

The Book Amos Lesson 1: Handout

The chart below lists the kings who ruled the Northern and Southern Kingdoms in the 8th century BC. The chart's dates are from the New Jerusalem Bible; however, dates may vary according to the source. Names in bold type are listed in Amos 1:1.

Important Dates and Events
930 BC ~ After King Solomon's death, his kingdom was divided into two states: the Northern Kingdom of Israel (with its capital at Samaria) and the Southern Kingdom of Judah (with Jerusalem as its capital).
783 BC ~ Jeroboam II son of Jehoash became king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
781 BC ~ Uzziah son of Amaziah became king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
743 BC ~ Zechariah son of King Jeroboam II, reigned for six months before being assassinated. Shallum son of Jabesh ruled for one month and was assassinated. Then in the same year, Menahem son of Gadi became king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
740 BC ~ Jotham son of Uzziah became king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
738 BC ~ Pekahiah son of Menahem became king of the Northern Kingdom.
737 BC ~ Pekah son of Remaliah became king of the Northern Kingdom after the assassination of King Pekahiah.
736 BC ~ Ahaz son of Jotham became king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
732 BC ~ Hoshea son of Elah assassinated Pekah to become the last king of the Northern Kingdom. Neo-Assyrian King Tiglath-Pileser conquered and annexed the northern parts of the Kingdom of Israel, including Galilee.
727 BC ~ Shalmaneser V became king of Assyria. Hezekiah son of Ahaz became king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. For two decades, Judah remained an ally of Assyria.
722 BC ~ Shalmaneser V died while besieging Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom. His successor, Sargon II, conquered, annexed the Northern Kingdom's territory, and exiled the people.
716 BC ~ Hezekiah son of Ahaz became king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
705 BC ~ King Sargon of Assyria died, sparking hope throughout the empire that Assyrian power would diminish. His son, Sennacherib, ascended the throne of Assyria.
701 BC ~ King Hezekiah of the Southern Kingdom of Judah revolted against Assyrian domination, prompting Sennacherib to attack Judah. Jerusalem, Lachish, and 44 other cities were besieged, but Jerusalem was spared after King Hezekiah paid tribute to the Assyrians.
701-688 BC ~ King Hezekiah built a second city wall and tunnel to better protect Jerusalem and its water supply from future Assyrian attacks.
694 BC ~ King Sennacherib of Assyria completed his new palace at Nineveh, including reliefs commemorating his 701 BC siege of Lachish.
690 BC ~ Tirhakah became pharaoh of Ethiopia and Egypt and an ally of King Hezekiah against the Assyrians.
688 BC ~ Assyrian King Sennacherib attacked Jerusalem again. This time the city withstood his siege because God struck his army with a plague, and he withdrew back to Assyria.
686 BC ~ King Hezekiah of Judah died.
681 BC ~ King Sennacherib was murdered by his sons.

Events are from the Biblical record and Assyrian and Egyptian annals.

Summary Outline of the Book of the Prophet Amos

Biblical Period	#7 THE DIVIDED KINGDOMS			
Covenant	The Sinai Covenant & the Davidic Covenant			
Focus	Introduction and 8 Oracles	3 Sermons on Judgment	5 Visions of Judgment	5 Promises and Conclusion
Scripture	1:1-----3:1-----7:1-----9:11-----9:15			
Division	Judgment of Israel and Neighboring Nations	Sins of Israel: Present, past, and future	Describing Israel's Judgment	The Promised Restoration of Israel
Topic	Pronouncements of Judgment	Provocations for Judgment	Future of Judgments	Promises After Judgment
	Yahweh's Divine Judgment			Hope for the Future
Location	Northern Kingdom of Israel			
Time	Amos's ministry lasted two years (as the ancients counted *) in the mid-eighth century BC. It began two years before a devastating earthquake that apparently marked the dramatic end of his mission, during the reigns of kings Jeroboam II of Israel and Uzziah of Judah.			

*The ancients counted without the concept of a zero-place value, which is why Scripture records Jesus was in His tomb three days from Friday to Sunday before His Resurrection.

The Book of Amos is divided into four parts, including an introduction and a conclusion.

Part I: Title and an oracle summarizing the book (1:1-2), and eight oracles of judgment for Israel’s neighbors and the Northern and Southern Kingdoms (1:3-2:16).

- A. Damascus (1:3-5)
- B. Gaza (1:6-8)
- C. Tyre (1:11-12)
- D. Edom (1:11-12)
- E. Ammon (1:13-15)
- F. Moab (2:1-3)
- G. Southern Kingdom of Judah (2:4-5)
- H. Northern Kingdom of Israel (2:6-16)

Part II: Three Sermons of Judgment (3:1-6:14)

- A. Israel’s Present (3:1-15)
- B. Israel’s Past (4:1-13)
- C. Israel’s Future (5:1-6:14)

Part III: Five Visions of Judgment and Historical Parenthesis (7:1-9:10)

- A. Vision #1: the Locusts (7:1-3)
- B. Vision #2: the Fire (7:4-6)
- C. Vision #3: the Plumb Line (7:7-9)
- D. The opposition of Amaziah (7:10-17)
- E. Vision #4: Summer Fruit (8:1-14)
- F. Vision #5: the Fall of the Sanctuary (9:1-6)

Part IV: Epilogue: Five Promises of the Restoration of Israel (9:7-15)

Amos prophesied Yahweh’s coming judgment on the Northern Kingdom of Israel. He also foretold the promise of deliverance for the faithful “remnant of Joseph” (5:15). Throughout salvation history, God has always preserved a faithful remnant of His covenant people. See examples in the chart below:

The Protection of the Faithful Remnant	Scripture reference
Noah and his family in the Great Flood	Genesis 7:1
Joseph, his brothers, and their families in Egypt during the famine	Genesis 45:7
The new generation of Israel in the Promised Land	Deuteronomy 4:27-31
The 7,000 faithful who had not worshiped Baal	1 Kings 19:18
The remnant who returned to Judah after the Babylonian captivity	Isaiah 10:20-23
The remnant of Zion	Micah 2:12-13
The New Covenant Church of Jesus Christ (Jews and Gentiles)	Romans 9:22-27