

Judgment against Phoenicia for breaking treaty (selling slaves)

Amos 1:9-10: Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Tyre and for four I will not revoke its punishment, because they delivered up an entire population to Edom and did not remember the covenant of brotherhood. 10 "So I will send fire upon the wall of Tyre and it will consume her citadels."

Amos now moves to the chief city of Phoenicia, Tyre; as with Syria and Philistia, Amos announces God's message, saying, "For three transgressions . . . even for four I will not revoke its punishment." The use of "three transgressions" or [rebellions] represents fulness or completeness, the "four transgressions" speaks of their overflowing sin. God is judging because they have continued to sin and refused to repent; God had been more than patient. As with all his announcements, Amos opens with his common phrase and then he lists one or two specific egregious sins, followed by the pronouncement of God's impending judgment.

Tyre was a commercial powerhouse and trusted greatly in her financial wealth, her strategic location, and her military prowess. The Phoenicia merchants did business with all nations, including the selling of slaves. From various passages we can see Israel and Tyre enjoyed friendly relations for a long period. The Phoenicians had a treaty with Israel, which they broke; rather than coming to the aid of Judah, the Phoenicians sought to plunder Jerusalem when it fell and sold Jewish people into slavery. Both Nebuchadnezzar and Alexander the Great literally fulfilled the judgment pronounced by Amos. *2 Samuel 5:11; 1 Kings 5:1-12; 2 Chronicles 2:8-16; Isaiah 23:1-18; Ezekiel 26:1-7*

2 Samuel 5:11: Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David with cedar trees and carpenters and stonemasons; and they built a house for David. NASU

1 Kings 5:1-12: Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram had always been a friend of David. 2 Then Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, 3 "You know that David my father was unable to build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the wars which surrounded him, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet. ... 6 "Now therefore, command that they cut for me cedars from Lebanon, and my servants will be with your servants; and I will give you wages for your servants according to all that you say, for you know that there is no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians." 7 When Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he rejoiced greatly and said, "Blessed be the LORD today, who has given to David a wise son over this great people." 8 So Hiram sent word to Solomon, saying, "I have heard the message which you have sent me; I will do what you desire concerning the cedar and cypress timber. 9 ... 10 So Hiram gave Solomon as much as he desired of the cedar and cypress timber.

... 12 The LORD gave wisdom to Solomon, just as He promised him; and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a covenant.

Isaiah 23:15-18: Now in that day Tyre will be forgotten for seventy years like the days of one king. At the end of seventy years it will happen to Tyre as in the song of the harlot: 16 take your harp, walk about the city, O forgotten harlot; pluck the strings skillfully, sing many songs, that you may be remembered. 17 It will come about at the end of seventy years that the LORD will visit Tyre. Then she will go back to her harlot's wages and will play the harlot with all the kingdoms on the face of the earth. 18 Her gain and her harlot's wages will be set apart to the LORD; it will not be stored up or hoarded, but her gain will become sufficient food and choice attire for those who dwell in the presence of the LORD. NASU

Ezekiel 26:2-7: "Son of man, because Tyre has said concerning Jerusalem, 'Aha, the gateway of the peoples is broken; it has opened to me. I shall be filled, now that she is laid waste,' 3 therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and I will bring up many nations against you, as the sea brings up its waves. 4 "They will destroy the walls of Tyre and break down her towers; and I will scrape her debris from her and make her a bare rock. 5 "She will be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea, for I have spoken,' declares the Lord GOD, "and she will become spoil for the nations. 6 "Also her daughters who are on the mainland will be slain by the sword, and they will know that I am the LORD.'" 7 For thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will bring upon Tyre from the north Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses, chariots, cavalry and a great army.

Judgment against Edom for revengeful spirit

Amos 1:11-12: Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of Edom and for four I will not revoke its punishment, because he pursued his brother with the sword, while he stifled his compassion; his anger also tore continually, and he maintained his fury forever. 12 "So I will send fire upon Teman and it will consume the citadels of Bozrah."

Edom came from Esau, the brother of Jacob. Although Amos does not spell out sins similar to the other nations, God addresses their failure to show love and compassion for their brother nation Israel (*pursued his brother with the sword, while he stifled his compassion*). The jealousy and hatred of Edom towards Israel was palatable; whenever the opportunity presented itself to be cruel, unloving, and vicious, Edom was and did (*his anger also tore continually, and he maintained his fury forever*) **Genesis 27:40-41, 36:11; Numbers 20:18-21; Ezekiel 25:12-14; 35:5-6, 11**

Genesis 27:40-41: "By your sword you shall live, and your brother you shall serve; but it shall come about when you become restless, that you will break his yoke from your neck." 41 So Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

Numbers 20:18-21: Edom, however, said to him, "You shall not pass through us, or I will come out with the sword against you." 19 Again, the sons of Israel said to him, "We will go up by the highway, and if I and my livestock do drink any of your water, then I will pay its price. Let me only pass through on my feet, nothing else." 20 But he said, "You shall not pass through." And Edom came out against him with a heavy force and with a strong hand. 21 Thus Edom refused to allow Israel to pass through his territory; so Israel turned away from him.

Ezekiel 25:12-13: "Thus says the Lord GOD, "Because Edom has acted against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and has incurred grievous guilt, and avenged themselves upon them," 13 therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "I will also stretch out My hand against Edom and cut off man and beast from it. And I will lay it waste; from Teman even to Dedan they will fall by the sword.

Ezekiel 35:5-6,11: "Because you have had everlasting enmity and have delivered the sons of Israel to the power of the sword at the time of their calamity, at the time of the punishment of the end, 6 therefore as I live," declares the Lord GOD, "I will give you over to bloodshed, and bloodshed will pursue you; since you have not hated bloodshed, therefore bloodshed will pursue you. ... 11 therefore as I live," declares the Lord GOD, "I will deal with you according to your anger and according to your envy which you showed because of your hatred against them; so I will make Myself known among them when I judge you.

In other passages, we see their sin of hatred played out in their gloating at the destruction of their brother, whom they hated. Additionally, they assisted in their capture and selling into slavery. God has never condoned the selling of another into slavery for profit or forced slavery. *Deuteronomy 23:15-16; 2 Chronicles 28:17; Psalms 137:7; Proverbs 24:17-18;*

Deuteronomy 23:15-16: "You shall not hand over to his master a slave who has escaped from his master to you. 16 "He shall live with you in your midst, in the place which he shall choose in one of your towns where it pleases him; you shall not mistreat him.

2 Chronicles 28:17: For again the Edomites had come and attacked Judah and carried away captives.

Amos

Psalms 137:7: Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom the day of Jerusalem, who said, "Raze it, raze it to its very foundation."

Proverbs 24:17-18: Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; 18 or the LORD will see it and be displeased, and turn His anger away from him.

*Teman, named for a grandson of Esau, Genesis 36:11. (a.k.a., Petra) and Bozrah were the capital/leading cities of Edom; as with the Lord's other pronouncements, His judgment on Edom was fulfilled; Petra, which the people thought was unconquerable and unassailable, fell. As with Tyre, Edom destruction was completed in phases; they nation was conquered by Nebuchadnezzar and burned by Judas Maccabeus when took this city and killed all the males, and burned it with fire after plundering the city; this prophecy was literally fulfilled. *Obadiah 1-4; Malachi 1:2-4**

Obadiah 1-4: Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom - We have heard a report from the LORD, and an envoy has been sent among the nations saying, "Arise and let us go against her for battle" - 2 "Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you are greatly despised. 3 "The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in the loftiness of your dwelling place, who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to earth?' 4 "Though you build high like the eagle, though you set your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down," declares the LORD.

Malachi 1:2-4: "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have You loved us?" "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob; 3 but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation and appointed his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness." 4 Though Edom says, "We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins"; thus says the LORD of hosts, "They may build, but I will tear down; and men will call them the wicked territory, and the people toward whom the LORD is indignant forever."

Judgment against Ammon for violent crimes

Amos 1:13-15: Thus says the LORD, "For three transgressions of the sons of Ammon and for four I will not revoke its punishment, because they ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead in order to enlarge their borders. 14 "So I will kindle a fire on the wall of Rabbah and it will consume her citadels amid war cries on the day of battle, and a storm on the day of tempest. 15 "Their king will go into exile, He and his princes together," says the LORD.

The Ammonites were descendants of Lot and his younger daughter; the Lord punished Ammon, who resided east of Jordan, in the neighborhood of Gilead, for their barbaric war crimes – crimes against humanity! They ruthlessly killed women, children, and children still in their mothers. Although this ghastly barbarity was often a common action between other nations at that time, God never excuses the mistreatment of the innocent and helpless. ***Genesis 19:36-38; 1 Samuel 11:1-2; 2 Kings 8:12-15; Hosea 6:7-8***

Genesis 19:36-38: Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. 37 The firstborn bore a son, and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. 38 As for the younger, she also bore a son, and called his name Ben-ammi; he is the father of the sons of Ammon to this day.

1 Samuel 11:1-2: Now Nahash the Ammonite came up and besieged Jabesh-gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a covenant with us and we will serve you." 2 But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, "I will make it with you on this condition, that I will gouge out the right eye of every one of you, thus I will make it a reproach on all Israel."

2 Kings 8:12: Hazael said, "Why does my lord weep?" Then he answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the sons of Israel: their strongholds you will set on fire, and their young men you will kill with the sword, and their little ones you will dash in pieces, and their women with child you will rip up."

Hosea 6:7-8: But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant; there they have dealt treacherously against Me. 8 Gilead is a city of wrongdoers, tracked with bloody footprints.

Amos

Furthermore, the actions of the Ammonites were not spurred by Divine judgment against others but rather by their own selfish desires to increase their possessions (greed) and they rejoiced in the judgement of other, rather than offer assistance and deliverance. Either way, God condemns their motivation and their ruthless actions against the innocent. *Jeremiah 49:1-3; Ezekiel 25:1-7; Hosea 6:8*

Jeremiah 49:1-2: Thus says the LORD: "Does Israel have no sons? Or has he no heirs? Why then has Malcam taken possession of Gad and his people settled in its cities? 2 "Therefore behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "that I will cause a trumpet blast of war to be heard against Rabbah of the sons of Ammon, and it will become a desolate heap, and her towns will be set on fire. Then Israel will take possession of his possessors," says the LORD.

Ezekiel 25:1-7: And the word of the LORD came to me saying, 2 "Son of man, set your face toward the sons of Ammon and prophesy against them, 3 and say to the sons of Ammon, "Hear the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD, "Because you said, "Aha!" against My sanctuary when it was profaned, and against the land of Israel when it was made desolate, and against the house of Judah when they went into exile, 4 therefore, behold, I am going to give you to the sons of the east for a possession, and they will set their encampments among you and make their dwellings among you; they will eat your fruit and drink your milk. 5 "I will make Rabbah a pasture for camels and the sons of Ammon a resting place for flocks. Thus you will know that I am the LORD." 6 "For thus says the Lord GOD, "Because you have clapped your hands and stamped your feet and rejoiced with all the scorn of your soul against the land of Israel, 7 therefore, behold, I have stretched out My hand against you and I will give you for spoil to the nations. And I will cut you off from the peoples and make you perish from the lands; I will destroy you. Thus you will know that I am the LORD."

Hosea 10:14-15: Therefore a tumult will arise among your people, and all your fortresses will be destroyed, as Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel on the day of battle, when mothers were dashed in pieces with their children. 15 Thus it will be done to you at Bethel because of your great wickedness. At dawn the king of Israel will be completely cut off.