

unfoldingWord® Simplified Text

v92

Amos

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Amos

1 This is the message that Yahweh gave to *me,* Amos. I
am a man who raises sheep, and I am from *the village of*
Tekoa. Yahweh showed me in a vision this message about
Israel during the time when Uzziah was the king of Judah
and Jeroboam, the son of Jehoash, was the king of Israel.
This was two years before the *great* earthquake.
[2] This is the message:

Yahweh is speaking powerfully, like the roar of a lion,
from Zion, in *the middle of* Jerusalem.
He is causing the pastures where shepherds take
care of their sheep to dry up,
and *even the forests on* the top of Mount
Carmel will wither.

[3] This is what Yahweh says,

"The people of Damascus have sinned again and again,
so I will certainly punish them and will not
change my mind about it,
because they cruelly attacked the people of
the region of Gilead,
destroying them as people crush grain with
iron-toothed threshing tools.
[4] So I will send fire to *destroy that place, including* the
palace that *their king* Hazael built,
and it will burn down the fortresses where *his son,*
their king Ben-Hadad, has his armies.
[5] I will smash the *gate* bars *that protect the*
city of Damascus,
and I will get rid of the one who sits *on the*
throne in the Valley of Aven
and the king who rules in *the region of* Beth Eden.
The people of Aram will become captives and
will go to the land of Kir,"
says Yahweh.

[6] This is what Yahweh says,

"The people of the city of Gaza have sinned
again and again,
so I will certainly punish them and will not
change my mind about it,
because they captured whole people groups
and took them away
in order to sell them *as slaves* to the people of Edom.
[7] So I will send fire to *destroy* the walls of Gaza,
and it will burn down the fortresses of that city.
[8] I will get rid of the one who sits *on the throne*
in the city of Ashdod
and the king who rules in *the city of* Ashkelon.
I will also powerfully punish the people of
the city of Ekron,
and all the people of *the region of* Philistia
who are still alive will die,"
says my Lord Yahweh.

[9] This is what Yahweh says,

"The people of *the city of* Tyre have sinned
again and again,
so I will certainly punish them and will not
change my mind about it,
because they *also* captured whole people groups
and took them away to Edom,
and they ignored the treaty that they had
made with another nation.
[10] So I will send fire to *destroy* the walls of Tyre,
and it will burn down the fortresses of that city."

[11] This is what Yahweh says,

"The people of Edom have sinned again and again,
so I will certainly punish them and will not
change my mind about it,
because they attacked the people *of Israel,* who
descended from Esau's brother Jacob,
and killed them with swords.
They did not act mercifully toward them at all.
They were constantly wrathful *to the people of Israel*,
and they kept encouraging each other to stay angry
with the people of Israel always.
[12] So I will send fire to *destroy the region of* Teman,
and it will burn down the fortresses of
the city of Bozrah."

[13] This is what Yahweh says,

"The people of Ammon have sinned again and again,
so I will certainly punish them and will not
change my mind about it,
because their soldiers *even* ripped open the pregnant
women of *the region of* Gilead
when they attacked it in order to enlarge
their own territory.
[14] So I will start a fire that will destroy the walls
of the city of Rabbah,
and it will burn down the fortresses of that city.
During that battle, the enemies will shout loudly.
They will come as quickly and violently
as a strong windstorm.
[15] Then the king of Ammon will become a captive
and will go to another country,
and his officials will go with him,"
says Yahweh.

2 This is what Yahweh says,

"The people of Moab have sinned again and again,
so I will certainly punish them and will not
change my mind about it,
because they burned the bones of the king of Edom
until only lime remained.
[2] So I will send a fire to *destroy the nation of* Moab,
and it will burn down the fortresses of
the city of Kerioth.
Many people of Moab will die while soldiers shout,
blow the ram's horn, and destroy Moab.
[3] I will get rid of the ruler of Moab,

and I will kill all of Moab's leaders along with him.
That is what I, Yahweh, say."

4 This is what Yahweh says,

"The people of Judah have sinned again and again,
so I will certainly punish them and will not
change my mind about it,
because they have rejected the instructions
that I, Yahweh, gave them,
and they have not obeyed my commands.
The false gods that they worship have deceived them,
the same false gods that their ancestors
chose to worship.
5 So I will send a fire to *destroy the nation of* Judah,
and it will completely burn down the fortresses
of *the city of* Jerusalem."

6 This is what Yahweh says,

"The people of Israel have sinned again and again,
so I will certainly punish them and will not
change my mind about it,
because they sell good people in order to get silver,
and *they sell* needy people to get a pair of sandals.
7 They oppress poor people as though they are
crushing them into the dirt,
and they are unjust to people who are suffering.
A man and his father both have sexual relations
with the same *servant* girl,
and so they dishonor me, the holy God.
8 They take the cloaks from poor people *as a guarantee
that those people would repay what they had
borrowed*. Then*, instead of returning them at
the end of the day,* they lie down on them
beside the altars *where they worship*.
They force people to pay fines to them, and
then *use the money to* buy wine that they
drink in the temple of their God.
9 But I am the one who destroyed the Amorite people
group on behalf of your ancestors,
even though those people were very tall
like cedar trees
and very strong like oak trees.
I destroyed them completely.
10 I am the one who brought you Israelite people from
being slaves in the land of Egypt,
and then I led your ancestors through the
wilderness for forty years,
so that I could give you the land of the Amorite
people as your own.
11 *Over the years,* I chose some of your young
men to become prophets,
and others to be Nazirites.
You Israelite people certainly know that this is true!
This is what I, Yahweh, declare.
12 But you forced the Nazirites to drink wine,
and you commanded the prophets to not tell people
the messages that I, Yahweh, give to them!
13 So now I will make you unable to escape what will
happen to you right where you are,
just as a cart loaded with too much grain
cannot move from where it is.
14 *At that time, even* people who can run quickly
will not be able to escape,
and *even* strong people will not be strong enough,
and *even* warriors will not be able to
rescue themselves.
15 *Even* those who shoot arrows will not be able
to stand *and do so*,
and *even* those who can run quickly will
not be able to escape,
and *even* those who have a horse to ride will
not be able to save themselves.
16 At that time, *even* the bravest of the mighty men
will run away naked.
This is what I, Yahweh, declare."

3 You people of Israel, listen to this message that Yahweh has spoken against you. He is speaking against all of the descendants of the people whom he brought up out of the land of Egypt. He says this:

2 "From among all of the families of people on the earth,
I chose only you to belong to me.
That is why I must now punish you
for all of the ways that you have sinned."
3 Two people do not travel together
unless they have agreed to do that.
4 A lion does not roar in the forest
unless it has caught an animal to eat,
and a young lion does not growl in its den
unless it has caught something.
5 A bird does not get caught in a trap on the ground
unless someone has set a trap for it,
and a trap does not spring up to catch *an animal*
if there is nothing to catch.
6 If someone blows *an alarm* on a ram's horn in a city,
the people there become afraid,
and if something terrible happens in a city,
then Yahweh has done it.
7 In the same way, the Lord Yahweh does
not do something
unless he has first revealed his plans to his
servants the prophets.
8 When a lion roars,
everyone is afraid;
similarly, when the Lord Yahweh speaks,
the prophets must proclaim what he says.
9 *Yahweh says,* "Announce this to the rulers who live in
the fortresses in the city of Ashdod
and to the rulers who live in the fortresses
in the land of Egypt.
Say to them, 'Gather together on the hills
around the city of Samaria,
and see how the people there are panicking,
and how the powerful people are oppressing
the other people there.'"
10 Yahweh declares, "The people who live in Samaria do
not know how to do what is right.
They violently rob other people, and they fill their
fortresses with the things that they steal."

11 So this is what the Lord Yahweh says *to them*,

"An enemy army will come and surround your land.
They will tear down your fortifications,

and they will carry away the valuable things
in your fortresses."

12 This is what Yahweh says,

"When a lion attacks a sheep,
sometimes a shepherd can grab from the lion only
two legs of the sheep or a piece of its ear.
Similarly, only a few of you people of Israel who
live in Samaria will survive,
along with only a side of a bed or a piece of a couch."
13 The Lord Yahweh, the God who commands the
armies of angels, declares, "Listen, and
warn the descendants of Jacob:
14 Be aware that when I punish the people of Israel for
the sins that they have committed,
I will also destroy the altars at Bethel.
I will cut off the horns that are on *the corners
of* the *main* altar,
and they will fall to the ground.
15 I will tear down the houses where people live
in the winter and the houses where
they live in the summer.
I will destroy the *beautiful* houses that they
have decorated with ivory.
I will destroy the mansions.
This will surely happen, because I, Yahweh,
have said it."

4 Listen to this message, you *wealthy* women of *the city of*
Samaria!

You have indulged yourselves and grown fat, just as
the cattle in *the region of* Bashan grow fat.
You oppress poor people,
and you cause needy people to suffer.
Then you say to your husbands,
"Bring us *more wine* to drink!"
2 *But* Yahweh our Lord says, "Because I am holy,
I solemnly promise this:
Indeed the time is coming when
your enemies will capture you and take you away,
as easily as someone catches fish with hooks.
They will do this to every last one of you.
3 The enemies will break through your city walls, and
then each of you women will go straight
out through the gap in front of her.
Each of you will flee toward Harmon.
I, Yahweh, declare that this will happen.
4 *You act like I am telling you this:* Go to *the
town of* Bethel and sin!
Go to *the town of* Gilgal and sin even more!
Bring your animal sacrifices *to the altars
there* every morning,
and bring a tenth of your crops every third day!
5 Burn bread that contains yeast as an offering
to thank me,
and announce the offerings that you bring willingly!
Make sure to loudly brag *about them*!
I say these things because that is what you
Israelite people love to do.
I, Yahweh your Lord, declare this.
6 I am also the one who caused you to have no food at
all in any of your cities and towns,
yet you did not stop sinning and become
loyal to me again.
I, Yahweh, declare this.
7 I am also the one who kept you from getting rain
when there were still three months before *your
crops were ready to* harvest.
Sometimes I sent rain on one town
and held it back from another town.
I made it rain on some fields,
but I gave no rain to other fields, so the
crops there dried up.
8 People from towns without water would stagger
to a town that did have water,
but they could not get enough water to drink.
But even so you did not stop sinning and
become loyal to me again.
I, Yahweh, declare this.
9 I made your crops dry up and have disease.
Locusts ate up everything
in your many gardens and vineyards and on
your fig trees and olive trees,
yet you did not stop sinning and become
loyal to me again.
I, Yahweh, declare this.
10 I made many of you become diseased, just as I had
done to *the people of* Egypt *long ago*.
I caused your enemies to kill your young men in wars,
and I let your enemies capture your horses.
I made you smell the stench *of their corpses*
in the camps *where they died*,
yet you did not stop sinning and become
loyal to me again.
I, Yahweh, declare this.
11 I destroyed some of you, just as I destroyed *the cities
of* Sodom and Gomorrah *long ago*.
Those of you *who survived* were like a burning
stick that someone grabs out of a fire
before it burns up completely,
yet you did not stop sinning and become
loyal to me again.
I, Yahweh, declare this.
12 Because of that, you people of Israel, this is what
I am going to do to you.
And because I am going to do this to you,
prepare to *truly* meet me, your God, people of Israel!"
13 Prepare yourselves, because this is who he is: he
is the one who formed the mountains
and who creates the wind.
He reveals to people what they are thinking.
He makes the morning light and the darkness.
Even the highest mountains are small things to him.
He is Yahweh, God who commands the heavenly
armies; that is his name!

5 You people of Israel, listen to this sad funeral song
that I am singing about you:
2 Enemies have devastated my dear people of Israel,
and they are unable to defend themselves.
The enemies have come into their land and can do to
them whatever they want to do there.
There is no one to help them.

3 You will need this sad funeral song because Yahweh our
Lord says this about Israel,

"When your enemies attack you, a town that sends
out a thousand soldiers to fight
will have only a hundred who survive,
and a town that sends out a hundred soldiers
will have only ten who survive."

4 But Yahweh also says this to you people of Israel,

"Sincerely worship me again, and then you will live.
5 Do not go to the town of Bethel *to worship anything there*,
and do not go to the town of Gilgal,
and do not travel to the town of Beersheba
to worship there, either.
Your enemies will certainly take the people of
Gilgal away to a foreign country,
and the people of Bethel will experience evil things
because they worship evil things."

6 Sincerely worship Yahweh again, and then you will live.

If you do not do that, Yahweh will punish you
descendants of Joseph as suddenly and
fiercely as a fire spreads.
Yahweh will punish you like a fire that
destroys everything, and that no one
in Bethel will be able to stop.
7 *I am talking to you* people who do not decide things
fairly. Instead, you make life *as bitter as
the taste of* wormwood for people.
You consider that living in the right way is *as
worthless as trash* on the ground.
8 There is one who created *the star groups that people
call* the Pleiades and Orion.
Every morning he turns the darkness into daylight,
and *every evening* he turns the daylight into darkness.
He summons the waters in the sea
and pours them out *as rain* on the surface
of the earth.
The name of that one is Yahweh!
9 He suddenly destroys strong people,
and destroys the strong walls of cities.
10 You people hate any leader who officially corrects
people who do wrong,
and you hate anyone who tells the truth.

11 So, because you oppress poor people

and force them to give you part of their grain,
this is what will happen:
Although you have built large mansions
out of cut stone,
you will not live in them.
Although you have planted pleasant vineyards,
you will not drink the wine that comes from them.
12 This will happen because I know that you have
sinned very many times,
and that the things that you have done are terrible.
You oppress people who do what is right, and you
accept bribes *to do what is wrong*,
and at the city gate *where leaders decide legal
matters* you treat poor people unjustly
and send them away.
13 So at that time, wise people will be quiet,
because it will be customary in that time for
people to do evil things.
14 Start doing what is good, and stop doing what is evil,
in order that you may stay alive.
If you do that, Yahweh, God *the commander* of the
heavenly armies, will help you,
just as you claim that he does.
15 Hate what is evil, and love what is good,
and make sure that people decide things fairly at
the city gate*where leaders decide legal matters*.
If you do that, maybe Yahweh, God *the commander*
of the heavenly armies,
will act kindly toward you descendants of
Joseph who are still alive.

16 So this is what Yahweh, God *the commander* of the
heavenly armies, our Lord, says,

"People will be weeping loudly in all
the public squares,
and in all the streets people will cry out, 'This
is terrible! This is terrible!'
People will summon the farmers to come and mourn,
and they will summon those who lament
at funerals to wail.
17 People will be weeping in all the vineyards,
because I will come and punish you." That
is what Yahweh says.
18 Terrible things will happen to you people who long
for the day when Yahweh comes!
You should not think that the day when Yahweh
comes will be good for you.
On that day Yahweh will punish you severely, and
nothing good will happen to you.
19 On that day, you will be like a man who
runs away from a lion
but then meets a bear;
or who flees into his house and rests his
hand on the wall,
and a snake bites him.
20 On the day when Yahweh judges people, he will
surely punish you severely and nothing
good will happen to you.
Yes, it will be a time when you are deeply sad;
you will not be happy at all.
21 *Yahweh says,* "I hate your religious celebrations;
I completely reject them, and your assemblies *when
you gather to worship* do not please me at all.
22 Even if you offer to me animals that you completely
burn on the altar, and offerings of grain,
I will not accept them.
Even if you offer me your best animals as
fellowship sacrifices,
I will pay no attention to them.
23 Your songs are just noise to me; stop singing them.
I refuse to listen to the music that you
play on your harps.
24 Instead, you should be treating people justly,
and you should always be doing what is right.

You should be doing these things continually, like a
stream of water that flows and never stops.
25 You people of Israel, when your ancestors traveled
through the wilderness for forty years,
they did not bring animal sacrifices and
grain offerings to me.
26 Instead, you have carried the idols that you
made for yourselves:
Sikkuth, the god you treated as your king,
and Kiyyun, the star-god that you worshiped.
27 So I will force you to go far away, beyond the
city of Damascus, into exile."
That is what the one whose name is Yahweh, God
the commander of the heavenly armies, says.

6 Terrible things will happen to you people in Zion who
do not worry about anything,

and also to you leaders in the city of Samaria who
think that you are safe there.
You are the prominent men of *Israel,* the nation that
thinks it is the most important nation of all.
You are the men to whom the people of Israel
come *for you to help them*.
2 Go and look at the city of Calneh.
Then go on to the city of Hamath Rabbah,
and then go down to the city of Gath in Philistia.
Those cities are not better than your kingdoms,
and their territory is not larger than yours.
3 *Terrible things will happen to* you who refuse to think
about the day when Yahweh will punish you,
but by your own actions you are shortening
the time before violent people will
come and rule over you.
4 *Terrible things will happen to* you who lie on expensive
beds and lounge on your couches,
eating the meat of the most special sheep
from your flocks and of the *fattened*
calves from your stalls.
5 *Terrible things will happen to* you who sing idly
to the sound of your harps
and try to be like King David by inventing musical
instruments for yourselves.
6 *Terrible things will happen to*you who drink wine by the
bowlful and rub the finest oils on your skin,
but who do not grieve at all that the descendants of
Joseph are destroying themselves.
7 Because of all of that, soon you will be among
the first ones whom your enemies
will force to go into exile,
and your feasting and lounging on couches
will come to an end.
8 The Lord Yahweh has solemnly sworn this on his
own life. Yes, Yahweh, *the commander* of
the heavenly armies, declares it,
"I despise *the nation* of which the descendants
of Jacob are so proud,
and I hate their fortresses.
So I will deliver each city and everyone in
it *to their enemies*."

9 When that happens, even if only ten men remain in a single house, they will all die. 10 A dead man's relative, the one who will burn his corpse, will carry the dead body out of the house. He will call to anyone still *hiding* in the farthest corner of the house, "Is anyone else there with you?" That person will answer, "No one." Then the relative will say, "Say no more! Especially we must not mention Yahweh's name!"

11 The reason is this: Yahweh is about to command
the enemy soldiers to attack you,
and they will shatter all the houses, from large
to small ones, into little pieces.
12 Horses do not gallop on rocky cliffs, and no
one plows there with oxen.
Yet you have done something *even more absurd*:
instead of treating people justly, you kill them,
and instead of doing good things for each other,
you make each other angry and resentful.
13 You are proud because you captured the
town of Lo Debar,
and you boast, "We captured the town of Karnaim
for ourselves because we are so strong!"
14 But this is what Yahweh, *the commander* of the
heavenly armies, declares,
"Listen, you people of Israel! I am about to bring
a foreign nation to attack you.
Its army will oppress you *throughout your entire
land,* from Lebo Hamath *in the far north* to
the brook of the Arabah *in the far south*."

7 Yahweh our Lord showed me a vision. In the vision, he was forming a swarm of locusts *to destroy our crops*. This was happening right after the workers had harvested the king's share of the hay, when the second crop of the season was just starting to grow. 2 In the vision, when the locusts had finished eating everything green in the land, I cried out, "Yahweh our Lord, please forgive *us*! We people of Jacob are weak and helpless; we will not be able to survive this!" 3 So Yahweh changed his mind about this. Yahweh said, "This will not happen."

4 Then Yahweh our Lord showed me another vision. In it, Yahweh our Lord was summoning fire to punish *his people*. The fire dried up the great deep waters and then was burning up the land. 5 Then I cried out, "Yahweh our Lord, please stop! We people of Jacob will not be able to survive this, because we are weak and helpless!" 6 So Yahweh changed his mind about this also. Lord Yahweh said, "This will not happen, either."

7 Then Yahweh showed me another vision. In it, I saw the Lord standing beside a wall. Someone had built the wall very straight, using a plumb line. Yahweh was holding a plumb line in his hand. 8 Yahweh asked me, "Amos, what do you see?" I replied, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"Look, I am about to test my people the Israelites to
see if they are living rightly, just as a builder
uses a plumb line to see if a wall is straight.
I will no longer hold back from punishing
them *for their sin*.
9 I will destroy the hilltop shrines where the
descendants of Isaac worship *idols*,
and I will demolish the other holy places in Israel,
and I will send men with swords to end the
dynasty of King Jeroboam."

10 Then Amaziah, the priest at Bethel, sent *a message* to
Jeroboam, the king of Israel. *In the message* he said, "Amos
is plotting against you *right here* among the people of Israel.
He is saying so much against you that the people of this land
cannot bear to hear it. 11 In fact, this is what Amos keeps
saying, 'Someone will kill Jeroboam with a sword, and an
army will force the people of Israel to leave their own land
and become exiles in a foreign country.'"
12 Then Amaziah said to Amos, "You seer, get out of here!
Run away to the country of Judah! Earn your living there,
and do your prophesying there! 13 But you have prophesied
here at Bethel for the last time, because this is the king's holy
place; it is a royal temple."
14 Then Amos replied to Amaziah, "I am not a *professional*
prophet, and I do not belong to any group of prophets. Instead,
I take care of sheep, and I also take care of sycamore-fig
trees. 15 But Yahweh took me away from tending the flock,
and Yahweh said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people in
Israel.' 16 So now listen to what Yahweh has to say *to you*.
You keep telling me, 'Do not prophesy against the people of
Israel, and stop preaching against the descendants of Isaac!'
17 Therefore, this is what Yahweh says *to you*,

'*When your enemies come,* your wife will become
a prostitute in this city,
and they will kill your sons and your daughters
with their swords,
and they will measure your land with a rope and
divide it up *among themselves*.
As for you, you will die in a foreign, pagan country,
and your enemies will certainly force the
people of Israel to become exiles, far
from their own land.'"

8 Yahweh, my Lord, showed me a vision. I looked, and in
the vision I saw a basket of ripe fruit. 2 He said to me,
"Amos, what do you see?" I replied, "I see a basket of ripe
fruit." Then Yahweh said to me,

"It is time for me to put an end to my
people, the Israelites!
I will no longer hold back from punishing
them *for their sin*.
3 At that time, the people who sing songs in the temple
will wail loudly instead of singing.
There will be so many corpses
that people will throw them everywhere.
Everyone, be silent!" This is what
Yahweh, my Lord, declares.

4 Listen to this, you people who oppress needy people

and get rid of the poor people in the land!
5 You say to yourselves, "We wish the new moon
festival would be over, so that we could
start selling our grain again!
We wish the Sabbath day would be over, so that we
could start selling our wheat again!
Then we can cheat people by making the
baskets that we measure our grain
in smaller than standard,
and by making the weights for measuring the
buyer's silver heavier than standard, and we
can also make our scales weigh dishonestly.
6 Then we can use our silver to buy poor
people *to be our slaves*.
We can buy needy people for *only* a pair of sandals.
We can even sell the worthless chaff mixed
in with the wheat!"

7 Yahweh has solemnly sworn by the very land that he
gave to you descendants of Jacob,

"I will certainly never forget any of the *evil*
things that you have done.
8 Because of the evil things that you have done, *it will be*
as though the land itself will writhe,
and everyone who lives in the land will mourn.
It will be as though the whole land will
heave up and down,
just as the Nile River in Egypt floods and then
sinks back down again."

9 Yahweh, my Lord, declares this, "At that time, *when I*
punish you,

I will make the sun go down at noon.
Yes, I will make the earth become dark
during the daytime.
10 Because of what I will do, your *religious* festivals
will become times when you mourn,
and instead of singing joyful songs you will
wail funeral dirges.
All of you will wear rough sackcloth
and shave your heads *to show that you are grieving*.
Because of what I will do, you will be as sorrowful
as when parents grieve for their
only son who has died.
By the time I stop punishing you, you will
be grieving bitterly."

11 Yahweh, my Lord, declares this, "Listen! There will
soon be a time

when I will cause something to become
very scarce in the land.
It will not be a time when people lack food
or thirst for water.
Instead, it will be a time when people will not be
able to hear any message from me, Yahweh.
12 People will wander everywhere, staggering from
one coastline to another
and from the north to the east.
They will roam around, searching for a message
from me, Yahweh,
but they will not get one.
13 At that time, even the beautiful young women
and the strong young men will faint because
they are so thirsty.
14 These are the people who make solemn promises using
the name of the shameful idol in Samaria.
Some of them make promises using the name of
the god that people worship in Dan,
and others make promises using the name of the god
that people travel to worship in Beersheba.
All of those people will fall down and die, and
they will never get up again."

9 *In another vision,* I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and he said,

"Strike the tops of the pillars *of the temple* so
hard that the thresholds shake,
and shatter them so that the pieces fall down on
all the people there *and crush them*.
I will cause enemies to kill with swords
anyone who survives.
None of them will be able to run away and escape.
2 Even if they dig down to the place where dead people
go *as they try to escape from me*,
I will reach down there and seize them.
Even if they climb up to the sky,
I will bring them down from there.
3 Even if they hide themselves on the top of
Mount Carmel,
I will search for them there and capture them.
Even if they hide from me at the bottom of the sea,
I will command the *sea* snake there to bite them.
4 Even if their enemies capture them and force
them to march away as exiles,
I will command those enemies to kill them
there with their swords.
I will continually do things to harm them,
not to help them."

5 Yahweh our Lord, *the commander* of the
heavenly armies,
is the one who can make the earth melt
by touching it,
so that everyone who lives in it mourns.
He can make the whole land rise up and
then sink down again,
just as the Nile River in Egypt rises and falls.
6 He made the stairway *to his palace* in the sky,
and he set his dome *of the sky* firmly in
place above the earth.
He gathers up the water from the sea
and pours it out *as rain* on the surface of the ground.
The name of the one who does all this is Yahweh!

7 Yahweh declares this, "You people of Israel, you are
just like the people of Cush to me.
It is true that I brought your ancestors out
of the land of Egypt,
but I also brought the Philistines from the
land of Caphtor and the Arameans
from the region of Kir.
8 Listen! I, Yahweh your Lord, am fully aware of how
sinful you people are in the kingdom *of Israel*,
so I will destroy your kingdom and remove it
from existing on the earth.
However, I will not completely destroy all of
the descendants of Jacob."
That is what Yahweh declares.
9 Yahweh also says, "Listen! This will happen because I
am giving the command
to send you people of Israel to live among
all the nations,
and there *it will be as though* I am shaking you in a
sieve*to sort you out into those who are faithful
and those who are not faithful, just as a farmer
shakes a sieve to separate grain from the stones*.
It will be as though not one pebble slips through the
sieve and falls to the ground,
because not one of the unfaithful people
among you will escape.
10 All of the sinful ones among my people will die as
enemies kill them with swords.
They are the ones who say that nothing bad
will ever happen to them.

11 At that time, I will restore the kingdom that
King David once ruled,
the kingdom that sinners have ruined.
I will repair it and rebuild it,
and I will cause it to prosper again, as it did long ago,
12 so that the kingdom of my people may contain
those who remain in Edom
and those who belong to me in all of the nations."
That is what Yahweh declares, and he is
the one who will do it.

13 Yahweh declares this, "Listen! The time is coming
when *your crops will grow so well it will be as if*
those who plow the ground will catch up with those
who are still harvesting the grain,
and those who tread on the grapes will still
be working when the sowers are ready
to start planting the seed.
There will be so much sweet wine
that *it will seem as if* it will flow down from
the mountains and that all of the
hills will melt *with it*.
14 For my people Israel I will make things as good
as they were before they became
captives *in other nations*.
They will rebuild the cities that now lie in ruins,
and they will live in them.
They will plant vineyards and drink the wine
that comes from them,
and they will plant gardens and eat the
fruit that grows in them.
15 I will settle my people securely in their own land,
and no one will ever remove them again from
the land that I gave to them."
That is what Yahweh your God says.