tall as the cedars and as
strong as the oaks. I destroyed his fruit above and
his roots below.

10 And it was I who led you out of Egypt and
guided you through the desert for forty years, so
that you could take the Amorites' land for your
own.

11 I raised up some of your sons as prophets and
some of your young men as Nazirites. Is this not
true, people of Israel? declares the LORD.[2]

12 But you made the Nazirites drink wine and
commanded the prophets, “Do not prophesy.”
13 Now I am going to crush you down where you
stand, as a cart crushes when it is loaded with
sheaves.
14 Flight will fail the swift, the strong will not keep
his strength, and the warrior will not save his life.
15 The archer will not stand his ground, the swift of
foot will not escape, and the horseman will not
save his life.
16 Even the bravest of warriors will flee naked on
that day, declares the LORD.

1 A cloak taken in pledge had to be returned before nightfall (Exodus 22:26–27).
2 Nazirites took a vow to abstain from wine (Numbers 6:1–21).

Chapter 3

Amos 3 reminds Israel that of all the families of the earth the LORD has known only them, and so He will punish them for all their iniquities. A string of questions shows that every effect has its cause: two do not walk together without agreeing, a lion does not roar without prey, and when disaster comes to a city the LORD has done it; the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing His secret to His servants the prophets. The lion has roared; who will not fear? Ashdod and Egypt are summoned to see the oppression in Samaria, whose people store up violence in their fortresses. An enemy will surround the land, and only scraps of Israel will be rescued, like two legs or a piece of an ear from a lion’s mouth. The altars of Bethel and the winter houses, summer houses and houses of ivory will be destroyed.

1 People of Israel, listen to this message the LORD
has spoken against you, against the entire family
He brought up from Egypt:
2 Out of every family on earth you are the only one
I have chosen; that is why I will call you to
account for all your sins.
3 Do two walk together unless they have agreed to
meet?
4 Does a lion roar in the forest when it has no
prey? Does a young lion growl from its den unless
it has caught something?
5 Does a bird fall into a trap on the ground when
there is no bait? Does a trap spring up from the
ground when it has caught nothing?
6 When a ram’s horn is blown in a city, do the
people not tremble? When disaster comes to a
city, has the LORD not done it?
7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing without
revealing His plan to His servants the prophets.
8 When the lion roars, who is not afraid? When the
Lord GOD speaks, who can keep from
prophesying?
9 Proclaim it to the fortresses of Ashdod and to the
fortresses of the land of Egypt: Assemble on the
mountains of Samaria, and see the great turmoil
within her and the oppression in her midst.
10 They do not know how to do what is right,
declares the LORD, those who store up violence
and plunder in their fortresses.
11 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: An
enemy will surround the land; he will pull down
your strength, and your fortresses will be
plundered.
12 This is what the LORD says: As a shepherd
rescues from the lion’s mouth two legs or a piece
of an ear, so will the Israelites who live in Samaria
be rescued, with the corner of a couch and the
cover of a bed.[1]
13 Hear and testify against the house of Jacob,
declares the Lord GOD, the God of Armies.
14 On the day I punish Israel for their
transgressions, I will also punish the altars of
Bethel; the horns of the altar will be cut off and
fall to the ground.
15 I will strike down the winter house together with
the summer house; the houses adorned with ivory
will be destroyed, and the great houses will come
to an end, declares the LORD.

1 A shepherd showed such remains to prove that a wild animal had taken the sheep (Exodus 22:13). The last words are uncertain.

Chapter 4

Amos 4 turns on the wealthy women of Samaria, the cows of Bashan who oppress the poor and crush the needy and say to their husbands, "Bring us something to drink!" The Lord GOD swears that they will be dragged away with hooks. With biting irony He invites Israel to go to Bethel and Gilgal and multiply their sins with sacrifices and freewill offerings. He sent them hunger, drought, blight and mildew, locusts, plague and war, and overthrew some of them like Sodom and Gomorrah, yet each time "you did not return to Me." So Israel must prepare to meet its God, who forms the mountains, creates the wind, reveals His thoughts to mankind and treads on the heights of the earth; the LORD God of Armies is His name.

1 Hear this word, you cows of Bashan on the
mountain of Samaria, you who oppress the poor
and crush the needy, who say to your husbands,
"Bring us something to drink!"[1]

2 The Lord GOD has sworn by His holiness: The
days are coming when you will be taken away with
hooks, the last of you with fishhooks.

3 You will go out through breaches in the walls,
each one straight ahead, and you will be cast out
towards Harmon, declares the LORD.[2]

4 Come to Bethel and rebel; come to Gilgal and
rebel even more! Bring your sacrifices each
morning and your tithes on the third day.

5 Burn leavened bread as a thank offering, and
proclaim your freewill offerings, announce them
aloud, for this is what you love to do, people of
Israel, declares the Lord GOD.

6 I gave you empty stomachs in all your towns and
lack of bread in all your settlements, yet you did
not return to Me, declares the LORD.

7 I also withheld rain from you when the harvest
was still three months away. I sent rain on one
town but not on another; one field had rain, and
another without rain dried up.

8 People staggered from town to town for water
but could not drink their fill, yet you did not
return to Me, declares the LORD.

9 I struck your gardens and vineyards with blight
and mildew; the locust devoured your fig trees
and olive trees, yet you did not return to Me,
declares the LORD.

10 I sent plagues among you as I did to Egypt. I
killed your young men with the sword, along with
your captured horses, and I made the stench of
your camps rise into your nostrils, yet you did not
return to Me, declares the LORD.

11 I overthrew some of you as God overthrew
Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were like a
burning stick snatched from the fire, yet you did
not return to Me, declares the LORD.[3]

12 Therefore this is what I will do to you, Israel;
and because I will do this to you, prepare to meet
your God, Israel!

13 For He who forms the mountains and creates
the wind, who reveals His thoughts to mankind,
who turns dawn into darkness and treads on the
heights of the earth, the LORD God of Armies is
His name.

1 Bashan, east of the Jordan, was famous for its well-fed cattle.

2 The meaning of 'Harmon' is uncertain.

3 Compare Zechariah 3:2.

Chapter 5

Amos 5 is a lament for fallen Israel, the virgin who will not rise again; cities that marched out a thousand will have a hundred left. Yet the LORD calls them to seek Him and live, not to seek Bethel, Gilgal or Beersheba. He who made the Pleiades and Orion is the LORD, but they turn justice into wormwood, hate the one who reproves in the gate, trample the poor and take bribes. They must seek good and not evil, hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; perhaps the LORD will be gracious. Woe to those who long for the day of the LORD: it will be darkness and not light, like escaping a lion only to meet a bear. The LORD hates their feasts and will not accept their offerings or listen to their songs; instead let justice roll on like water and righteousness like a river that never fails. They worshipped idols in the wilderness, so He will send them into exile beyond Damascus.

1 Hear this word, house of Israel, this lament I take
up over you:

2 Fallen, never to rise again, is the virgin Israel;
she lies abandoned on her land, with no one to raise her up.

3 For this is what the Lord GOD says:
The city that marches out a thousand strong will have a hundred left,
and the one that marches out a hundred strong will have ten left to the house of Israel.

4 For this is what the LORD says to the house of Israel:
Seek Me and live.

5 Do not seek Bethel, do not go to Gilgal and do not cross over to Beersheba.
For Gilgal will surely go into exile, and Bethel will come to nothing.[1]

6 Seek the LORD and live, or He will sweep through the house of Joseph like fire;
it will consume Bethel, with no one to quench it.

7 You who turn justice into wormwood and throw righteousness to the ground,

8 He who made the Pleiades and Orion, who turns deep darkness into morning and darkens day into night,
who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the earth,
the LORD is His name.

9 He flashes destruction on the strong, so that destruction comes upon the fortress.

10 They hate the one who reproves in the gate and despise the one who speaks the truth.

11 Because you trample on the poor and exact a tax of grain from them,
though you have built houses of dressed stone, you will not live in them;
though you have planted pleasant vineyards, you will not drink their wine.

12 For I know how many are your transgressions and how great your sins:
you oppress the righteous, take bribes and turn aside the needy in the gate.[2]

13 Therefore the prudent keep silent at such a time, for it is an evil time.

14 Seek good and not evil, so that you may live;
then the LORD God of Armies will be with you, as you claim He is.

15 Hate evil, love good, and establish justice in the gate.
Perhaps the LORD God of Armies will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

16 Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Armies, the Lord, says:
There will be wailing in every square and cries of “Alas! Alas!” in every street.
They will call the farmer to mourn and the professional mourners to wail.

17 There will be wailing in every vineyard, for I will pass through your midst, says the LORD.[3]

18 Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD!
Why would you want the day of the LORD? It will be darkness and not light.

19 It will be like a man who flees from a lion, only to meet a bear,
or who goes into his house, rests his hand on the wall, and is bitten by a snake.

20 Will not the day of the LORD be darkness and not light,
deep gloom without a ray of brightness?

21 Your festivals I hate and reject; your sacred gatherings give Me no pleasure.

22 Even though you offer Me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them;
I will not look on the peace offerings of your fattened animals.

23 Spare Me the din of your hymns; I will not hear the playing of your lyres.

24 Instead let justice roll on like water, and righteousness like a river that never runs dry.

25 Did you bring Me slain victims and grain offerings for forty years in the wilderness, house of Israel?

26 You have carried Sakkuth your king and Kaiwan your images, the star of your god, which you made for yourselves.[4]

27 Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Damascus, says the LORD, whose name is the God of Armies.

1 In Hebrew ‘Gilgal’ and ‘go into exile’ sound alike, and ‘Bethel’ (‘house of God’) becomes ‘Aven’ (‘nothing’, ‘wickedness’); compare Hosea 4:15.

2 The town gate was where cases were heard and judged.

3 An echo of the Passover night, when the LORD passed through Egypt (Exodus 12:12).

4 Sakkuth and Kaiwan were Assyrian names for the planet Saturn. Stephen quotes 5:25–27 from the Greek translation in Acts 7:42–43, which reads ‘the tent of Moloch and the star of your god Rephan’ and ‘beyond Babylon’.

Chapter 6

Amos 6 pronounces woe on those who are complacent in Zion and feel secure on the mountain of Samaria, the notable men of the foremost nation. They put off the day of disaster yet bring near a reign of violence. They lie on beds of ivory, lounge on couches, eat the best lambs and calves, improvise songs on the harp like David, drink wine by the bowlful and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but they do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. So they will be the first to go into exile. The Lord GOD abhors Jacob's pride and will hand over the city; even if ten survive in a house, they will die. Israel has turned justice into poison and boasts of capturing Lo-debar and Karnaim, so the LORD will raise up a nation to oppress them from Lebo-hamath to the brook of the Arabah.

1 Woe to the complacent in Zion, and to those who
feel safe on Samaria's hill, the men of note in the
first of the nations, to whom Israel's people come
for help!

2 Cross over to Calneh and look; go from there to
great Hamath, then go down to Gath of the
Philistines. Are you better than these kingdoms?
Is their territory larger than yours?

3 You put off the day of disaster and bring near the
reign of violence.

4 You lie on beds inlaid with ivory and lounge on
your couches. You dine on choice lambs from the
flock and calves from the stall.

5 You strum away on the harp and, like David,
improvise on musical instruments.

6 You drink wine by the bowlful and anoint
yourselves with the finest oils, but you do not
grieve over the ruin of Joseph.

7 Therefore you will now be the first to go into
exile, and the revelry of the loungers will come to
an end.[1]

8 The Lord GOD has sworn by Himself, declares
the LORD God of Armies: I abhor the pride of
Jacob and hate his fortresses; I will hand over the
city and everything in it.

9 If ten men are left in one house, they too will die.

10 And if a relative who is to burn the bodies comes
to carry them out of the house and asks someone
still hiding inside, "Is anyone else with you?" and
he says, "No," then he will say, "Hush! We must
not mention the name of the LORD."[2]

11 For the LORD is giving the command: the great
house will be smashed to pieces and the small
house to splinters.

12 Do horses run on rocky crags? Does one plough
the sea with oxen? Yet you have turned justice into
poison and the fruit of righteousness into
wormwood.[3]

13 You rejoice over Lo-debar and say, "Did we not
take Karnaim by our own strength?"[4]

14 For I am going to raise up a nation against you,
house of Israel, declares the LORD God of Armies,
and they will oppress you from Lebo-hamath to
the brook of the Arabah.

1 'Revelry' (marzeach) is the same word as the feast in Jeremiah 16:5.

2 For fear of drawing His wrath on them again. The Hebrew of this verse is difficult.

3 'The sea' follows a slight change in the Hebrew; the text reads 'with oxen there'.

4 Towns captured east of the Jordan. 'Lo-debar' means 'nothing', and 'Karnaim' means 'horns', a symbol of strength.

Chapter 7

Amos 7 records three visions. The Lord GOD shows Amos a swarm of locusts and then a judgement by fire; each time Amos pleads, "How can Jacob survive? He is so small!", and the LORD relents. In the third vision the Lord stands by a wall with a plumb line in His hand: He is setting a plumb line among His people Israel and will spare them no longer; the high places will be laid waste, and He will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword. Amaziah, priest of Bethel, reports Amos to King Jeroboam and tells him to go back to Judah and prophesy there, for Bethel is the king's sanctuary. Amos replies that he was no prophet but a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs when the LORD took him from the flock, and he announces Amaziah's fate and Israel's exile.

1 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: He was
forming swarms of locusts just as the late crops
were beginning to sprout, the late crops after the
king's mowing.[1]

2 When they had finished eating the vegetation of
the land, I said, “Lord GOD, forgive, I beg You!
How can Jacob survive? He is so small!”
3 So the LORD relented concerning this. “It will
not happen,” said the LORD.
4 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: the Lord
GOD was calling for judgement by fire. It
devoured the great deep and was devouring the
land.
5 Then I said, “Lord GOD, stop, I beg You! How can
Jacob survive? He is so small!”
6 So the LORD relented concerning this. “This will
not happen either,” said the Lord GOD.
7 This is what He showed me: the Lord was
standing beside a wall built with a plumb line,
with a plumb line in His hand.[2]
8 The LORD asked me, “What do you see, Amos?”
“A plumb line,” I replied. Then the Lord said, “I
am setting a plumb line among My people Israel; I
will spare them no longer.
9 Isaac’s shrines will be laid waste and Israel’s
holy places reduced to ruins; I will take up the
sword against Jeroboam’s dynasty.”
10 Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent word to
Jeroboam king of Israel: “Amos is conspiring
against you in the very heart of the house of
Israel. The land cannot bear all his words.
11 For this is what Amos says: ‘Jeroboam will die by
the sword, and Israel will certainly go into exile,
away from its land.’”
12 Then Amaziah said to Amos, “Get out, you seer!
Flee to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there
and do your prophesying there.
13 But never prophesy again at Bethel, for this is
the king’s sanctuary and the temple of the
kingdom.”
14 Amos answered Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor
a prophet’s son; I was a herdsman and a dresser
of sycamore figs.[3]
15 But the LORD took me from following the flock,
and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to My
people Israel.’
16 Now then, hear the word of the LORD. You say,
‘Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach
against the house of Isaac.’
17 Therefore this is what the LORD says: ‘Your wife
will become a prostitute in the city, and your sons
and daughters will fall by the sword. Your land will
be measured out and divided up, and you yourself
will die in an unclean land. And Israel will
certainly go into exile, away from its land.’”

1 The first cutting of the spring grass seems to have gone to the king as a tax.
2 Or ‘a wall of tin, with tin in His hand’. The Hebrew word (anakh) is found only here and is uncertain.
3 That is, not a professional prophet or a member of a prophetic guild. Sycamore figs had to be nicked to ripen.

Chapter 8

Amos 8 opens with a vision of a basket of summer fruit: the end has come for Israel, and the temple songs will become wailing. The LORD condemns those who trample the needy and can hardly wait for the new moon and the Sabbath to be over so that they can sell grain with false measures and dishonest scales, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals. He will never forget their deeds; the land will tremble and rise like the Nile. On that day He will make the sun go down at noon, turn their feasts into mourning as for an only son, and send a famine, not of bread or water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. People will stagger from sea to sea seeking His word and will not find it.

1 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: a basket
of summer fruit.
2 He asked, “What do you see, Amos?” “A basket of
summer fruit,” I replied. Then the LORD said to
me, “The end has come for My people Israel; I will
spare them no longer.[1]
3 On that day the songs of the temple will turn to
wailing, declares the Lord GOD. Many corpses,
flung everywhere! Silence!”
4 Hear this, you who trample the needy and do
away with the poor of the land,
5 saying, “When will the new moon be over, so that
we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we
may market wheat?” You shrink the measure,
inflate the price and cheat with dishonest scales,
6 buying the poor for silver and the needy for a
pair of sandals, and selling even the sweepings
with the wheat.

7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: I will never forget anything they have done.

8 Will not the land tremble for this, and everyone who lives in it mourn? The whole land will rise like the Nile; it will be tossed about and sink again like the river of Egypt.

9 On that day, declares the Lord GOD, I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.

10 Your feasts I will turn to grief and your songs to dirges. Every waist will wear sackcloth and every head be shaved; it will be like mourning for an only son, and it will end in a day of bitterness.

11 The days are coming, declares the Lord GOD, when I will send a famine through the land, not a famine of bread or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.

12 People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it.

13 On that day the lovely young women and the young men will faint from thirst.

14 Those who swear by the guilt of Samaria and say, “As your god lives, Dan,” or, “As the way of Beersheba lives,” will fall and never rise again.[2]

1 In Hebrew ‘summer fruit’ (qayits) and ‘end’ (qets) sound alike.

2 ‘The guilt of Samaria’ may be a scornful name for the goddess Ashimah (2 Kings 17:30). ‘The way of Beersheba’ may mean the pilgrimage route there.

Chapter 9

Amos 9 records a final vision: the Lord stands by the altar and orders the pillars to be struck so that the temple falls on the worshippers. Wherever they flee, to Sheol, heaven, the top of Carmel or the bottom of the sea, His hand will take them. He touches the earth and it melts; the LORD is His name. Israel is no more to Him than the Cushites; He brought the Philistines from Caphtor and the Arameans from Kir as well as Israel from Egypt. He will destroy the sinful kingdom, yet not totally destroy the house of Jacob, but shake them as grain is shaken in a sieve. On that day He will raise up the fallen tent of David, and the days are coming when the ploughman will overtake the reaper, the mountains will drip with new wine, and He will plant His people in their land, never again to be uprooted.

1 I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and He said: Strike the capitals so that the doorframes shudder; bring them crashing down on the heads of them all. Any who survive I will put to the sword; not one of them will get away, not one escape.

2 If they burrow down into Sheol, My hand will drag them out; if they climb up to the heavens, I will pull them down.

3 Though they hide on the top of Carmel, there I will search them out and seize them; though they hide from My sight on the floor of the sea, there I will command the serpent to bite them.

4 If their enemies march them off as captives, even there I will order the sword to kill them. My eyes will be on them for harm, not for good.[1]

5 The Lord GOD of Armies touches the earth and it melts, and all who live in it mourn; the whole land rises like the Nile and sinks again like the river of Egypt.

6 He builds His upper rooms in the heavens and sets its vault over the earth; He calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the earth. The LORD is His name.

7 Are you not like the Cushites to Me, people of Israel? declares the LORD. Did I not bring Israel up from the land of Egypt, the Philistines from Caphtor and the Arameans from Kir?

8 Look, the eyes of the Lord GOD are on the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the face of the earth. Yet I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob, declares the LORD.

9 For I am going to give the command, and I will shake the house of Israel among all the nations as grain is shaken in a sieve, but not a pebble will fall to the ground.

10 All the sinners among My people will die by the sword, all those who say, “Disaster will not overtake us or come near us.”

11 On that day I will raise up the fallen tent of David. I will repair its breaches, raise up its ruins and rebuild it as it was in days of old,[2]

12 so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that are called by My name,

declares the LORD, who does these things.[3]

13 The days are coming, declares the LORD, when
the ploughman will overtake the reaper and the
treader of grapes the one who sows the seed. The
mountains will drip with new wine, and all the
hills will flow with it.

14 I will restore the fortunes of My people Israel.
They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in
them; they will plant vineyards and drink their
wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit.

15 I will plant them in their own land, and they will
never again be uprooted from the land I have
given them, says the LORD your God.

1 Compare Psalm 139:7–12.

2 ‘Tent’ (sukkah) means a booth or shelter, a picture of David’s fallen dynasty.

3 James quotes 9:11–12 from the Greek translation in Acts 15:16–17, which reads ‘so that the rest of humanity may seek the LORD’.