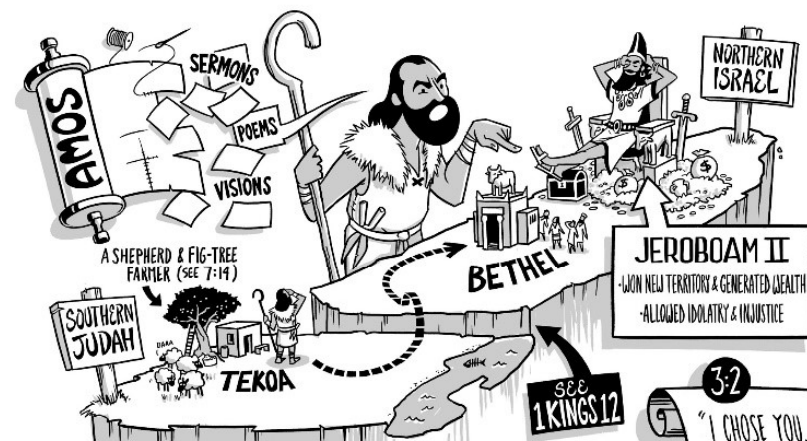
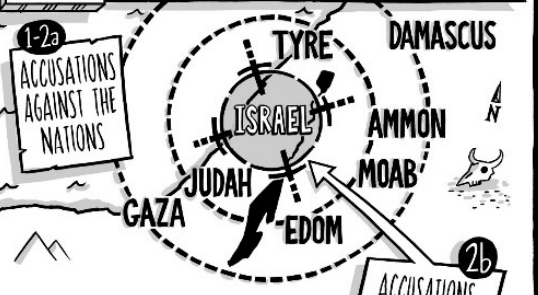


AMOS



TRUE WORSHIP of GOD *should always lead to* **JUSTICE, RIGHTEOUSNESS, & LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR**

1-2 MESSAGE TO THE NATIONS & ISRAEL



3-6 MESSAGE TO ISRAEL & ITS LEADERS

3-2 "I CHOSE YOU, ISRAEL, FROM AMONG ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH, AND THIS IS WHY I WILL PUNISH YOU FOR ALL YOUR SIN."

ALLUSION TO GENESIS 12
ISRAEL SHOULD BE A BLESSING TO ALL NATIONS.

GREAT CALLING + GREAT RESPONSIBILITY = GREAT CONSEQUENCES

EXPOSURE OF RELIGIOUS HYPOCRISY



"LET JUSTICE FLOW LIKE A RIVER, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE AN UNFAILING STREAM..." (5:24)

HEBREW: MISHPAT
ACTIONS TAKEN TO CORRECT INJUSTICE

HEBREW: TSEDAQAH
RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS
EQUITY DESPITE SOCIAL DIFFERENCE



ACCUSATIONS OF IDOLATRY

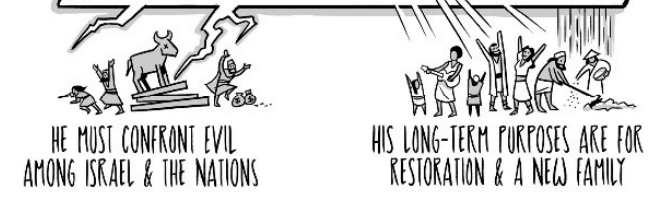
"SEEK ME, THAT YOU MAY LIVE." (5:4)

"SEEK GOOD, NOT EVIL, THAT YOU MAY LIVE." (5:14)

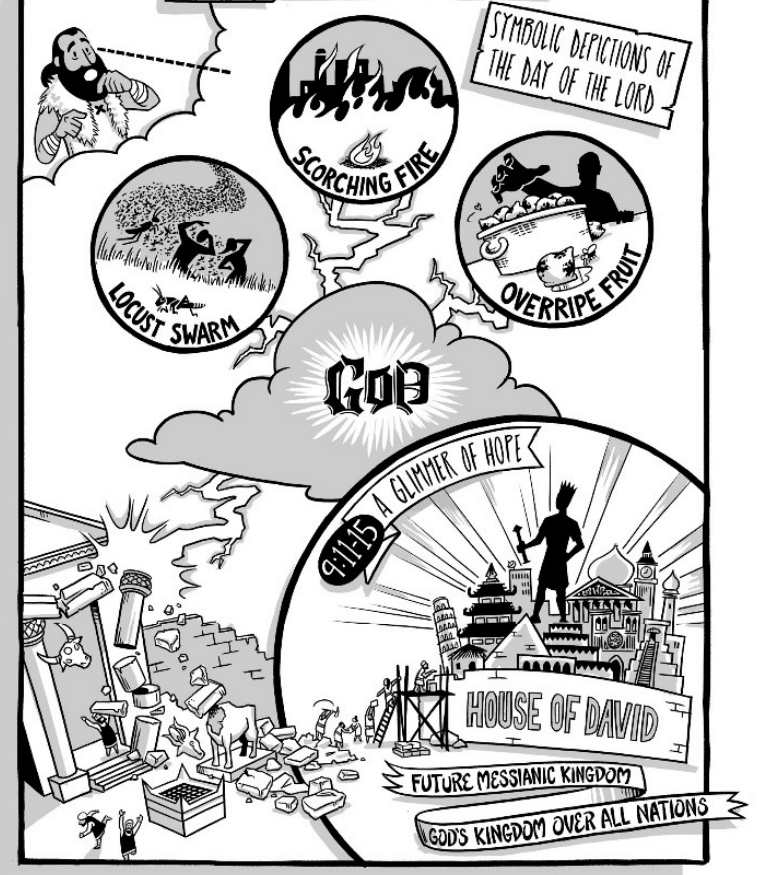
ANNOUNCING THE DAY OF THE LORD



EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD'S JUSTICE & MERCY



7-9 AMOS' VISIONS





MICAH

GOD DELIGHTS IN COVENANT LOVE, SO HE WILL AGAIN SHOW COMPASSION. HE WILL TRAMPLE OUR EVIL; HE WILL TOSS OUR SINS INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA. (7:18-20)



1-2

GOD APPEARS
TO JUDGE HIS PEOPLE
(LIKE AT MT. SINAI – SEE EXODUS 19-20)

ACCUSATIONS
& WARNINGS

GATH

LACHISH

JERUSALEM

BUT WHY...?

NABOTH (1 KINGS 21)

LEADERS & PROPHETS

WEALTHY THROUGH THEFT & GREED

HOPE & RESTORATION

2:12-13
GOD WILL SHEPHERD THE REMNANT OF HIS PEOPLE

3-4a

INJUSTICE OF ISRAEL'S LEADERS

DEED OF SALE

TORAH VIOLATION!
Illegal sale of family land (see LEVITICUS 25:23, Numbers 36:7)

DISASTER IS COMING...

NO MORE!

...BUT IT'S NOT PERMANENT

11-17

REMNANT RESTORED!

PEACE ON EARTH!

NEW JERUSALEM

4b-5

7:8-13

ASSYRIA → BABYLONIAN EXILE

→ RESTORATION

BABYLON

BETHLEHEM

NEW JERUSALEM

5:1-6

MESSIANIC KINGDOM

5:7-11

GOD'S KINGDOM CONFRONTS EVIL & BLESSES THE NATIONS

THE REMNANT AMONG THE NATIONS!

6-7

ISRAEL'S UNJUST ECONOMIC PRACTICES

HE HAS TOLD YOU, O HUMAN, WHAT IS GOOD, AND WHAT THE LORD REQUIRES OF YOU: TO DO JUSTICE, TO LOVE MERCY, AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD. (6:8)

7:8-20

ISRAEL PERSONIFIED AS A SUFFERING, DEFEATED INDIVIDUAL

2 REASONS FOR FUTURE HOPE:

1 GOD'S CHARACTER

"WHO IS A GOD LIKE YOU, WHO FORGIVES SIN & PARDONS REBELLION?" (7:18)

I WATCH FOR THE LORD...

2 GOD'S PROMISES

"YOU WILL STAY TRUE TO JACOB & SHOW COVENANT LOVE TO ABRAHAM, AS YOU SWORE LONG AGO." (7:20)

Prophets of Justice

during a time of military successes, prosperity and wealth (700's BCE)
yet the Israelites were breaking the Sinai Covenant
Samaria = capital of Israel; Jerusalem = capital of Judah

Amos

The person:

- **A shepherd and dresser of sycamores (fig-like fruit)
- **Small town in Judah
- **Not a professional prophet

Audience:

- **people at the great cult center of Bethel, just over the border in Israel
- **the wealthy and powerful

Message: essence of religion is social justice

Style: blunt, even offensive

Added later: epilogue at the end of the book ("*I will not destroy the house of David*")

At Mass: two Sundays (Cycle B and C) 2:6-10 and 7:10-17 and the 13th week (7 days)

Evidence against the covenant breakers:

Divine Punishment that is coming:

Micah

The person:

- **small town in Judah
- **preached in Judah
- ** Not a professional prophet

Audience:

- **the wealthy and powerful
- **Rulers of the house of Israel

Message: virtue lies in the practice of Justice (HOW? "You have been told what the Lord requires of you: Do right, love goodness, walk humbly with God" 6:8)

Added later: Chapters 4 & 5 ("*The People to be Restored*")

At Mass: one Sunday in Advent (Cycle C) 5:1-4a and the 15th week (3 days)

Evidence against the covenant breakers:

Divine Punishment that is coming:

Amos

Chapter 3: 9 Proclaim to the fortresses of Ashdod and to the fortresses of Egypt:

“Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria; see the great unrest within her

and the oppression among her people.”

¹⁰ “They do not know how to do right,” declares

the LORD, “who store up in their fortresses

what they have plundered and looted.”

¹¹ Therefore this is what the

Sovereign LORD says: “An enemy will overrun your land, pull down your strongholds

and plunder your fortresses.”

Chapter 4: 1 Hear this word, you cows of Bashan [*a*

fertile region known for rich pastures] on Mount

Samaria, you women who oppress the poor and crush

the needy and say to your husbands, “Bring us some drinks!”

² The Sovereign LORD has sworn by his holiness:

“The time will surely come

when you will be taken away with hooks,

the last of you with fishhooks.^[a]

³ You will each go straight out

through breaches in the wall,

and you will be cast out toward Harmon,^[b]”

declares the LORD.

Chapter 8: 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 that we may sell

grain, and the Sabbath be ended

that we may market wheat?”—

skimping on the measure, boosting the price

and cheating with dishonest scales,

⁶ buying the poor with silver

and the needy for a pair of sandals,

selling even the sweepings with the wheat.

Chapter 6:7 Therefore you will be among the first to go

into exile; your feasting and lounging will end. ⁸ The

Sovereign LORD has sworn by himself—the LORD God

Almighty declares: “I abhor the pride of Jacob and

detest his fortresses; I will deliver up the city and

everything in it.” ... ¹⁴ Beware, I am raising up against

you, O house of Israel, say I, the Lord of hosts, a nation that shall oppress you.

Micah

Chapter 1:5 All this is because of Jacob’s transgression, because of the sins of the people of Israel.

What is Jacob’s transgression? Is it not Samaria?

What is Judah’s high place? Is it not Jerusalem?

⁶ “Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of rubble,

a place for planting vineyards.

I will pour her stones into the valley

and lay bare her foundations.

⁷ All her idols will be broken to pieces;

all her temple gifts will be burned with fire;

I will destroy all her images.

Since she gathered her gifts from the wages of

prostitutes, as the wages of prostitutes they will again be used.”

Chapter 3: 9 Hear this, you leaders of Jacob,

you rulers of Israel, who despise justice

and distort all that is right;

¹⁰ who build Zion with bloodshed,

and Jerusalem with wickedness.

¹¹ Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a

price, and her prophets tell fortunes for money.

Yet they look for the LORD’s support and say,

“Is not the LORD among us? No disaster will come upon us.” ¹² Therefore because of you,

Zion will be plowed like a field,

Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble,

the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.

Chapter 2: 1 Woe to those who plan iniquity,

to those who plot evil on their beds!

At morning’s light they carry it out because it is in their

power to do it. ² They covet fields and seize them,

and houses, and take them. They defraud people of

their homes; they rob them of their inheritance.

³ Therefore, the LORD says: “I am planning

disaster against this people, from which you cannot

save yourselves. You will no longer walk proudly,

for it will be a time of calamity.

Restoration Chapter 5:1 “But you,

Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the

clans^[b] of Judah, out of you will come for me one who

will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old,

from ancient times.” ... ³ He will stand and shepherd his

flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the

name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely,

for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the

earth; he shall be peace.