

CHAPTER 1

THE words of Amos, who was among the herdmen of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

2 And he said, The LORD will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn, and the top of Carmel shall wither.

3. Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not turn away *the punishment* thereof; because they have threshed Gilead with threshing instruments of iron:

4 But I will send a fire into the house of Hazael, which shall devour the palaces of Benhadad.

5 I will break also the bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitant from the plain of Aven, and him that holdeth the sceptre from the house of Eden: and the people of Syria shall go into captivity unto Kir, saith the LORD.

6 ¶ Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not turn away *the punishment* thereof; because they carried away captive the whole captivity, to deliver *them* up to Edom:

7 But I will send a fire on the wall of Gaza, which shall devour the palaces thereof:

8 And I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, and him that holdeth the sceptre from Ashkelon, and I will turn mine hand against Ekron: and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish, saith the Lord GOD.

9 ¶ Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Tyrus, and for four, I will not turn away *the punishment* thereof; because they delivered up the whole captivity to Edom, and remembered not the brotherly covenant:

10 But I will send a fire on the wall of Tyrus, which shall devour the palaces thereof.

11 ¶ Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not turn away *the*

punishment thereof; because he did pursue his brother with the sword, and did cast off all pity, and his anger did tear perpetually, and he kept his wrath for ever:

12 But I will send a fire upon Teman, which shall devour the palaces of Bozrah.

13 ¶ Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of the children of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away *the punishment* thereof; because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border:

14 But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour the palaces thereof, with shouting in the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind:

15 And their king shall go into captivity, he and his princes together, saith the LORD.

CHAPTER 2

THUS saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away *the punishment* thereof; because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime:

2 But I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth: and Moab shall die with tumult, with shouting, *and*

with the sound of the trumpet:

3 And I will cut off the judge from the midst thereof, and will slay all the princes thereof with him, saith the LORD.

4 ¶ Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away *the punishment* thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked:

5 But I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem.

6 ¶ Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away *the punishment* thereof; because they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes;

7 That pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek: and a man and his father will go in unto the *same* maid, to profane my holy name:

8 And they lay *themselves* down upon clothes laid to pledge by every altar, and they drink the wine of the condemned *in* the house of their god.

9 ¶ Yet destroyed I the Amorite before them, whose height *was* like the height of the cedars, and he *was* strong as the oaks; yet I destroyed his fruit from above, and his roots from beneath.

10 Also I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and led you forty years through the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite.

11 And I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites. *Is it* not even thus, O ye children of Israel? saith the LORD.

12 But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophecy not.

13 Behold, I am pressed under you, as a cart is pressed *that is* full of sheaves.

14 Therefore the flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not strengthen his force, neither shall the mighty deliver himself:

15 Neither shall he stand that handleth the bow; and *he that is* swift of foot shall not deliver *himself*: neither shall he that rideth the horse deliver himself.

16 And *he that is* courageous among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day, saith the LORD.

CHAPTER 3

HEAR this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying,

2 You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

4 Will a lion roar in the forest, when he hath no prey? will a young lion cry out of his den, if he have taken nothing?

5 Can a bird fall in a snare upon the earth, where no gin *is* for him? shall *one* take up a snare from the earth, and have taken nothing at all?

6 Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done *it*?

7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

8 The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?

9 ¶ Publish in the palaces at Ashdod, and in the palaces in the land of Egypt, and say, Assemble

yourselves upon the mountains of Samaria, and behold the great tumults in the midst thereof, and the oppressed in the midst thereof.

10 For they know not to do right, saith the LORD, who store up violence and robbery in their palaces.

11 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; An adversary *there shall be* even round about the land; and he shall bring down thy strength from thee, and thy palaces shall be spoiled.

12 Thus saith the LORD; As the shepherd taketh out of the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear; so shall the children of Israel be taken out that dwell in Samaria in the corner of a bed, and in Damascus *in* a couch.

13 Hear ye, and testify in the house of Jacob, saith the Lord GOD, the God of hosts,

14 That in the day that I shall visit the transgressions of Israel upon him I will also visit the altars of Bethel: and the horns of the altar shall be cut off, and fall to the ground.

15 And I will smite the winter house with the summer house; and the houses of ivory shall perish, and the great houses shall have an end, saith the LORD.

CHAPTER 4

HEAR this word, ye kine of Bashan, that *are* in the mountain of Samaria, which oppress the poor, which crush the needy, which say to their masters, Bring, and let us drink.

2 The Lord GOD hath sworn by his holiness, that, lo, the days shall come upon you, that he will take you away with hooks, and your posterity with fishhooks.

3 And ye shall go out at the breaches, every *cow at that which is* before her; and ye shall cast *them* into the palace, saith the LORD.

4 ¶ Come to Bethel, and transgress; at Gilgal multiply transgression; and bring your sacrifices every morning, *and* your tithes after three years:

5 And offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven, and proclaim *and* publish the free offerings: for this liketh you, O ye children of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

6 ¶ And I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.

7 And also I have withholden the rain from you, when *there were*

yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered.

8 So two *or* three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.

9 I have smitten you with blasting and mildew: when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured *them*: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.

10 I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up unto your nostrils: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.

11 I have overthrown *some* of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a fire-brand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.

12 Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: *and* because I will

do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.

13 For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what *is* his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, *is* his name.

CHAPTER 5

HEAR ye this word which I take up against you, *even* a lamentation, O house of Israel.

2 The virgin of Israel is fallen; she shall no more rise: she is forsaken upon her land; *there is* none to raise her up.

3 For thus saith the Lord GOD; The city that went out *by* a thousand shall leave an hundred, and that which went forth *by* an hundred shall leave ten, to the house of Israel.

4 ¶ For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live:

5 But seek not Bethel, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not to Beer-sheba: for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall come to nought.

6 Seek the LORD, and ye shall live; lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour *it*,

and *there be* none to quench *it* in Bethel.

7 Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth,

8 *Seek him* that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD *is* his name:

9 That strengtheneth the spoiled against the strong, so that the spoiled shall come against the fortress.

10 They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly.

11 Forasmuch therefore as your treading *is* upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat: ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them.

12 For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate *from their right*.

13 Therefore the prudent shall

keep silence in that time; for it *is* an evil time.

14 Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.

15 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

16. Therefore the LORD, the God of hosts, the Lord, saith thus; Wailing *shall be* in all streets; and they shall say in all the highways, Alas! alas! and they shall call the husbandman to mourning, and such as are skilful of lamentation to wailing.

17 And in all vineyards *shall be* wailing: for I will pass through thee, saith the LORD.

18 Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end *is* it for you? the day of the LORD *is* darkness, and not light.

19 As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.

20 *Shall* not the day of the LORD *be* darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?

21 ¶ I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.

22 Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept *them*: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.

23 Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.

24 But let judgment run down

as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

25 Have ye offered unto me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel?

26 But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves.

27 Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name *is* The God of hosts.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Amos wrote his book about 25 years before the fall of Israel. In it we are visiting the city of Bethel, where King Jeroboam II has his private chapel, and Amaziah is his priest. The nation is enjoying peace and prosperity; in fact, they are living in luxury.

Amos was God's man for his time. He was a simple shepherd from Tekoa, a hill country town about 10 miles south of Jerusalem, and a dresser of sycamore fruit. He was called to be a prophet to the whole house of Jacob (chapter 3:1), but chiefly to the Northern Kingdom at the main sanctuary in Bethel. He met with the opposition of the high priest, and was reported to Jeroboam II by him. Amos reduced his prophecies to writing shortly after he returned to Tekoa. He began his message by looking around at the nations and announcing eight judgments.

Verse 2 of chapter 1 makes it clear that God is roaring in wrath, like a lion leaping on its prey. Amos begins with Syria and accuses her of cruelty in war. He then points to Philistia and condemns her for the sin of slavery. The Phoenicians are next, and they are judged for cruel slavery and the selling of slaves. Israel's old enemy Edom is accused of not showing pity, but maintaining a constant hatred. Ammon is judged for her violent crimes and selfish greed; Moab for her cruelty to Edom; and Judah for rejecting the Law of God.

Perhaps it pleased the people of Israel as they listened to Amos condemn their neighbors, but judgment number eight was reserved for Israel. In chapter

2:6-16 the prophet names the sins of the people of Israel; and, in verse 13, he says he is pressed by the burden of that sin.

Having announced judgment to the nations. Amos now explains why judgment is coming. We must remember that Israel was enjoying a time of peace, prosperity, and religious revival. People were attending religious services and bringing generous offerings. However, God does not look on the outward appearance, but on the heart. Amos knew the hearts of the people were far from God.

In chapters 3, 4, and 5 Amos brings three sermons to the people. He prefaces each sermon with, "Hear this word." The first message is one of explanation (chapter 3:1-15); the second message is one of accusation (chapter 4:1-13); and the third message is one of lamentation (chapters 5:1—6:14).

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly" (Proverbs 18:8).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 29: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 195.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1784

THE FIRST UNITED STATES DAILY NEWSPAPER WAS PUBLISHED.

Have you ever stopped to thank God for the newspaper? Things can happen across the world, on the other side of the globe, and we can find out about them in just a matter of a few minutes. Things that happened last night at nine o'clock you found out about in the morning paper this morning. To me, one of the biggest bargains in the world is the daily newspaper. I know of nowhere where you can get so much reading and spend so much time of enjoyment as you can in the daily newspaper. So many things we take for granted, don't we?

How many times have I said that the very best things in life are the simple things. I feel sorry for people who have to go out on Sunday night, paint the town red, get an empty feeling in their stomachs, and end up with a brown taste in their mouths the next morning to have a thrill. I feel sorry for people who have to sin to get enjoyment.

Yes, the greatest things in life are the simple things. The "I love you" from a little child; the pitter-patter of little feet off to bed at night with the little bunny pajamas; the tender affection of a family who cares; the beauty of a sunset; the glory of a sunrise; the beauty of the stars at night; a meal together with the family; a picnic in the park—these are things that are thrilling to me.

Let us thank God today for the normal things and the usual things that we so oftentimes take for granted. Especially, let us thank God for the daily newspaper which was founded September 21, 1784.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1814

ANDREW JACKSON ISSUED PROCLAMATION at Mobile, Ala., urging free blacks "to rally around the standard of the eagle" in the War of 1812.

1814

BLACKS FOUGHT IN THE LAND AND WATER BATTLES OF THE WAR OF 1812. A large number of black sailors fought with Matthew Perry and Isaac Chauncey in the battles on the upper lakes and were particularly effective at the Battle of Lake Erie. Two battalions of black soldiers were with Andrew Jackson when he defeated the British at the Battle of New Orleans. Jackson issued his famous proclama-

tion to black troops at New Orleans on December 18, 1814: "TO THE MEN OF COLOR. Soldiers! From the shores of Mobile I collected you to arm; I invited you to share in the perils and to divide the glory of your white countrymen. I expected much from you, for I was not uninformed of those qualities which must render you so formidable to an invading foe. I knew that you could endure hunger and thirst and all the hardships of war. I knew that you loved the land of your nativity, and that like ourselves, you had to defend all that is most dear to you. But you surpass my hopes. I have found in you, united to these qualities, that noble enthusiasm which impels to great deeds."

1872

JOHN HENRY CONYERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA BECAME THE FIRST BLACK STUDENT AT ANNAPOLIS Naval Academy. He later resigned.

1905

ATLANTA LIFE INSURANCE CO FOUNDED.

1947

ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH E. RITTER SAID HE WOULD EXCOMMUNICATE St. Louis Catholics who continued to protest integration of parochial schools.

1961

SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCED THAT SIT-IN MOVEMENT HAD AFFECTED TWENTY STATES and more than one hundred cities in Southern and Border States in period from February, 1960, to September, 1961. At least seventy thousand blacks and whites had participated in the movement, the report said. The council estimated that 3,600 had been arrested and that at least 141 students and 58 faculty members had been expelled by college authorities. SRC said one or more establishments in 108 Southern and Border State cities had been desegregated as a result of sit-ins.

1966

NATIONAL GUARD MOBILIZED to stop rioting in Dayton, Ohio.

Hymn of the Week

“ROCK OF AGES” Augustus Toplady

To many thousands of people across our land and around the world, the most loved of all hymns is “Rock of Ages.” Few hymns, if any, have a similar background. It was born out of argumentation, debate and criticism.

The author, Augustus Montagu Toplady, was born in Farnham, Surrey, England, November 4, 1740. He was educated at Westminster School and Trinity College, Dublin, and after graduation became an Anglican minister. Physically he was very frail. His body held up for only 38 years under the strain of his fiery zeal. He was converted at the age of 16 under the ministry of a poor preacher who could scarcely write his name. His conversion took place in Ireland in a service held in a barn with only a few people present.

He, an avowed Calvinist, fell into controversy with John Wesley, the then champion of the Arminians. The battle waged long and hot between these two theologians, even though Wesley had obtained prominence in England and was 50 years Toplady’s senior.

They used sermons, tracts, hymns and periodicals as their battlegrounds. Toplady, who believed strongly in the doctrines of election and sovereign grace, in his latter years became the editor of *The Gospel Magazine*. In the March, 1776, issue of this publication he printed a poem

titled, “A Living and Dying Prayer for the Holiest Believer in the World.” This was a definite blow at Wesley’s argument that a man could live indefinitely without sinning. This poem set to music is what we today call “Rock of Ages.”

It is also interesting to know that Toplady published a book of songs and included in it “Jesus Lover of My Soul,” by—you guessed it—John Wesley.

The musical setting that we use today was written by one of the “giants” of the sacred music world, Thomas Hastings (1784-1872). He was born in Washington, Connecticut. New York recognized his musical ability to the extent of honoring him with the degree of Mus. D. from the University of the City of New York.

He wrote over six hundred hymns and composed a thousand hymn tunes. He helped greatly in molding the musical appreciation of the Christians of the nineteenth century.

It is said that Prince Consort Albert of England died with these words on his lips:

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me pure.*

Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION: PROPHETIC DETAILS OF CHRIST'S DEATH

(Assignment 29)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see “The Treasure Path to Soul Winning” link back on the DailyKJV page.)

Identified with a rich man in His death (712 B.C.)

() Isaiah 53:9

And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence neither was any deceit in his mouth. (Fulfilled—Matthew 27:57-60)

Beaten and spit upon (700 B.C.)

() Isaiah 50:6

I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. (Fulfilled—Matthew 26:67)

Silent in His own defense (712 B.C.)

() Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. (Fulfilled—Matthew 27:12-14)

Condemned on the basis of a false testimony (1000 B.C.)

() Psalms 35:11

False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not. (Fulfilled—Matthew 26:59)

His Body resurrected and saw no corruption (1000 B.C.)

() Psalms 16:10

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. (Fulfilled—Acts 2:27-32)