

Life-Study of Amos, Obadiah, and Jonah

Introduction

- *Amos* in Hebrew means “burden bearer.”
- **Subject:** Jehovah’s judgments on Israel and the surrounding nations, with the issue of restoration
- **Central Thought:** Jehovah punishes the nations, taking Israel as the center, that the age of restoration may be brought in for the kingdom of David—the kingdom of Christ.

Jehovah’s Judgments on the Surrounding Nations

On Damascus

- Damascus was to be judged for its repeated transgressions—for its threshing Gilead with sharp threshing tools of iron.
- Jehovah would send fire into the house of the king and devour the palaces of the king.

On Gaza

- Gaza would be judged for its repeated transgressions, carrying away captive the entire captivity in order to deliver them up to Edom, a synonym of Esau.
- Gaza’s sin offended God to the uttermost. He would send fire to the city of Gaza to devour its palaces.

On Tyre

- Tyre would also be judged for its repeated transgressions in delivering up the captivity of Israel to Edom and not remembering a covenant among brothers.
- In His punishment, Jehovah would send fire to the city, and it would devour its palaces.

On Edom

- Edom’s repeated transgressions were related to pursuing his brother (Jacob) with the sword, stifling his compassions, causing his anger to rage continually, and keeping his overflowing wrath perpetually.
- In His punishment of Edom, Jehovah would send fire upon it and devour the palaces of its capital.

On Ammon

- Ammon (a son of Lot by incest) ripped up the pregnant women of Gilead in order to enlarge their border.
- Jehovah would kindle a fire in the capital, and it would devour its palaces with shouting in the day of battle and a tempest in the day of the storm wind.

On Moab

- Moab burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime.
- Jehovah would send fire upon Moab and devour the palaces of its capital. He would cause Moab to die with a crash, with shouting, and with the sound of a trumpet.

Jehovah's Judgments on Judah and Israel

On Judah

- Jehovah's judgment on Judah was due to their **rejecting the law of Jehovah** and **not keeping His statutes** and due to their following their fathers to lie.
- Jehovah would send fire upon Judah, a fire that would devour the palaces of Jerusalem.

On Israel

- Jehovah's judgment on Israel was due to their having sold the righteous for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, panting after the dust of the earth upon the heads of the poor, and turning aside the way of the meek.
- In His punishment, Jehovah would press on Israel like a cart that is full of sheaves.

Jehovah's Contending with the House of Jacob

Jehovah's Three Reproofs to Israel

- Amos 3:2 says that since Israel was the only family of the earth whom Jehovah has known, He would visit upon them (judge them for) all their iniquities.
- The cause of Jehovah's visitation was that **Israel was not one with God**.
- Jehovah's second reproof to Israel was for **oppressing the poor and crushing the needy** and for saying to their lords, "bring, and let us drink." It is also concerned with Israel's idol worship in Bethel and Gilgal.
- The third reproof is a **lamentation** taken up by Jehovah over the house of Israel.
 - Jehovah advises Israel to seek Him and live.

- On the one hand, the people of Israel were evil; on the other hand, they still worshipped God with offerings.
 - Jehovah said that He “hates [their] feasts, and [He] will not delight in [their] solemn assemblies” because of the **hypocrisy** of the people of Israel.

The Plagues of the Five Signs Seen by Amos

- Israel is described as living at ease a life of luxuries and pleasures but turning justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood, rejoicing in things of vanity, and boasting of taking horns for themselves by their own strength.
 - Because of this, Jehovah’s punishment would be meted out **through** the enemy’s oppression, captivity, killing, and destruction.
- The plague of the first sign was that of the locusts eating the herbage of the land.
 - The prophet Amos **prayed** for Israel, hence Jehovah **stopped** the plague.
- The plague of the second sign was a fire to devour the great deep (water) and the land.
 - The prophet Amos **prayed** for Israel, and Jehovah **stopped** the plague.
- The plague of the third sign was that of a plumb line in the Lord’s hand.
 - This was to measure Israel in order to determine what part had to be destroyed and what part had to be retained.
 - The Lord said that **He would not pass by the people of Israel again anymore.**
- The plague of the fourth sign, the sign of summer fruit signifies that the time is ripe and the end has come upon Israel.
 - There will be the lacking of the word of Jehovah. This is a kind of punishment.
 - The worshippers of the calf of Samaria and of the idols in Dan and Beersheba would fall and not rise up again.
- The plague of the fifth sign is the Lord standing upon the altar, signifying that the Lord is ready to destroy Israel.
 - The destruction of Israel the sinful kingdom would not be an utter destruction of the house of Jacob.
 - For the purpose of incarnation, God had to preserve a remnant of Israel.

The Restoration of the House of Israel with the Rebuilding of the Fallen Tabernacle of David for the Kingdom of Christ

- The tabernacle of David is the kingdom and the royal family of David. God promised that some day He would come back to restore the fallen kingdom of David.

- One day Christ will come back to be the real David. In His last appearing He will be the real David to restore His kingdom and His royal family.
- Christ will come and restore the fallen kingdom of David to set up His kingdom for the restoration of the entire universe.
- In the restoration the produce from the earth will be abundant.
- Finally, Amos concludes by saying that Jehovah will plant the people of Israel upon their land, and they will not be plucked up again from their land, which He has given to them.

Introduction – Obadiah

- **Subject:** Jehovah's dealing with Esau and Jacob's victory for the kingdom of Jehovah, which is the manifestation of Christ.
- **Central Thought:** Jehovah's dealing with Esau issues in Jacob's victory and possession for the kingdom of God in the age of restoration.

Jehovah's Dealings with Edom

- Jehovah dealt with Edom by stirring up the nations to **rise up against it** for battle.
- God purposely dealt with Edom by **making him small** among the nations and very much despised.
- Edom was **visited by thieves and spoilers**. Edom was also **deceived by its confederacy**.
- Jehovah dealt with Edom further by **destroying its wise men, dismaying its mighty men,** and **cutting off each one from the mountain** of Esau.

The Issue of Jehovah's Dealing

- Jehovah will save the house of Jacob and sanctify them.
- The house of Jacob will overcome Edom and will possess Edom's possessions.
- The judgment of God on the nations issue in Israel's **gaining the victory** and **enlarging their territory** for the kingdom of God on earth, especially for God's kingdom in the time of restoration.

Introduction – Jonah

- **Subject:** Jehovah's salvation reached even to the Gentile city Nineveh.
- **Central Thought:** God cared for and saved even the most evil Gentiles in His pity on men and cattle.

Revelation Concerning Christ

- Christ is revealed in Jonah **preaching the gospel of peace to the Gentiles**.
- Christ is also revealed in the type of Jonah's staying in the great fish **three days and three nights**.

Jonah's Fleeing from Jehovah's Commission

- Jehovah's commission was for Jonah to go and cry out against the evil of Nineveh.
- Jonah rose up to flee by ship to Tarshish from the presence of Jehovah because **he did not agree with God**.
- Jehovah caused a great tempest on the sea and prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah to interrupt Jonah's plan.

Jonah's Preaching

- After Jonah was adjusted, corrected, and subdued, he was willing to go along with God and take His commission.
- The people and the king of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and repented. As a result, God did not do the evil to them and the whole city was saved.

Jonah's Prejudice

- Jehovah's turning from doing evil to Nineveh displeased Jonah greatly.
- God is not only the God of the Jews but also the God of all the nations.
- God's economy is to do things through the consuming and suffering factor to extend His salvation to all the peoples on earth.

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