

# "On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

# Amos 2

## Amos 2

For the most part, the events in the book of Amos took place during days of relative stability and prosperity, when both the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel and Judah had long-reigning monarchies. Amos was called to go to Bethel and preach against the idol worship set up by Jeroboam, the son of Nebat. Jeroboam I had broken away from the Davidic/Judaic dynasty at the death of Solomon and took ten tribes with him. To keep the people loyal to him and not return to Jerusalem to observe the sacred feasts, festivals, and fast days, Jeroboam I set up his own religious worship centers and rituals. One of the worship centers was set up in the idolatrous city of Dan in northernmost Israel and the other was in the southern part of the country, just north of Jerusalem, in the ancient city of Bethel.

Samaria was set up as the capital of the northern kingdom, so that is where the prophesies were to be directed by Amos. The prophet used a formula given to him by the LORD Himself. **"Thus says the Lord: 'For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment...'"** (Amos 1:1, 6, 9, 11, 12; 2:1, 4, 6). Amos begins by blasting the nations surrounding

surrounding Israel, Gilead, Gaza, Tyre, Edom, Amon, Moab, and then the southern kingdom of Judah. This was to get the attention of the King of Israel and to point out that God will deal with these heathen and sinful nations. However, for Judah and for Israel there was to be a greater degree of accountability. They were nations in a special relationship with God and had entered into a covenant when they, as one nation, were delivered by God from the hand of Pharaoh and the bondage of slavery. The people of Israel knew better than they were doing, especially as it related to the poor and needy among them. Those who had prospered were taking advantage of those who had not. They were even taking the pledges of the garments of the poor. The poor could do without the outer garment during the day while they worked to earn a wage, but at night that garment was their only shelter from the night air and cold (see 2:8). God cares for the poor.

### Prayer and Action Steps

*God is gracious and merciful and watches over the poor among us. Don't mistreat those less fortunate around you.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Scripture \_\_\_\_\_

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

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What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

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Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

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Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

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Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

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Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?

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