

# Be Just

# AMOS



Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore  
BibleStudyDownloads.org

**Key Word**

**583  
343**

**Injustice**

**Amos**

# Discussion Group Question

**How would you  
define social  
justice?**



# What About You?

How have  
you  
personally  
experienced  
injustice?





How does God respond to **injustice**?

Does He care?



# Key Verse

"But let **justice** roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream"  
(Amos 5:24).

**Amos**





# The Twelve

**Courage to Confront Culture**

**—A Preaching Series on the Minor Prophets—**



MINOR PROPHETS  
MAJOR PROFIT

**Big Issues in the Little Books**

# Amos 1



# The Prophet Amos

"The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa—what he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel."

**Amos 1:1 NIV**



# When Amos Wrote



**Jeroboam II**

**Pekah**

**Hoshea**

*Main Final Kings of Israel*

*Kings of Judah*

**Uzziah**

**Jotham**

**Ahaz**

**Hezekiah**

**Amos**

**(767-753 BC)**





- city
- city (uncertain location)
- city (modern name)
- heartland of Assyrian Kingdom [Assur-uballit I (c. 1350 BC) & Adad-nirari III (c. 750 BC)]
- expansion of Adad-nirari I (c. 1300 BC)
- expansion of Tukulti-ninurta I (c. 1225 BC)
- expansion of Ashurnasirpal II (c. 875 BC)
- expansion of Shalmaneser III (c. 850 BC)
- expansion of Tiglath-pileser III (c. 735 BC)
- expansion of Sargon II (c. 720 BC) & Sennacherib (c. 700 BC)
- expansion of Esarhaddon (c. 675 BC)
- expansion of Ashurbanipal (c. 650 BC)

# Assyrian Expansion

Judah was free zone



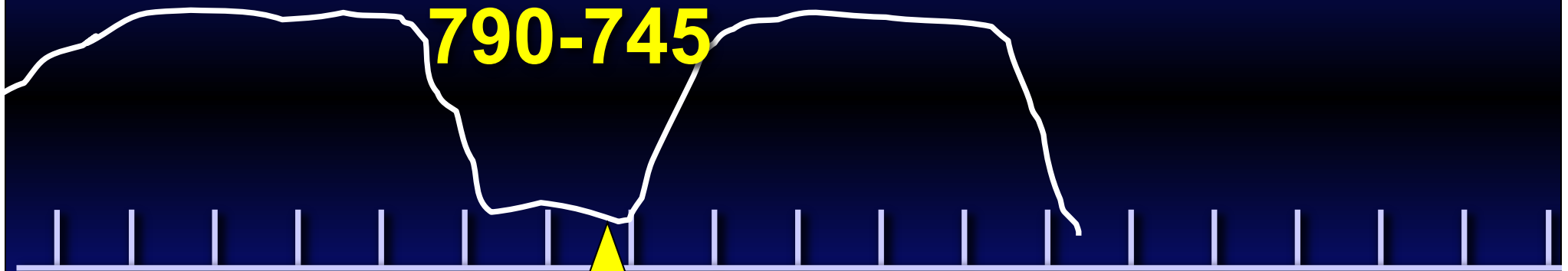
# The Setting: Assyrian Might

**Strong**  
883-783

**Weak**

**Strong**  
745-626

**790-745**



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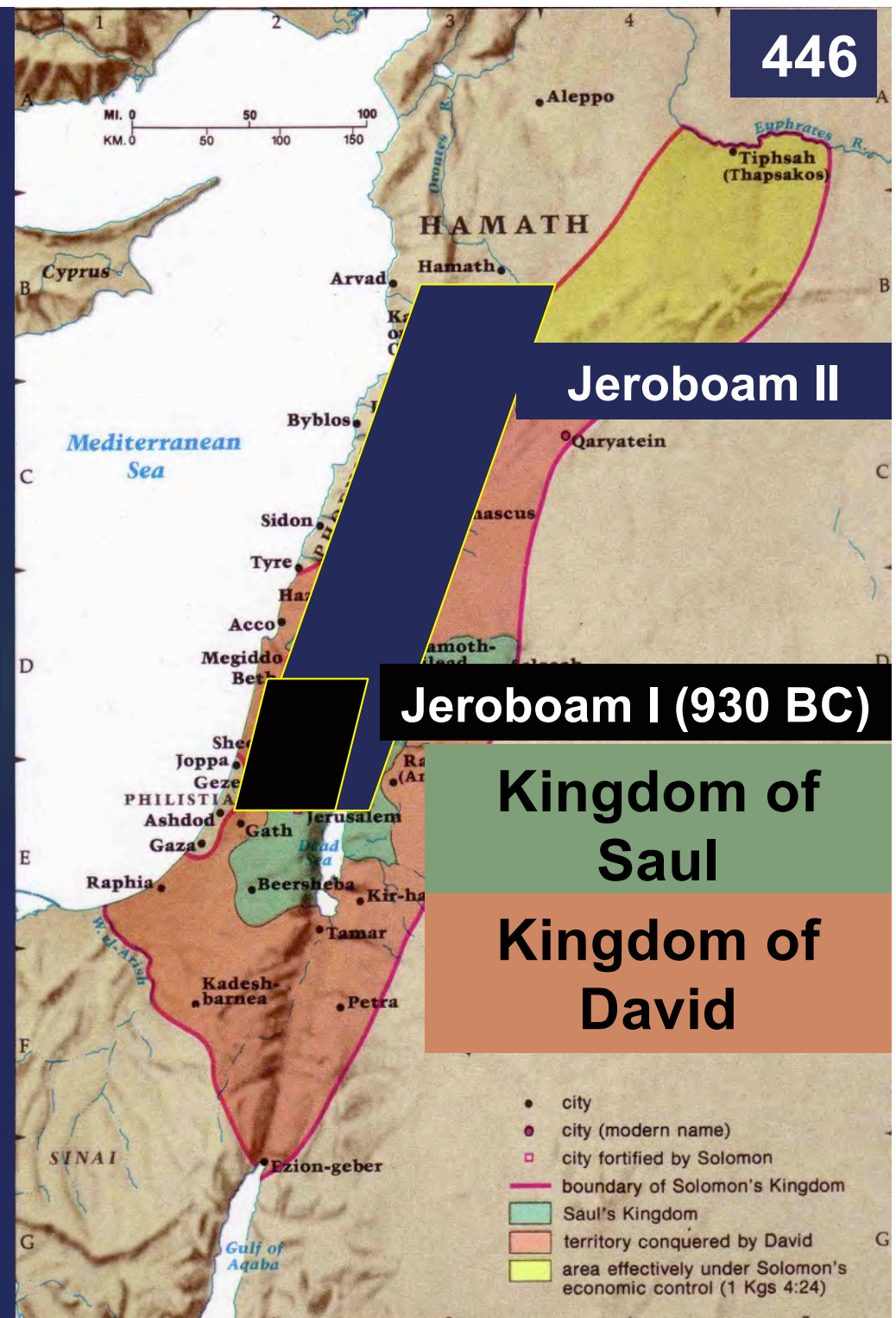
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**Jonah &  
Amos**

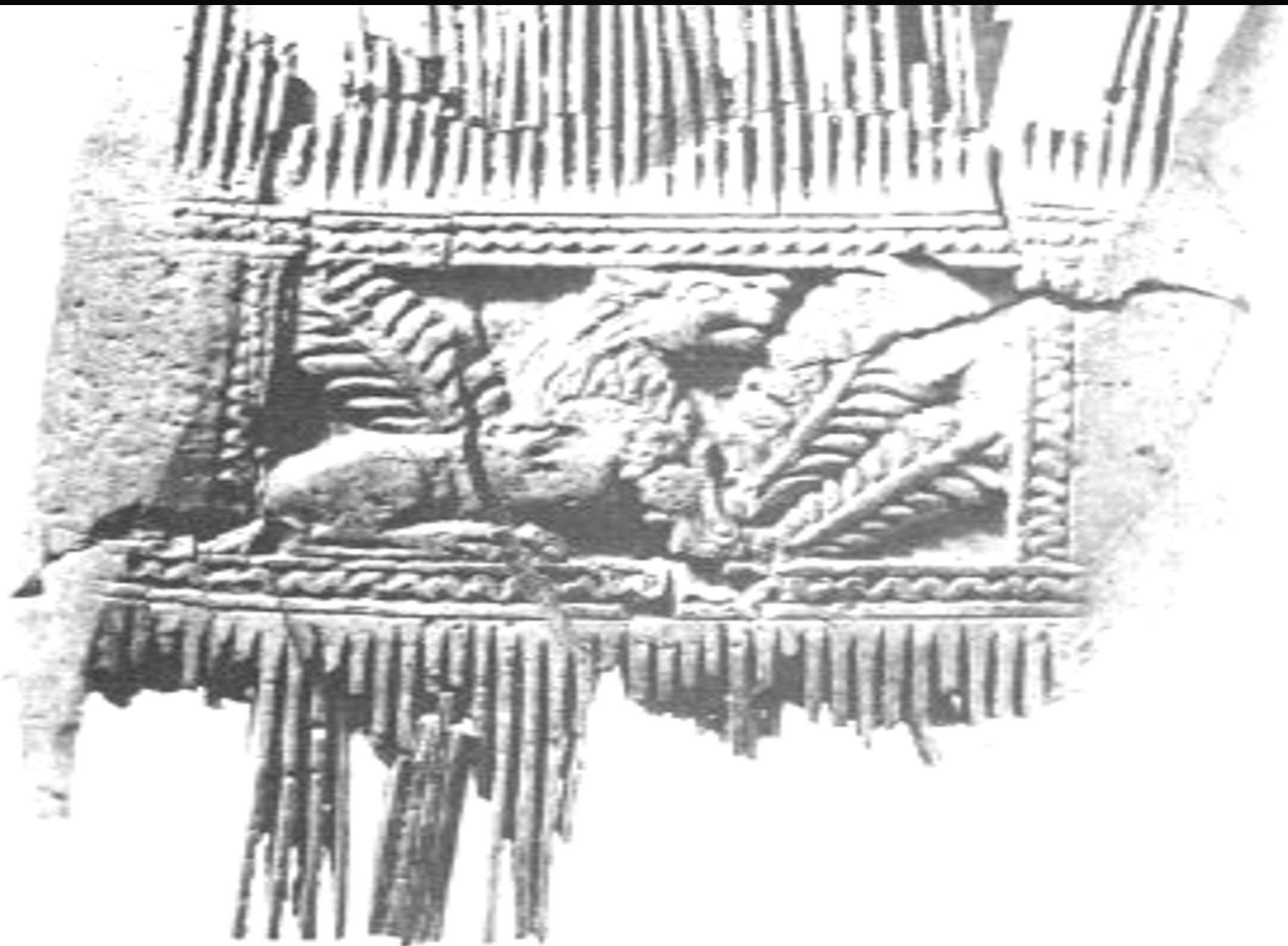
# Expansion under Jeroboam II

"Jeroboam II recovered the territories of Israel between Lebo-hamath and the Dead Sea,\* just as the Lord, the God of Israel, had promised through **Jonah son of Amittai**, the prophet from Gath-hepher."  
(2 Kings 14:25 NLT).

\* Hebrew *the sea of the Arabah*



# Ivory comb from time of Amos



# Perils of Prosperity

	<b>Jonah</b>	<b>Amos</b>	<b>Hosea</b>
<b>Responsibility Addressed</b>	<b>Evangelistic</b>	<b>Social</b>	<b>Spiritual</b>
<b>Israel's Problem</b>	<b>Myopia</b>	<b>Injustice</b>	<b>Adultery</b>
<b>God's Attribute</b>	<b>Compassion</b>	<b>Justice</b>	<b>Faithfulness</b>
<b>Key Word</b>	<b>Compassion</b>	<b>Injustice</b>	<b>Loyal</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>God cares even for cruel Gentiles, so you should too!</b>	<b>God is fair with you, so you should be fair with others!</b>	<b>God keeps His covenant with you, so be faithful to Him as well!</b>
<b>Modern Parallels</b>	<b>Failure in Mission Responsibility</b>	<b>Oppression of Maids &amp; Foreign Workers</b>	<b>Church's God is Modernity (Methods)</b>
<b>Date of Ministry (approx.)</b>	<b>785-758 Beginning of Jeroboam's Reign</b>	<b>767-753 Middle of Jeroboam's Reign</b>	<b>755-710 End of Jeroboam's Reign</b>



# Placing the Prophets

342

Key Dates



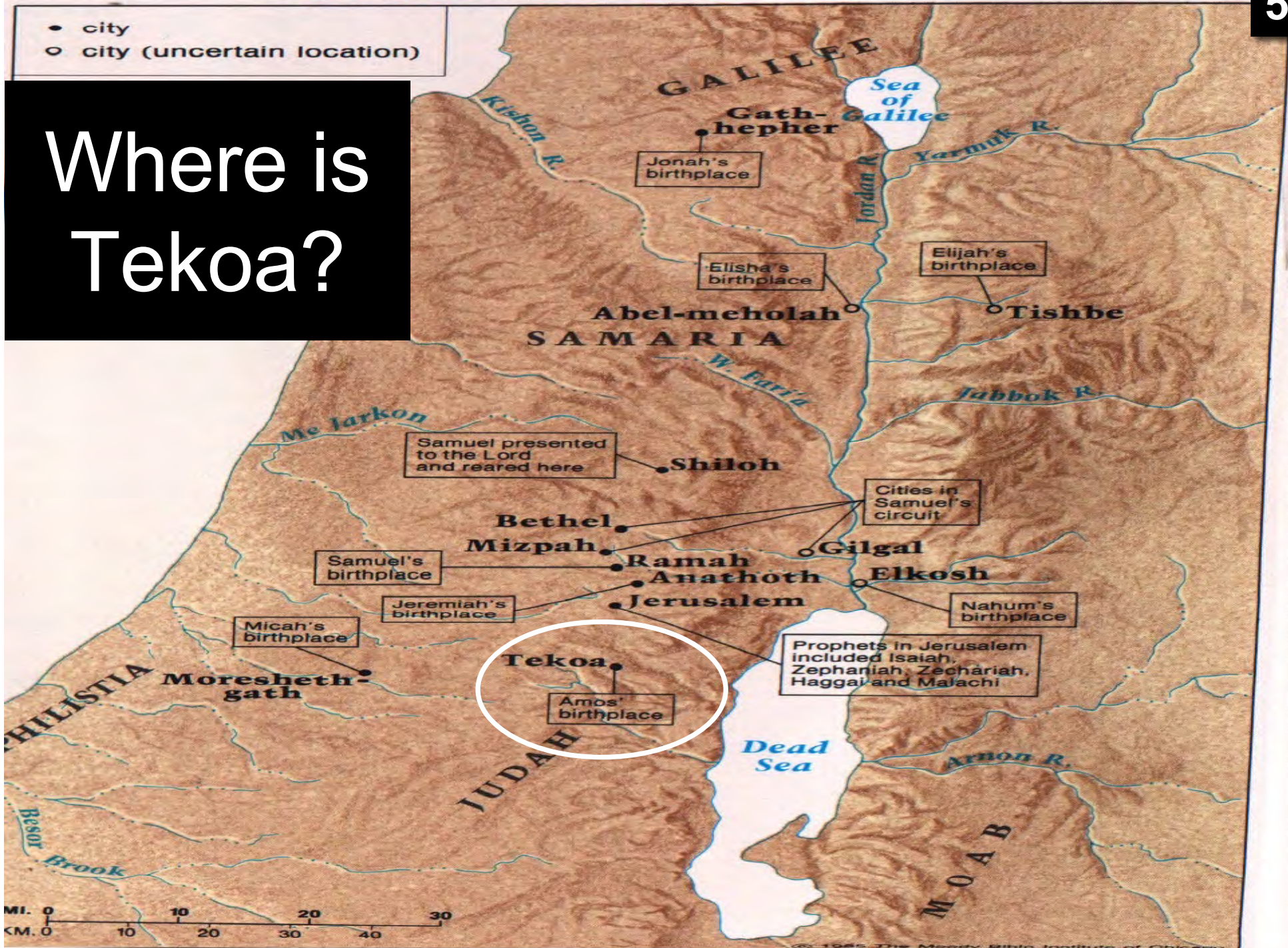
# Authorship and Date

- **Amos not known outside of his writings**
- **Native of Tekoa**
- **Shepherd (1:1) or possibly businessman**
- **Fig farmer (7:14)**
- **Lived during the prosperous reigns of Uzziah, king of Judah (779-740 BC) and Jeroboam II, king of Samaria (783-743 BC)**



- city
- city (uncertain location)

Where is Tekoa?



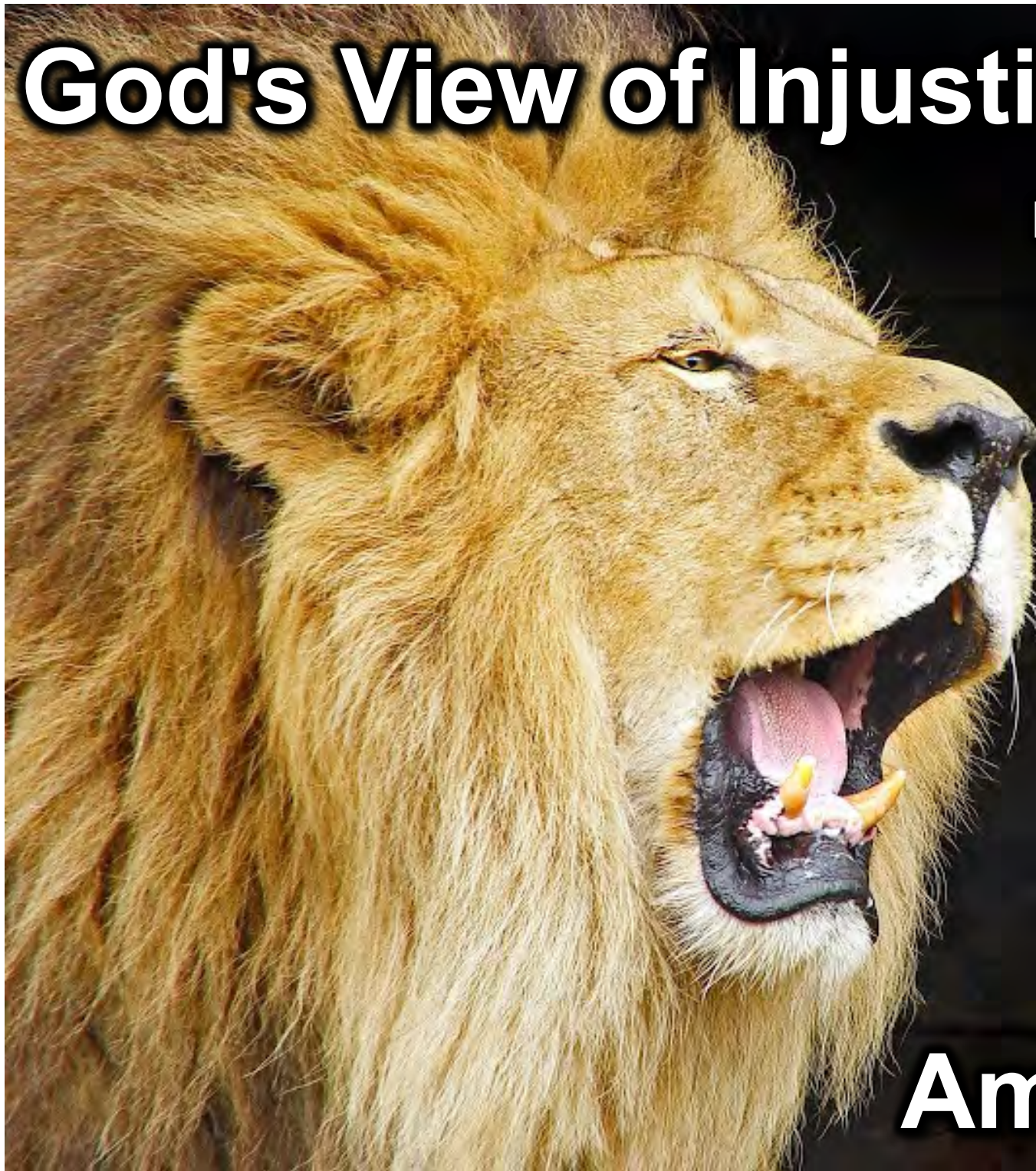


# God's View of Injustice

583

"The LORD  
roars from Zion  
and  
thunders from  
Jerusalem;  
the pastures of  
the shepherds  
dry up,  
and the top  
of Carmel  
witheres."

**Amos 1:2 NIV**



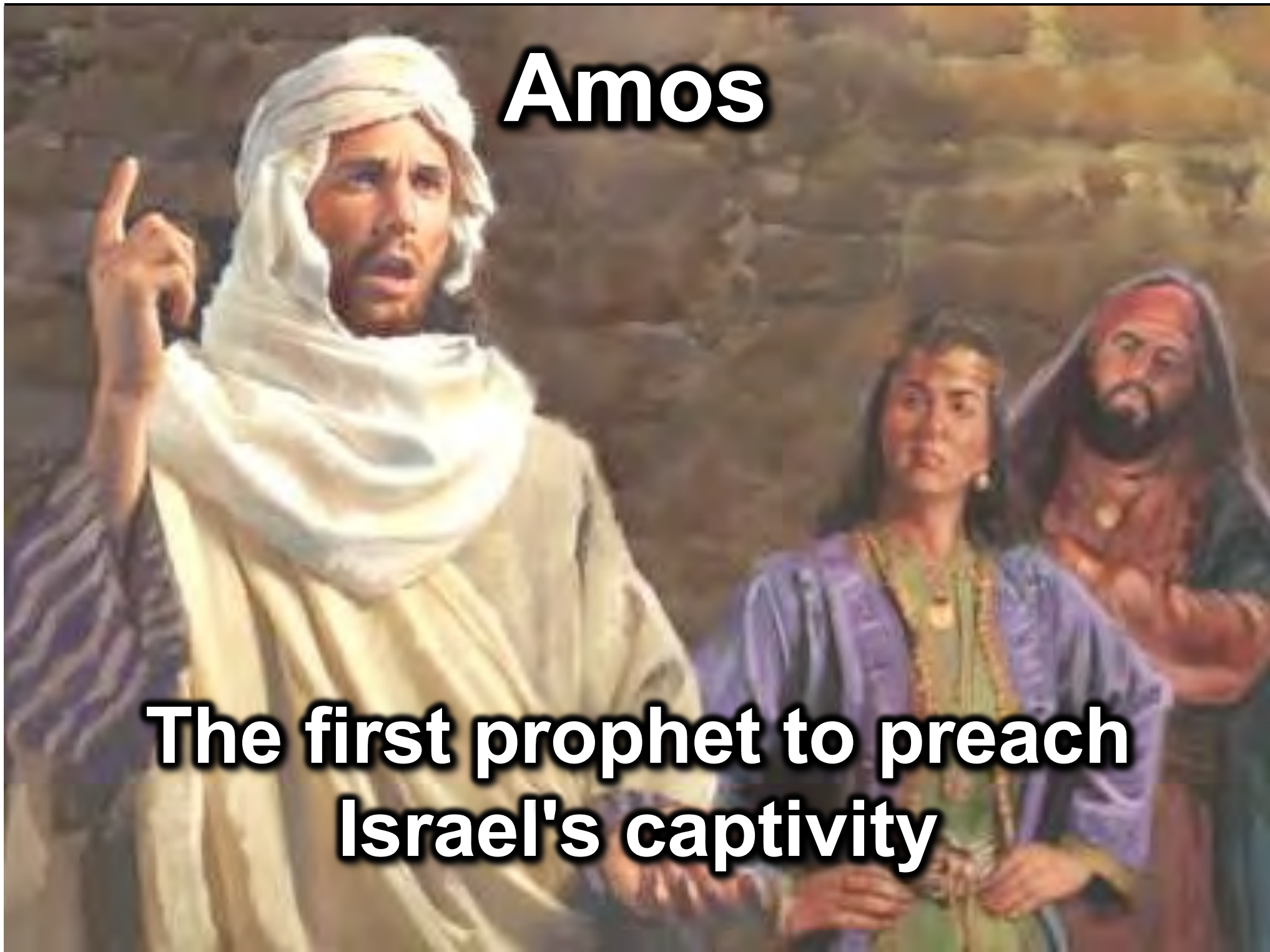


# Historical Background

- **A Hebrew prophet's ministry and message were intimately bound up with the conditions in which the people to whom he preached lived, and Amos' book is no exception.**
- **Israel under Jeroboam II had economic prosperity**
- **But they abused the peasant class**
- **Social conditions in Samaria affected religious habits**

# Amos

**The first prophet to preach  
Israel's captivity**





# Characteristics

- A. The most negative of the prophets with only 8 positive verses (9:8-15)**
- B. Blunt businessman-like language**
- C. First prophet to condemn not only Israel and Judah, but also the surrounding nations**
- D. The object of intense study (60 different commentaries)**

How does God respond to **injustice**?

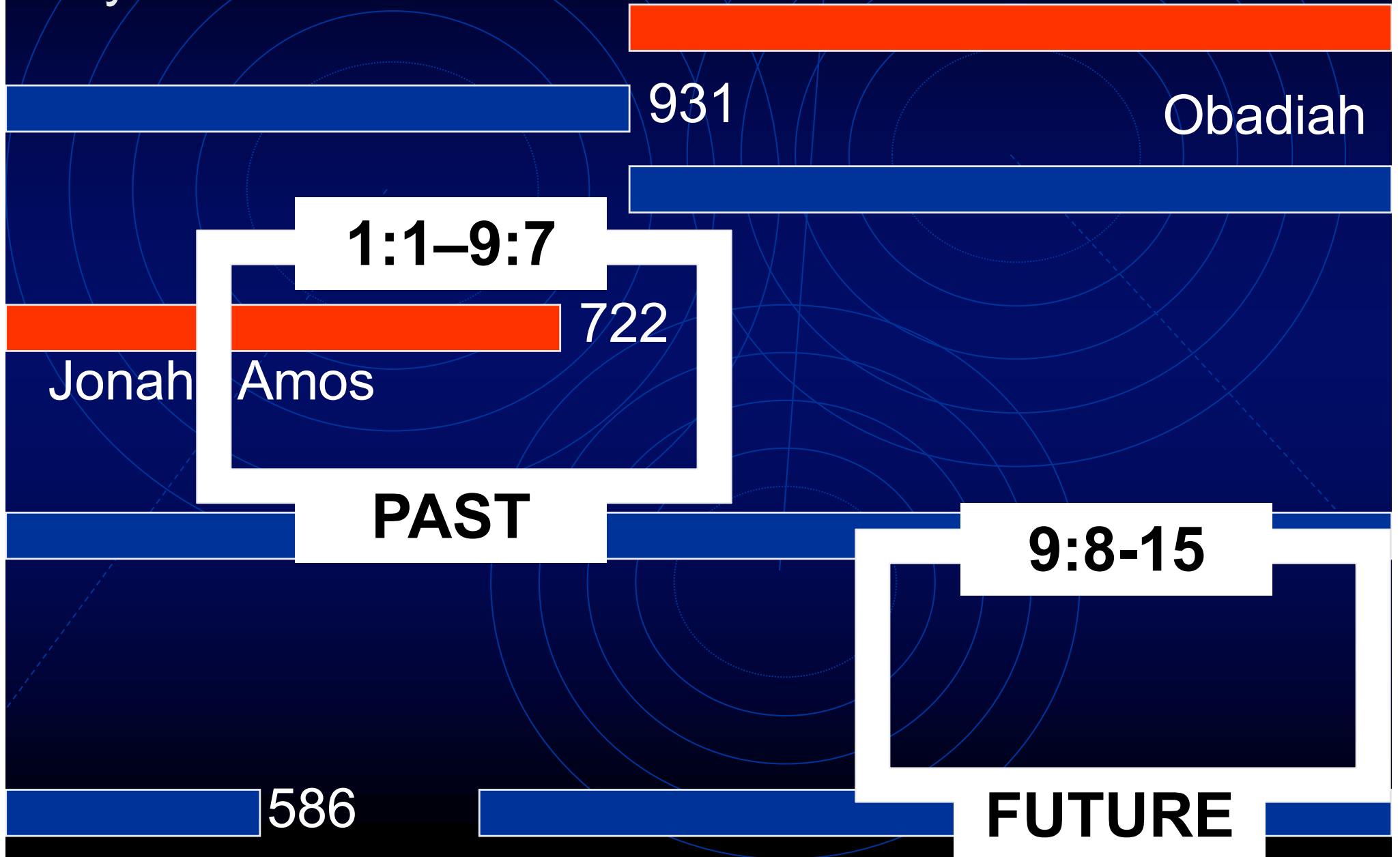
Two ways...



# Placing the Prophets

342

Key Dates

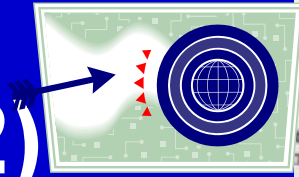


# I. God **judged** injustice in Israel (Amos 1:1–9:7).

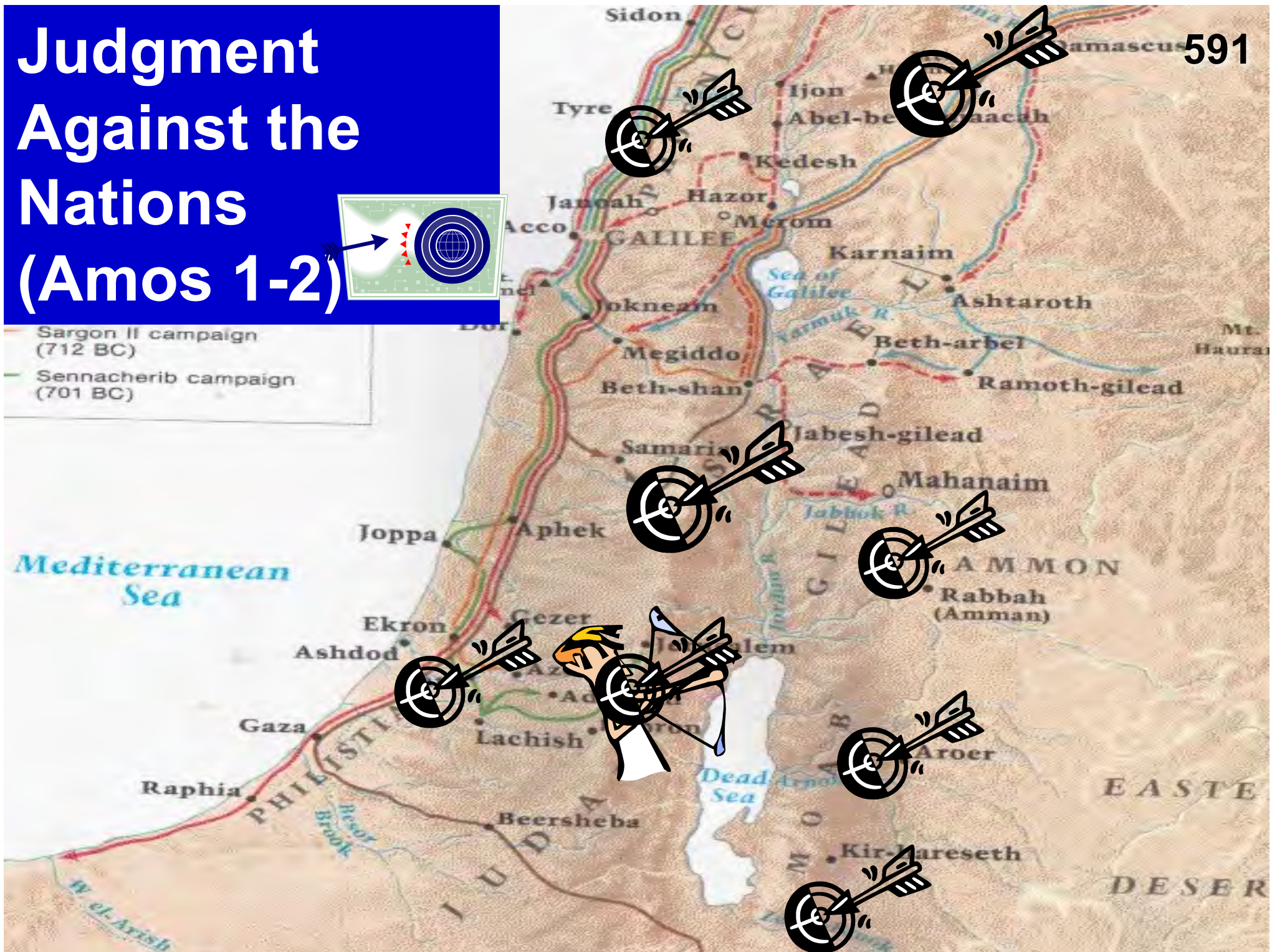




# Judgment Against the Nations (Amos 1-2)



Sargon II campaign  
(712 BC)  
Sennacherib campaign  
(701 BC)





# Judgment Against the Nations (Amos 1–2)

591

Amos declared the  
sins and penalties of  
Israel and 7  
surrounding  
countries for their  
sins against God's  
people, Israel





# God will Judge Damascus

*Amos 1:3-4 NLT*

"This is what the LORD says:  
'The people of Damascus  
have sinned again and  
again,  
and I will not let them go  
unpunished!

They beat down my people  
in Gilead  
as grain is threshed with  
iron sledges.

<sup>4</sup>So I will send down fire on  
King Hazael's palace,  
and the fortresses of King  
Ben-hadad will be  
destroyed.'"



# God will Judge Philistia

591

*Amos 1:6-7 NIV*

"This is what the LORD says:  
'For three sins of Gaza,  
even for four, I will not turn  
back [my wrath].  
Because she took captive  
whole communities  
and sold them to Edom,  
I will send fire upon the walls  
of Gaza that will consume her  
fortresses.'"





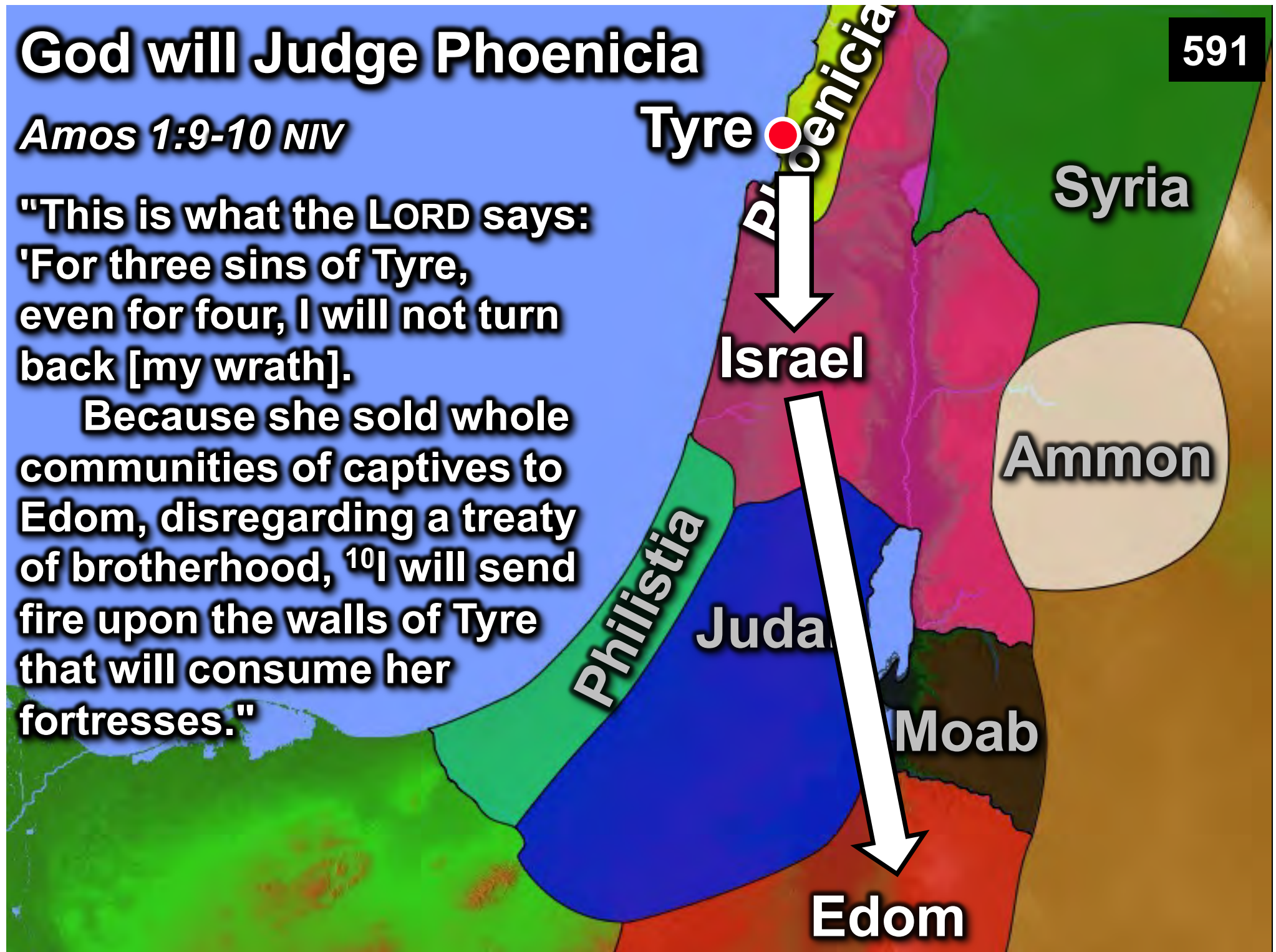
# God will Judge Phoenicia

591

*Amos 1:9-10 NIV*

"This is what the LORD says:  
'For three sins of Tyre,  
even for four, I will not turn  
back [my wrath].

Because she sold whole  
communities of captives to  
Edom, disregarding a treaty  
of brotherhood, <sup>10</sup>I will send  
fire upon the walls of Tyre  
that will consume her  
fortresses."



# God will Judge Edom

*Amos 1:11-12 NIV*

"This is what the LORD says: 'The people of Edom have sinned again and again, and I will not let them go unpunished! They chased down their relatives, the Israelites, with swords, showing them no mercy. In their rage, they slashed them continually and were unrelenting in their anger.

<sup>12</sup>So I will send down fire on Teman, and the fortresses of Bozrah will be destroyed.'"





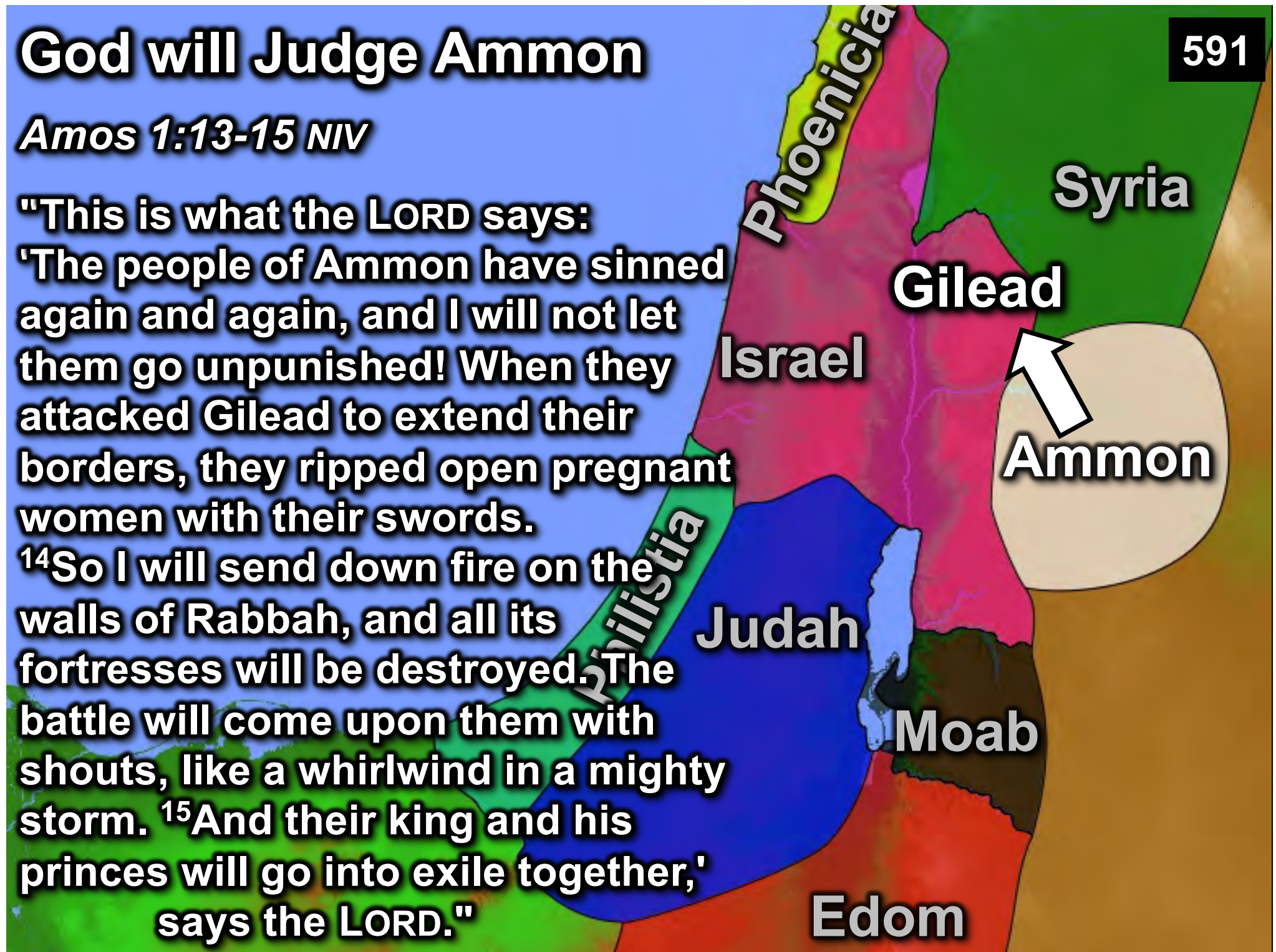
# God will Judge Ammon

591

*Amos 1:13-15 NIV*

"This is what the LORD says:  
'The people of Ammon have sinned again and again, and I will not let them go unpunished! When they attacked Gilead to extend their borders, they ripped open pregnant women with their swords.

<sup>14</sup>So I will send down fire on the walls of Rabbah, and all its fortresses will be destroyed. The battle will come upon them with shouts, like a whirlwind in a mighty storm. <sup>15</sup>And their king and his princes will go into exile together,' says the LORD."



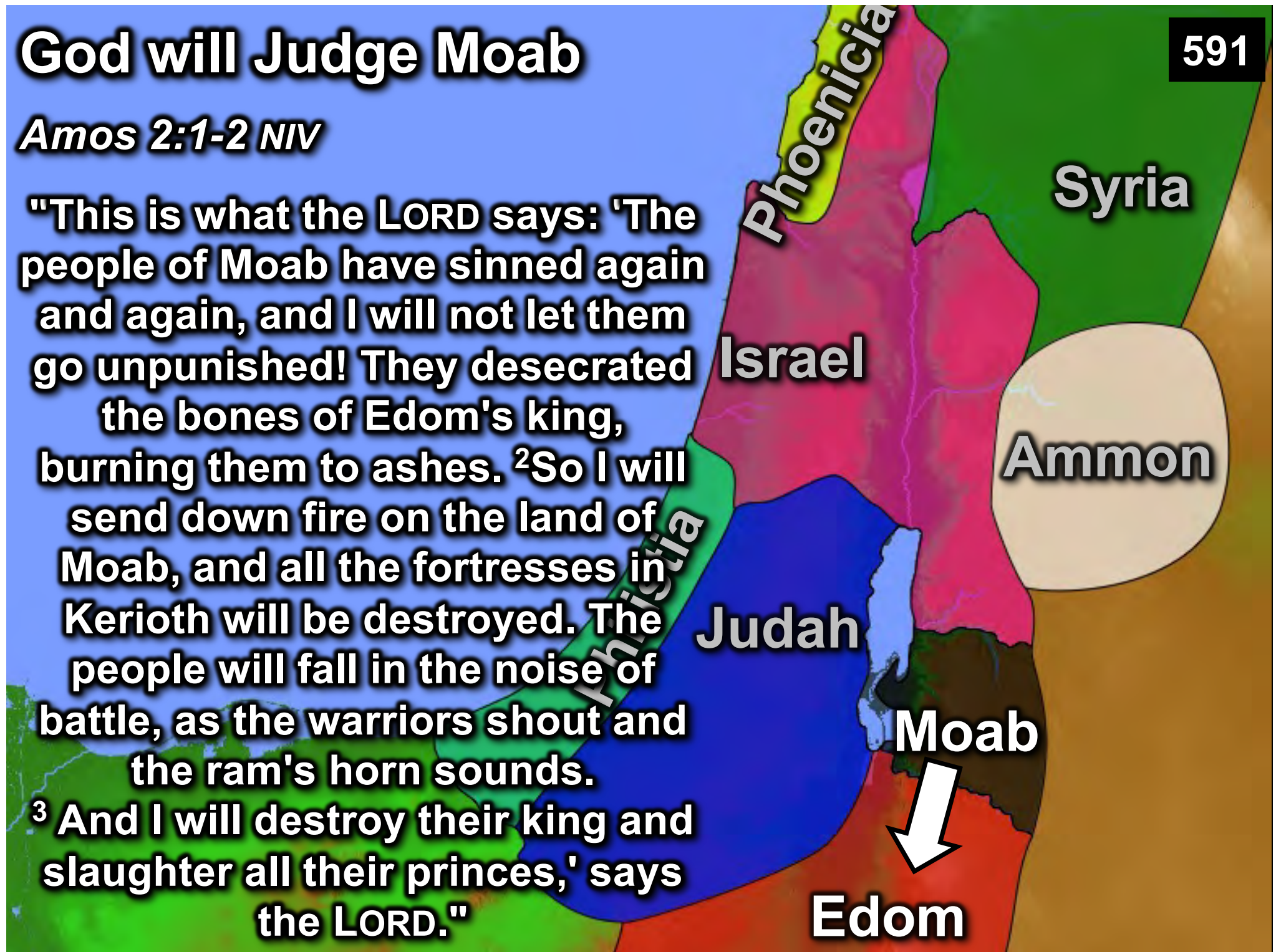
# Amos 2

# God will Judge Moab

591

*Amos 2:1-2 NIV*

"This is what the LORD says: 'The people of Moab have sinned again and again, and I will not let them go unpunished! They desecrated the bones of Edom's king, burning them to ashes. <sup>2</sup>So I will send down fire on the land of Moab, and all the fortresses in Kerioth will be destroyed. The people will fall in the noise of battle, as the warriors shout and the ram's horn sounds. <sup>3</sup>And I will destroy their king and slaughter all their princes,' says the LORD."





# God will Judge Judah

591

*Amos 2:4-5 NIV*

"This is what the LORD says:  
'The people of Judah have sinned again and again, and I will not let them go unpunished! They have rejected the instruction of the LORD, refusing to obey his decrees. They have been led astray by the same lies that deceived their ancestors.  
<sup>5</sup>So I will send down fire on Judah, and all the fortresses of Jerusalem will be destroyed.'"



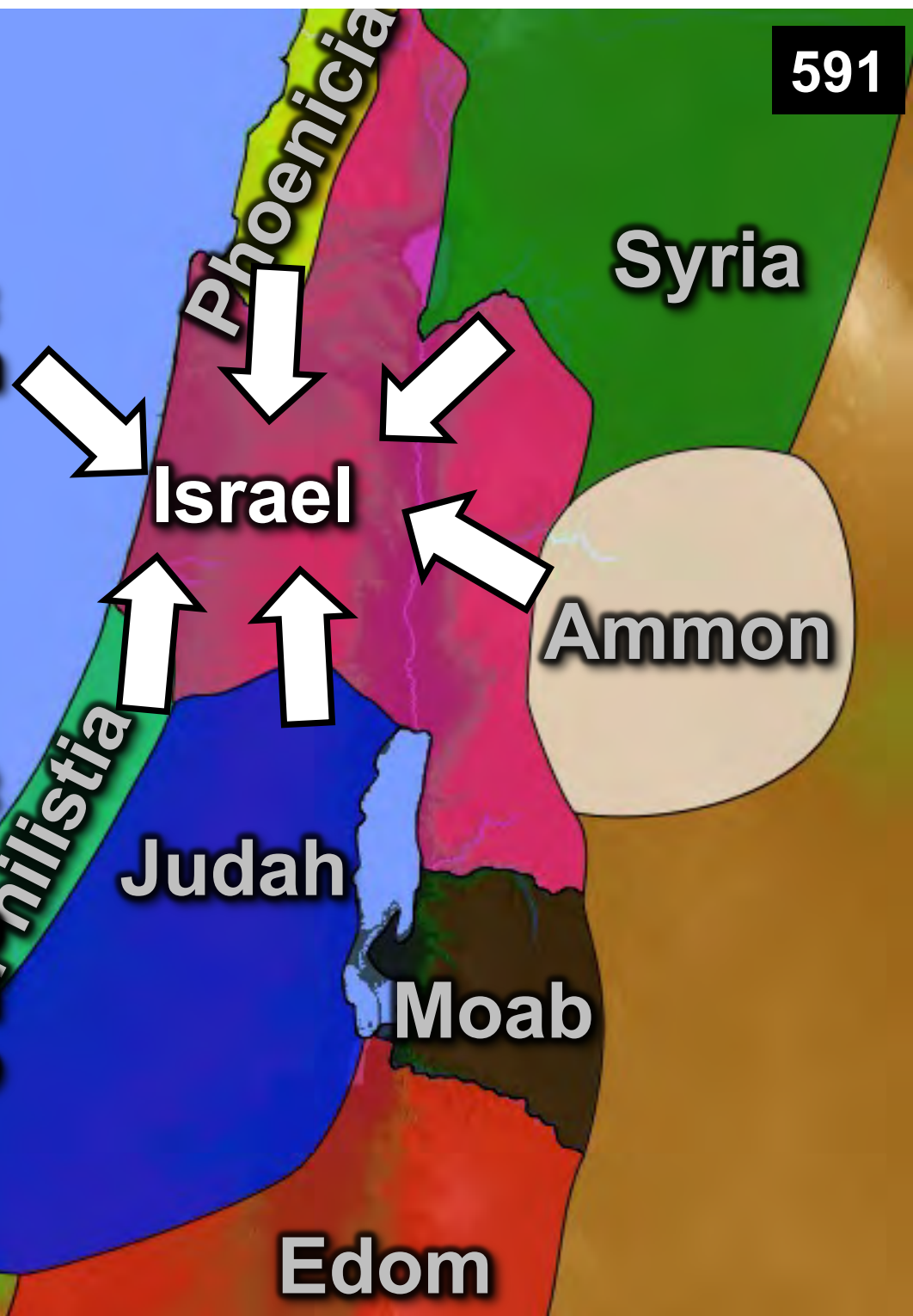


# God will Judge Israel

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*Amos 2:6-7 NIV*

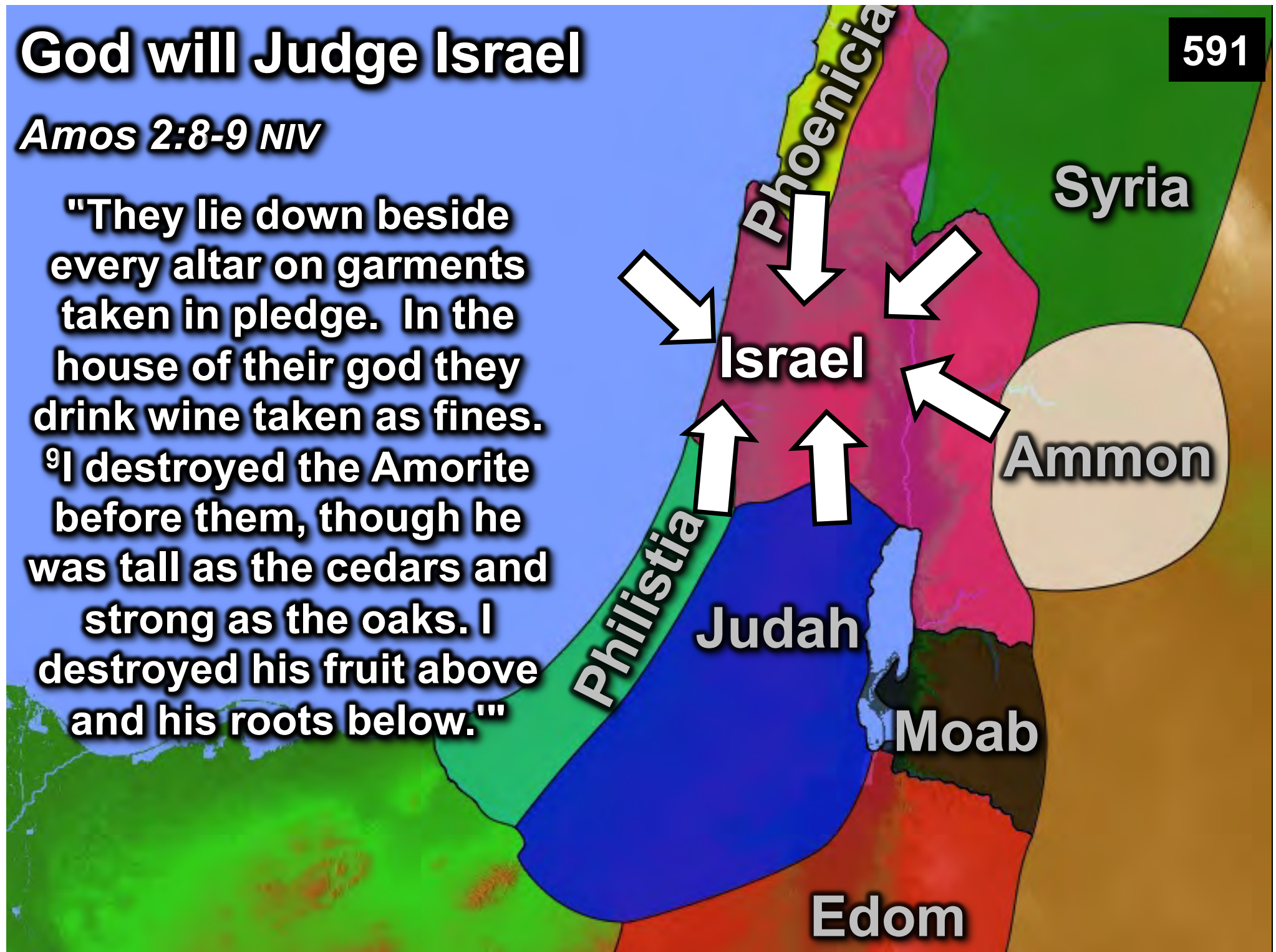
"This is what the LORD says:  
'For three sins of Israel, even  
for four, I will not turn back  
[my wrath]. They sell the  
righteous for silver, and the  
needy for a pair of sandals.  
7They trample on the heads  
of the poor as upon the dust  
of the ground  
and deny justice  
to the oppressed. Father and  
son use the same girl and so  
profane my holy name.'"



# God will Judge Israel

*Amos 2:8-9 NIV*

"They lie down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge. In the house of their god they drink wine taken as fines. <sup>9</sup>I destroyed the Amorite before them, though he was tall as the cedars and strong as the oaks. I destroyed his fruit above and his roots below."





## Judgment for Social Injustice

<b>Eight Judgments</b>	<b>Three Sermons</b>	<b>Five Visions</b>	<b>Promise of Restoration</b>
Chapters 1–2	Chapters 3–6	7:1–9:7	9:8-15
"This is what the LORD says..." (1:3, 6, 9, 11, 13; 2:1, 4)	"Hear this word..." (3:1; 4:1; 5:1)	"This is what the Sovereign LORD showed me..." (7:1, 4, 7; 8:1)	"In that day..." "The days are coming..." (9:11, 13)
<b>God's Impartiality</b>	<b>God's Justice</b>	<b>God's Judgments</b>	<b>God's Grace</b>
<b>Pronouncements of Judgment</b>	<b>Provocations of Judgment</b>	<b>Future of Judgment</b>	<b>Promises after Judgment</b>
<b>Judgment</b>			<b>Renewal</b>
<b>Horror</b>			<b>Hope</b>
<b>Neighbor Nations</b>	<b>Northern Nation</b>		

767-753 BC (before the fall of Samaria)

# Amos 3



# Are we listening to God?

583



# Three Sermons (Amos 3–6)

**"Hear this  
word..."  
(3:1)**

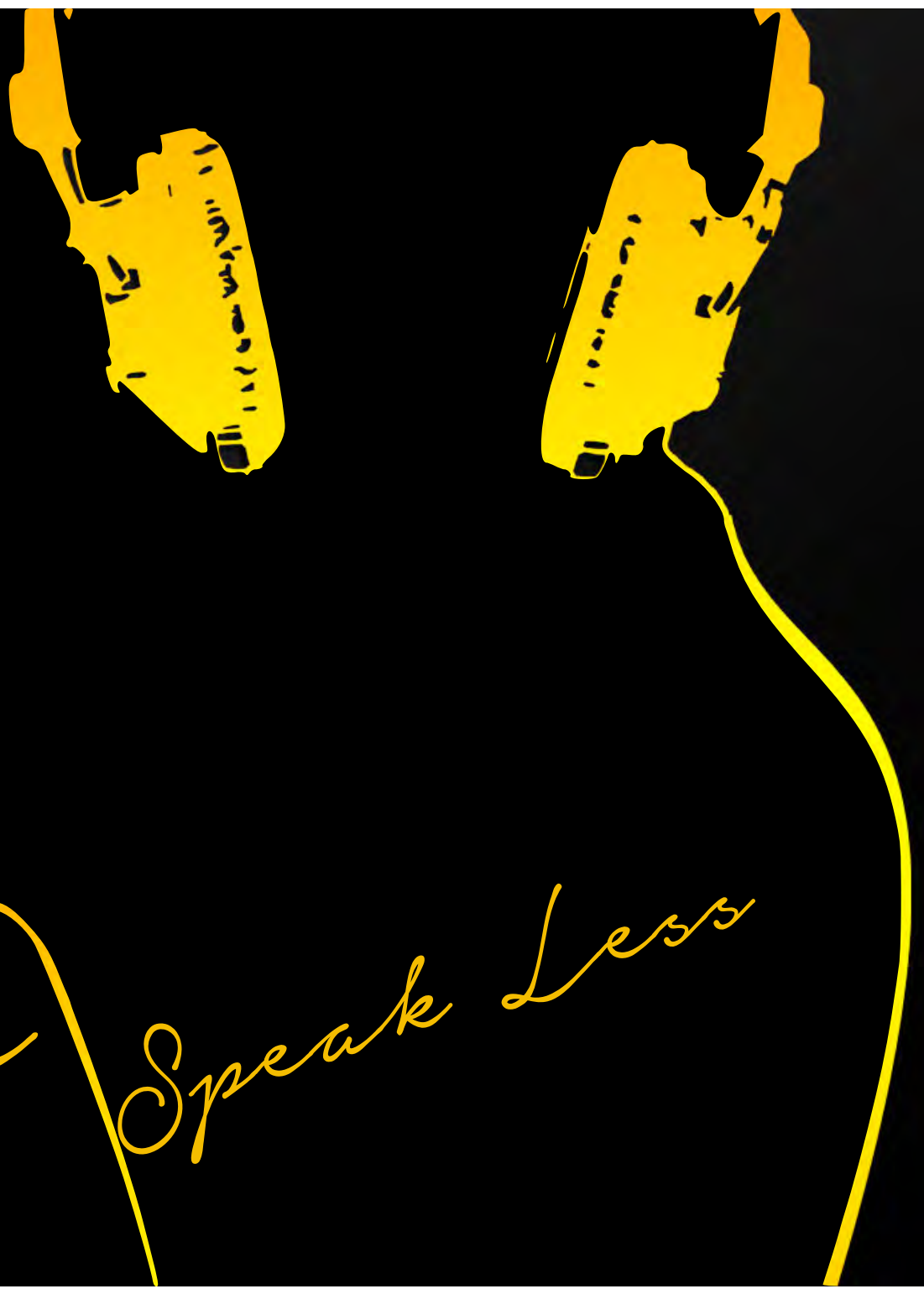
**"Hear this  
word..."  
(4:1)**

**"Hear this  
word..."  
(5:1)**

**Three structural markers to start each sermon**

**= "Listen!" • "Listen!" • "Listen!"**





listen  
more Speak Less

"Listen"

耳聽  
到心

Ting



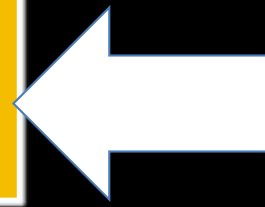
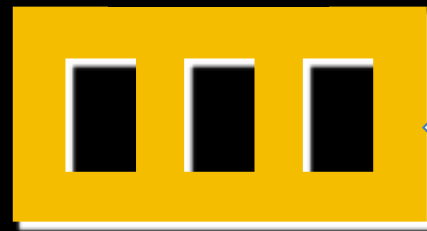
King



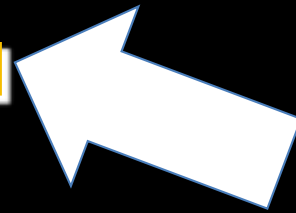
Ear







**Eye**



**One**

心



Heart



**Christ**



Ear "Listen" Christ



King

Ting

Heart

# Three Sermons (Amos 3–6)

**"Hear this  
word..."  
(3:1)**

**"Hear this  
word..."  
(4:1)**

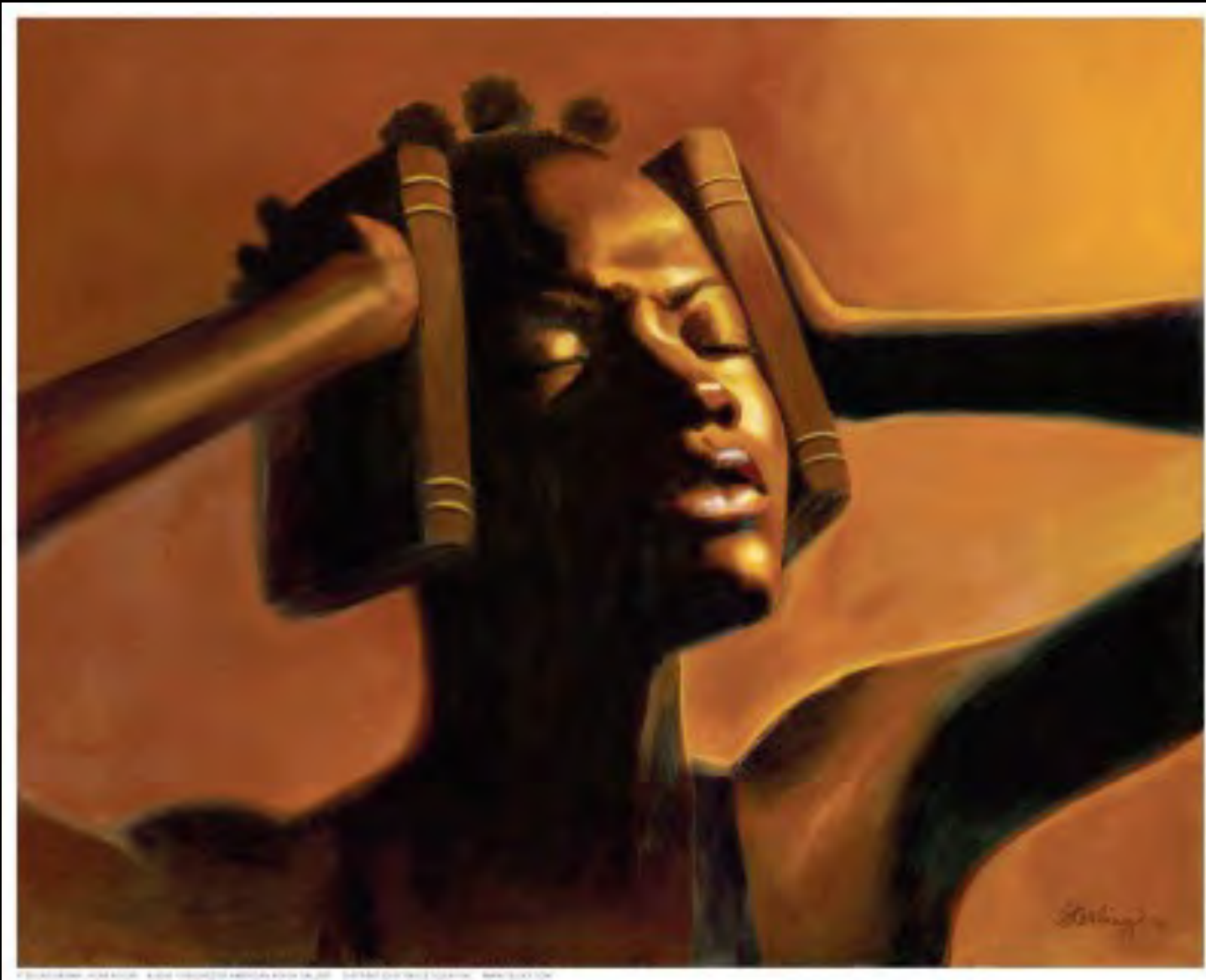
**"Hear this  
word..."  
(5:1)**

**"They do not  
know how to  
do right"  
(3:10)**



# Are we listening to God?

583



**When we don't listen, it is as if  
there is a famine for God's Word.**



# Amos 4



# Three Sermons (Amos 3–6)

**"Hear this  
word..."  
(3:1)**

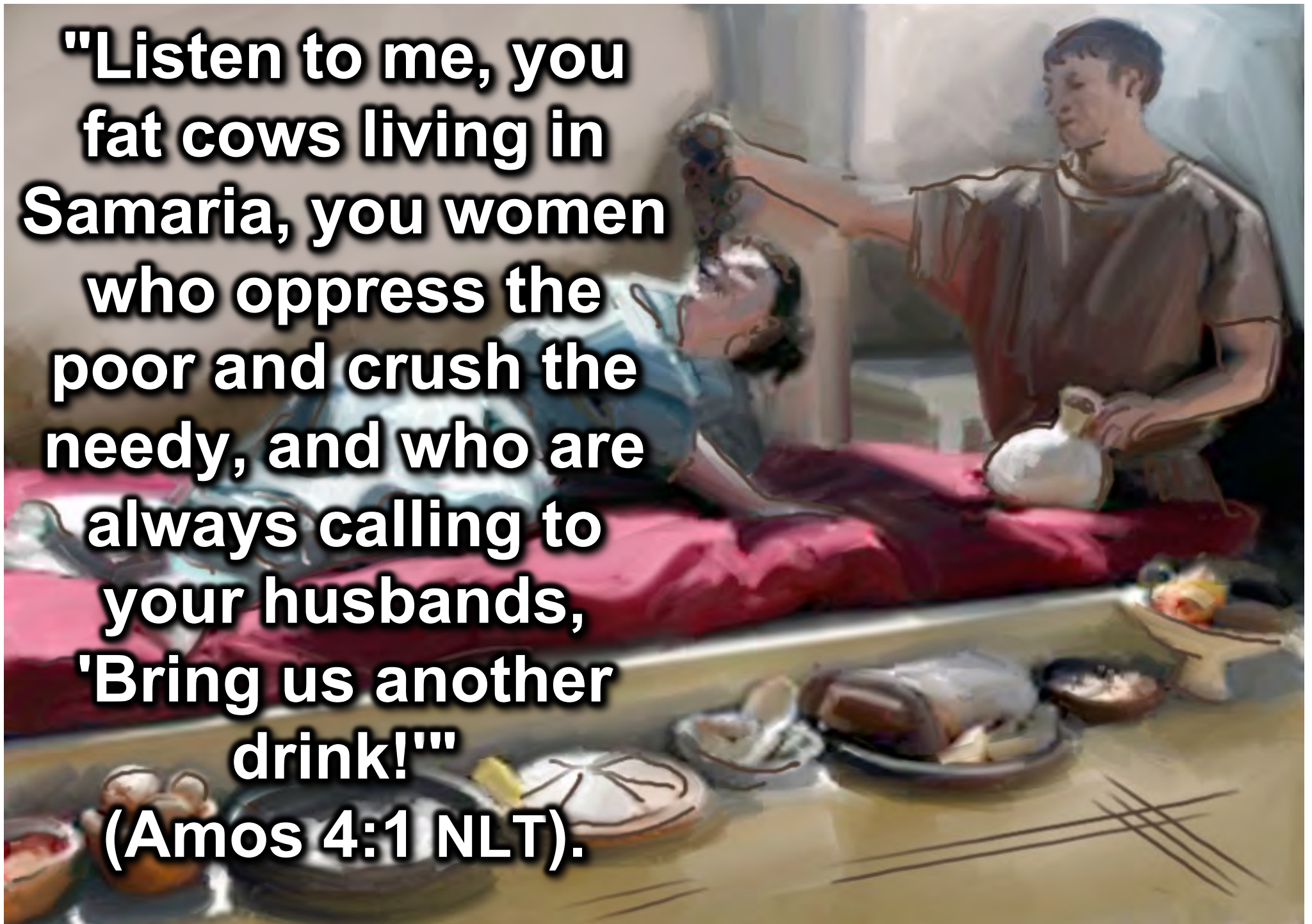
**"Hear this  
word..."  
(4:1)**

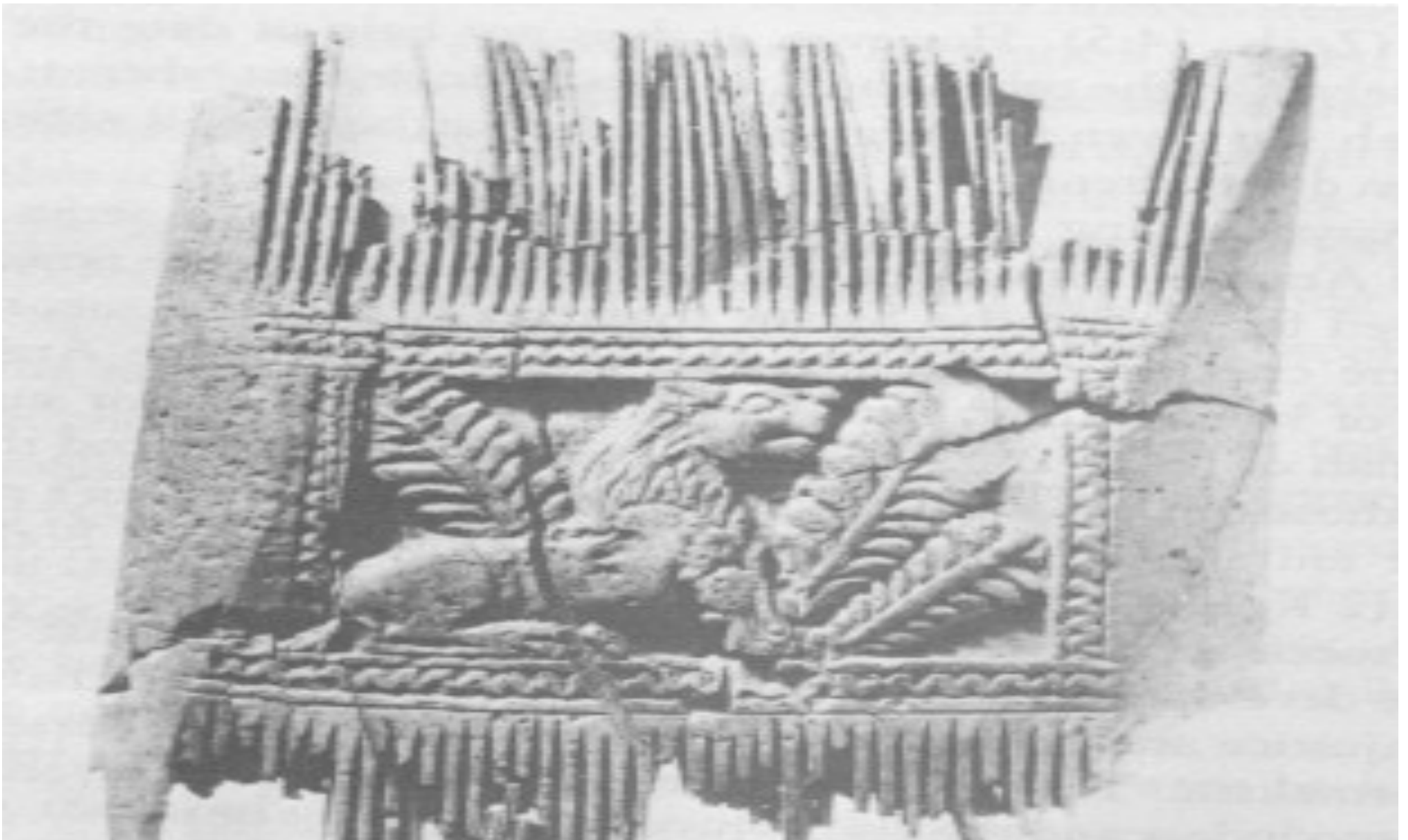
**"Hear this  
word..."  
(5:1)**

**"They do not  
know how to  
do right"  
(3:10)**

**"You  
oppress the  
poor and  
crush the  
needy"(4:1)**

**"Listen to me, you  
fat cows living in  
Samaria, you women  
who oppress the  
poor and crush the  
needy, and who are  
always calling to  
your husbands,  
'Bring us another  
drink!'"  
(Amos 4:1 NLT).**





**Ivory comb from Megiddo, representative of the wealth and luxury assailed by Amos (3:15; 6:4)  
—*Oriental Institute, University of Chicago***



# Amos 5

# Three Sermons (Amos 3–6)

**"Hear this  
word..."  
(3:1)**

**"Hear this  
word..."  
(4:1)**

**"Hear this  
word..."  
(5:1)**

**"They do not  
know how to  
do right"  
(3:10)**

**"You  
oppress the  
poor and  
crush the  
needy"(4:1)**

**"I hate, I  
despise your  
religious  
feasts"  
(5:21)**

# Sins of Injustice

**5:10** How you hate honest judges!  
How you despise people who tell the truth!

**5:11** You trample the poor,  
stealing their grain through taxes and unfair  
rent.

Therefore, though you build beautiful stone  
houses, you will never live in them.

Though you plant lush vineyards,  
you will never drink wine from them.



# Sins of Injustice

**5:12** For I know the vast number of your sins and the depth of your rebellions.

You oppress good people by taking bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts.

**5:13** So those who are smart keep their mouths shut, for it is an evil time.

—NLT

# Amos



**Blunt & Brazen**

# Amos 6



# Sins of Injustice

- 6:4** How terrible for you who sprawl on ivory beds and lounge on your couches, eating the meat of tender lambs from the flock and of choice calves fattened in the stall.
- 6:5** You sing trivial songs to the sound of the harp and fancy yourselves to be great musicians like David.
- 6:6** You drink wine by the bowlful and perfume yourselves with fragrant lotions. You care nothing about the ruin of your nation.
- 6:7** Therefore, you will be the first to be led away as captives. Suddenly, all your parties will end.

# Amos 7

# The Locust Vision—Amos 7:1-3 585



**"The Sovereign LORD showed me a vision. I saw him preparing to send a vast swarm of locusts over the land. This was after the king's share had been harvested from the fields and as the main crop was coming up. <sup>2</sup>In my vision the locusts ate every green plant in sight. Then I said, 'O Sovereign Lord, please forgive us or we will not survive, for Israel is so small.' <sup>3</sup>So the LORD relented from this plan. 'I will not do it,' he said" (NLT).**



# The Fire Vision—Amos 7:4-6

585



"Then the Sovereign LORD showed me another vision. I saw him preparing to punish his people with a great fire. The fire had burned up the depths of the sea and was devouring the entire land. <sup>5</sup>Then I said, 'O Sovereign LORD, please stop or we will not survive, for Israel is so small.' <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD relented from this plan, too. 'I will not do that either,' said the Sovereign LORD. <sup>3</sup>So the LORD relented from this plan. 'I will not do it,' he said" (NLT).

# The Plumb Line Vision—Amos 7:7-8 <sup>585</sup>



**"This is what he showed me:  
The LORD was standing by a  
wall that had been built true to  
plumb, with a plumb line in his  
hand. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD asked  
me, 'What do you see, Amos?'  
'A plumb line,' I replied.**

**Then the LORD said, "Look, I  
am setting a plumb line among  
my people Israel; I will spare  
them no longer" (NLT).**


# Amos 8



# The Ripe Fruit Vision—Amos 8:1-3 <sup>585</sup>

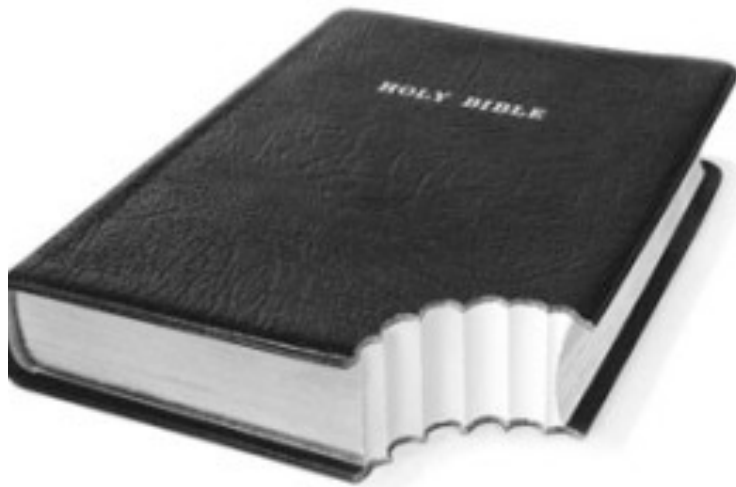


**"Then the Sovereign LORD showed me another vision. In it I saw a basket filled with ripe fruit. <sup>2</sup>'What do you see, Amos?' he asked. I replied, 'A basket full of ripe fruit.' Then the LORD said, 'Like this fruit, Israel is ripe for punishment! I will not delay their punishment again. <sup>3</sup>In that day the singing in the Temple will turn to wailing. Dead bodies will be scattered everywhere. They will be carried out of the city in silence. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!'" (NLT).**



**"The time is surely coming," says the Sovereign LORD, "when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread or water**

**Amos 8:11-13 NLT**



**"The time is surely coming," says the Sovereign LORD, "when I will send a famine on the land— not a famine of bread or water **but of hearing the words of the LORD.** <sup>12</sup>**People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from border to border searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it. <sup>13</sup>Beautiful girls and strong young men will grow faint in that day, thirsting for the LORD's word."****



**Amos 8:11-13 NLT**



# Amos 9

# The Smashed Pillars Vision —Amos 9:1

585



**"Then I saw a vision of the LORD standing beside the altar. He said, 'Strike the tops of the Temple columns, so that the foundation will shake. Bring down the roof on the heads of the people below. I will kill with the sword those who survive. No one will escape!'" (NLT).**

# I. God **judged** injustice in Israel (Amos 1:1–9:7).





II. God will **restore** Israel to fulfill his promises (Amos 9:8-15).





**God's justice and God's  
mercy do not quarrel  
with each other.**

**—A. W. Tozer—**

***Finally, after the most judgment of  
any book in the Bible...***



**Amos**



# Can you restore a fallen tent?



**God can.**



# Amos 9:11 (NIV)

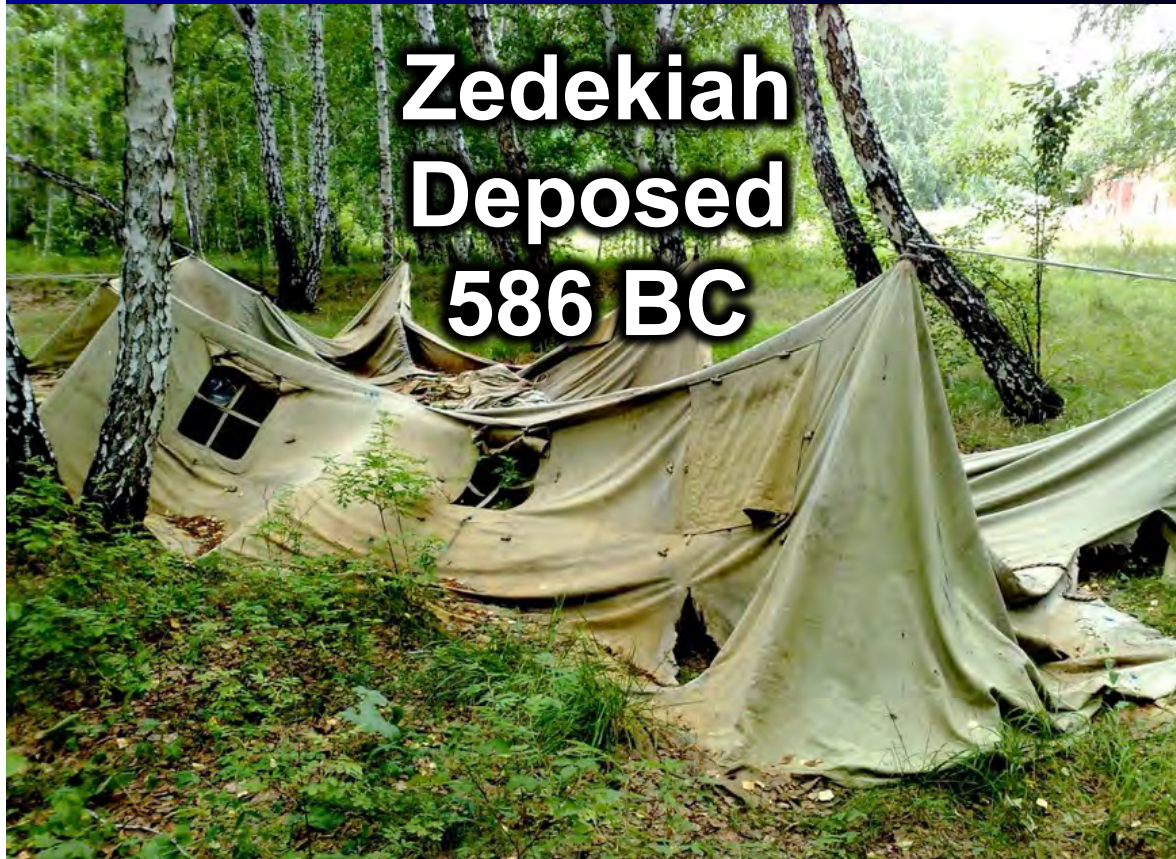
**"In that day I will restore David's fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be."**





# Amos 9:11 (NIV)

**"In that day I will restore David's fallen tent.  
I will repair its broken places, restore its  
ruins, and build it as it used to be."**





***Christ's crown of thorns will be replaced with a crown of rule***



**Amos**

## Amos 9:11-12 (NIV)

"In that day I will restore David's fallen tent. I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be,<sup>12</sup>so that they may **possess** the remnant of **Edom** and all the nations that bear my name,' declares the LORD, who will do these things."

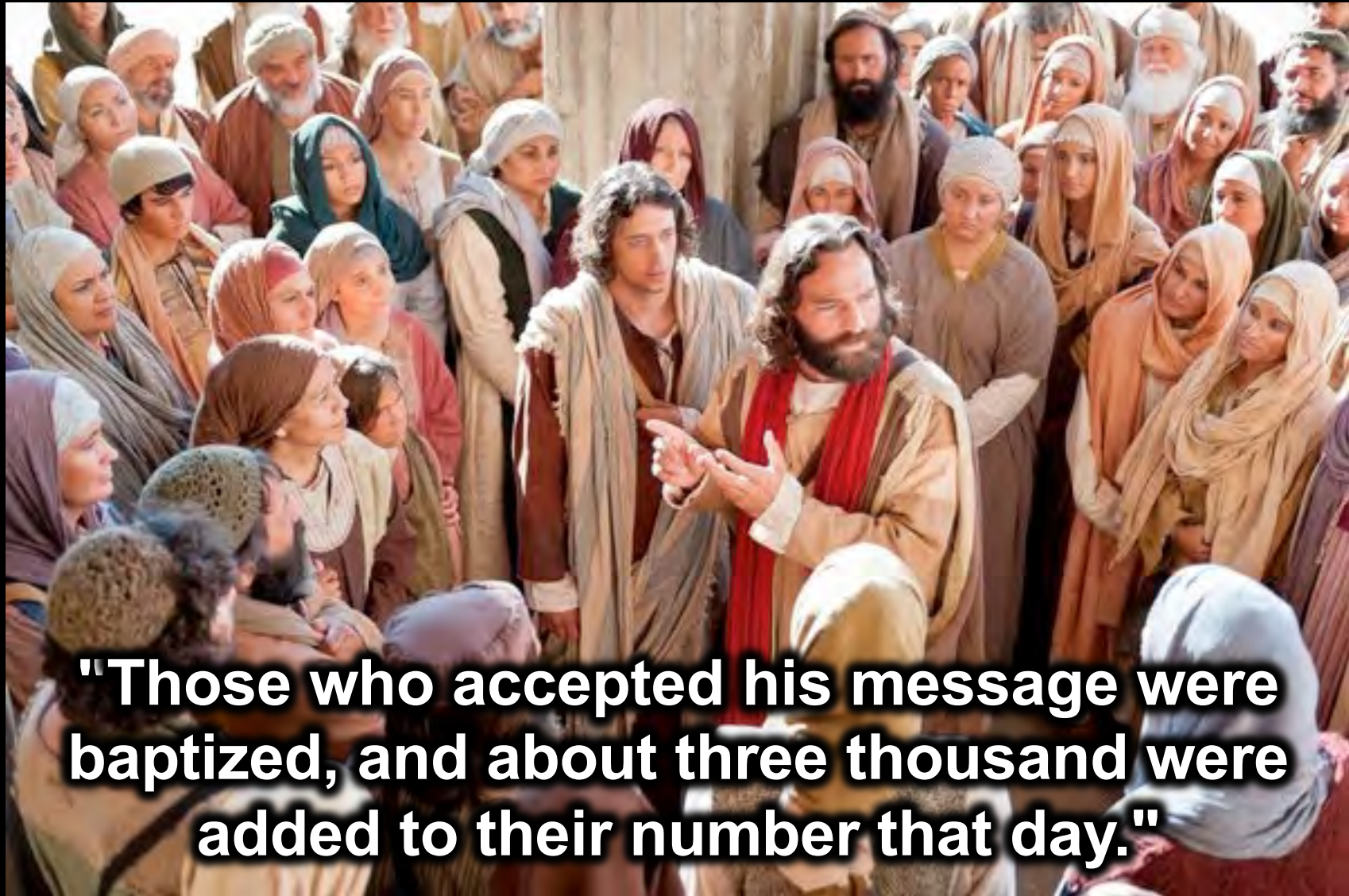
A map of the region of Judah and Edom. Judah is colored blue and Edom is colored red. A white arrow points from the text 'Edom' to the red region. Other regions are colored in various shades of green, pink, and brown. The map is set against a light blue background.

Judah

Edom



# Peter Led 3000 to Christ at Pentecost



**"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."**

**Acts 2:41 NIV**



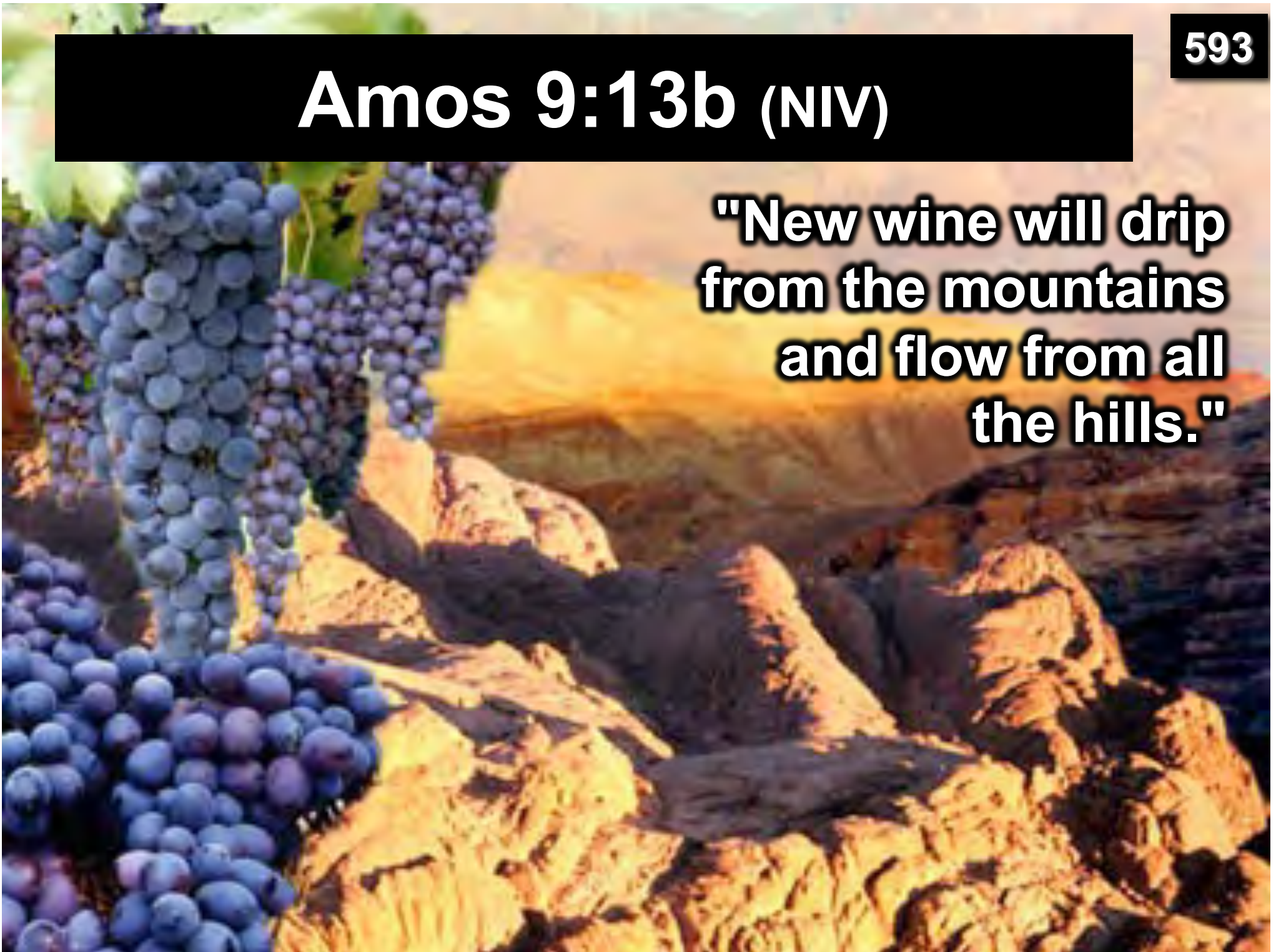
# Amos 9:13a (NIV)

**"'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes.'"**



# Amos 9:13b (NIV)

**"New wine will drip  
from the mountains  
and flow from all  
the hills."**



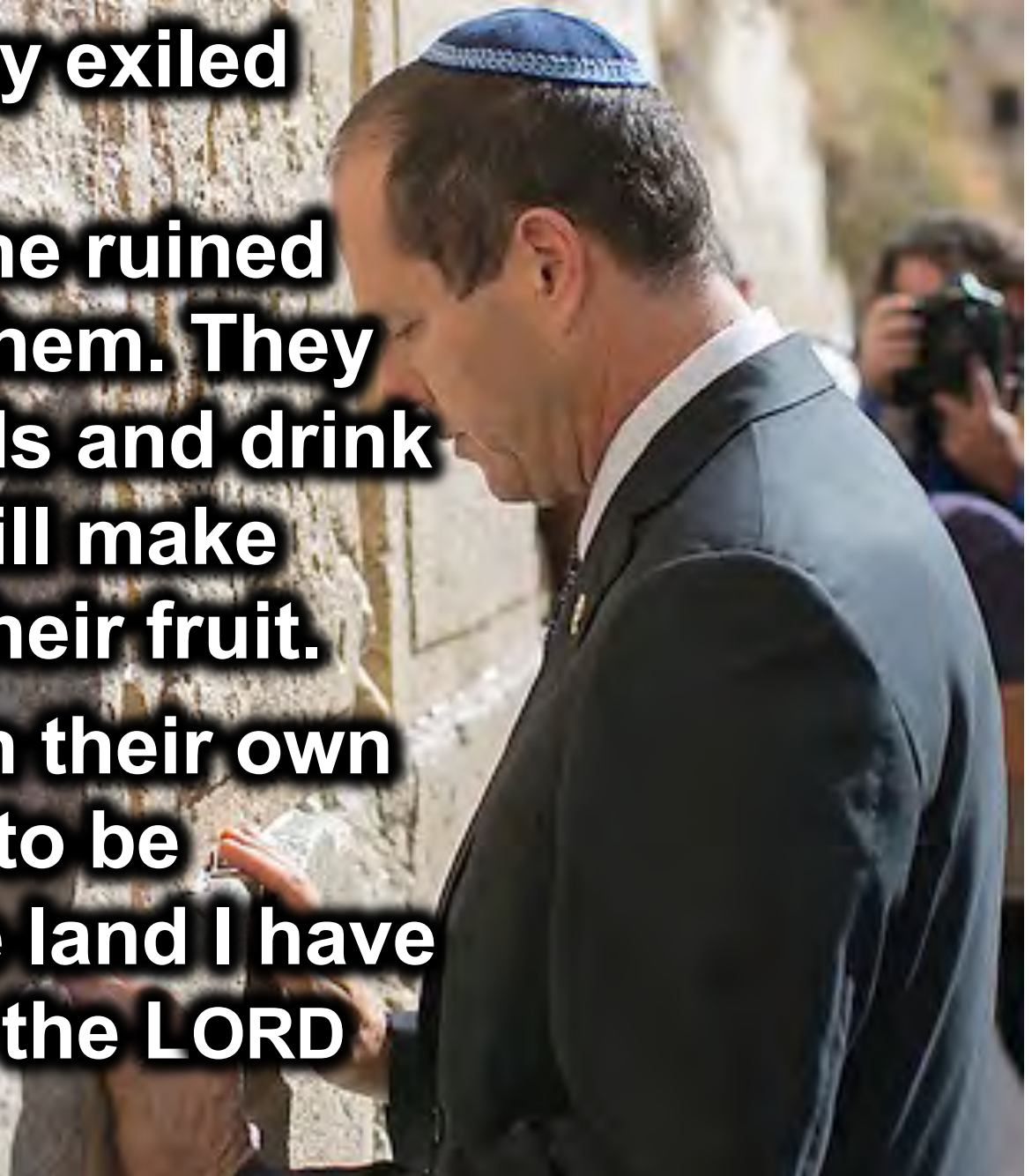


# Amos 9:14-15 (NIV)

593

**"I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit.**

**<sup>15</sup>I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,' says the LORD your God."**





# Israel's Increase of Land

## Palestinian loss of land 1946 to 2000

Palestinian and Jewish land 1946



UN Partition plan 1947



1949 - 1967



2000



How does God respond to **injustice**?

**Two ways...**



**God is just  
—past, present and future—  
so we should be just too**



**—Main Idea of Amos—**



# I. God **judged** injustice in Israel (Amos 1:1–9:7).



II. God will **restore** Israel to fulfill his promises (Amos 9:8-15).



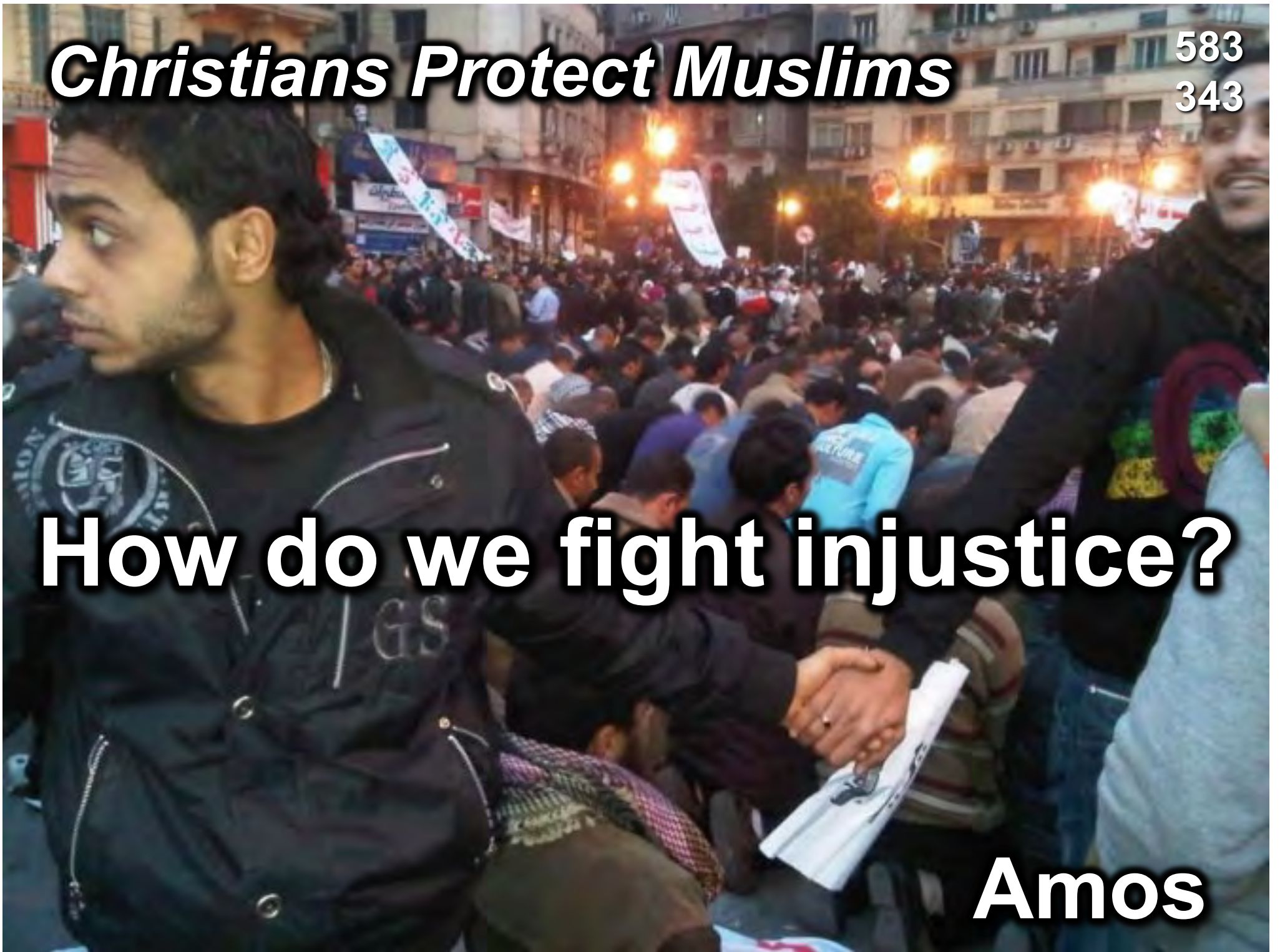


# ***Christians Protect Muslims***

583  
343

**How do we fight injustice?**

**Amos**





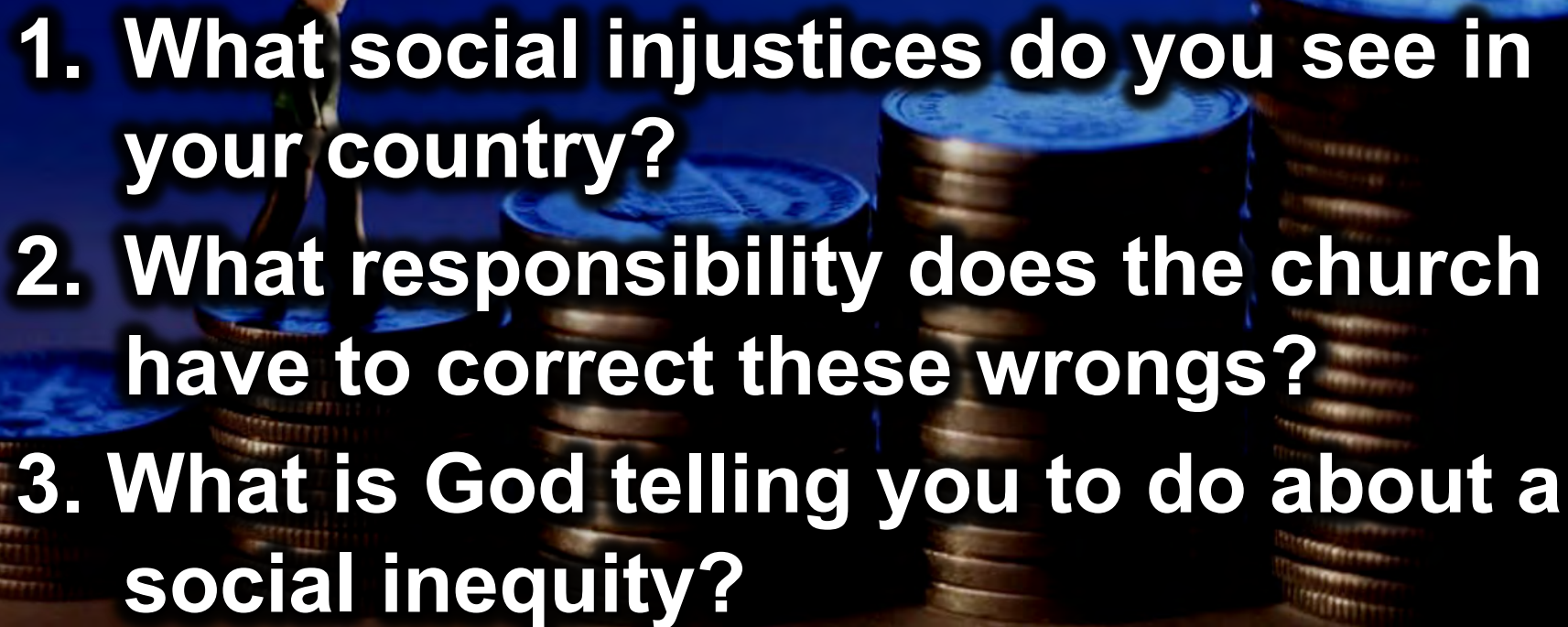
**We seek to make sure no member is in need—rent, oppressive work situation, etc.**

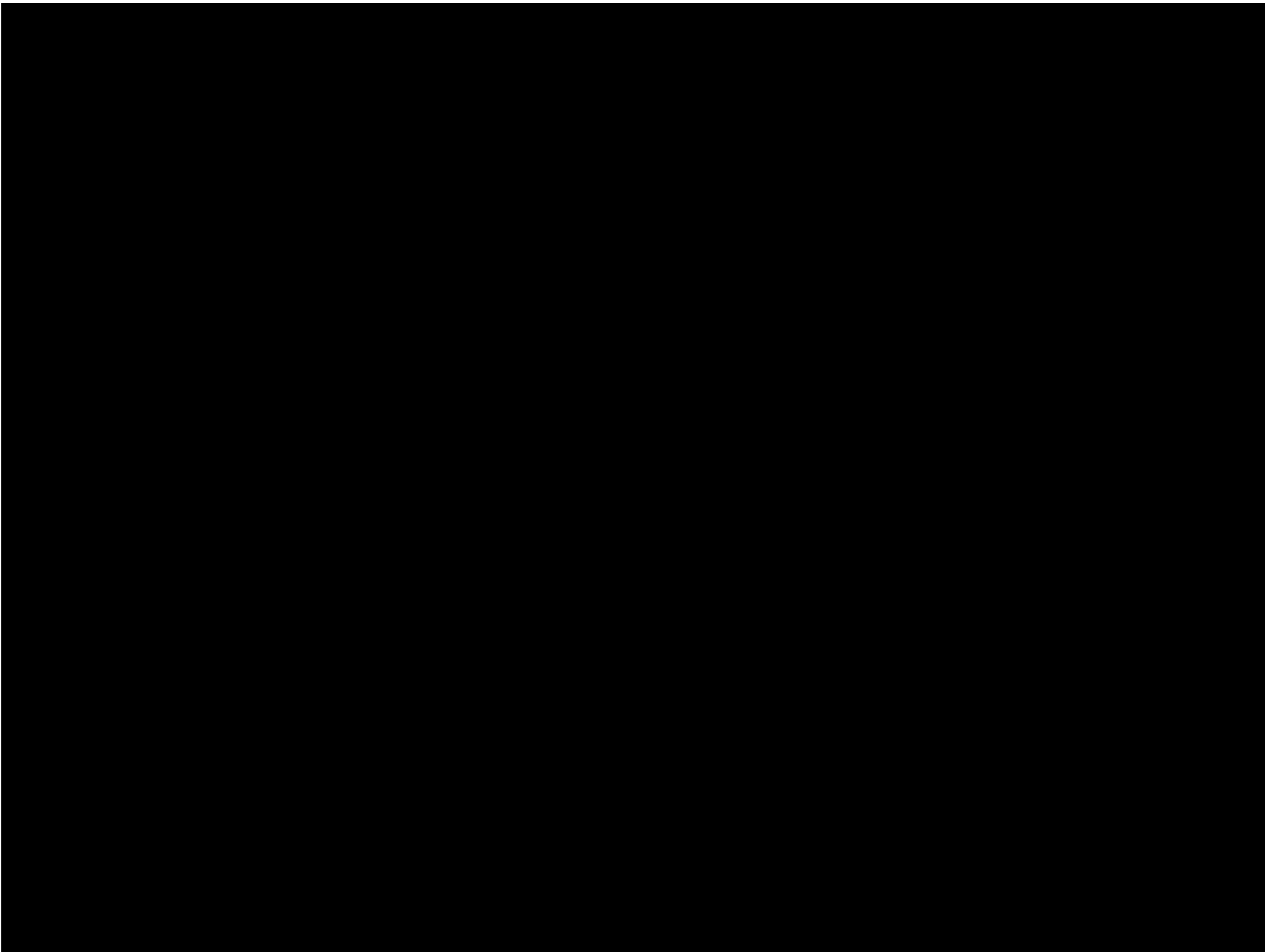


**—Love the Church—**

# Applications

**Prosperous Christians must not wink at social injustice:**

- 1. What social injustices do you see in your country?**
  - 2. What responsibility does the church have to correct these wrongs?**
  - 3. What is God telling you to do about a social inequity?**
- 





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