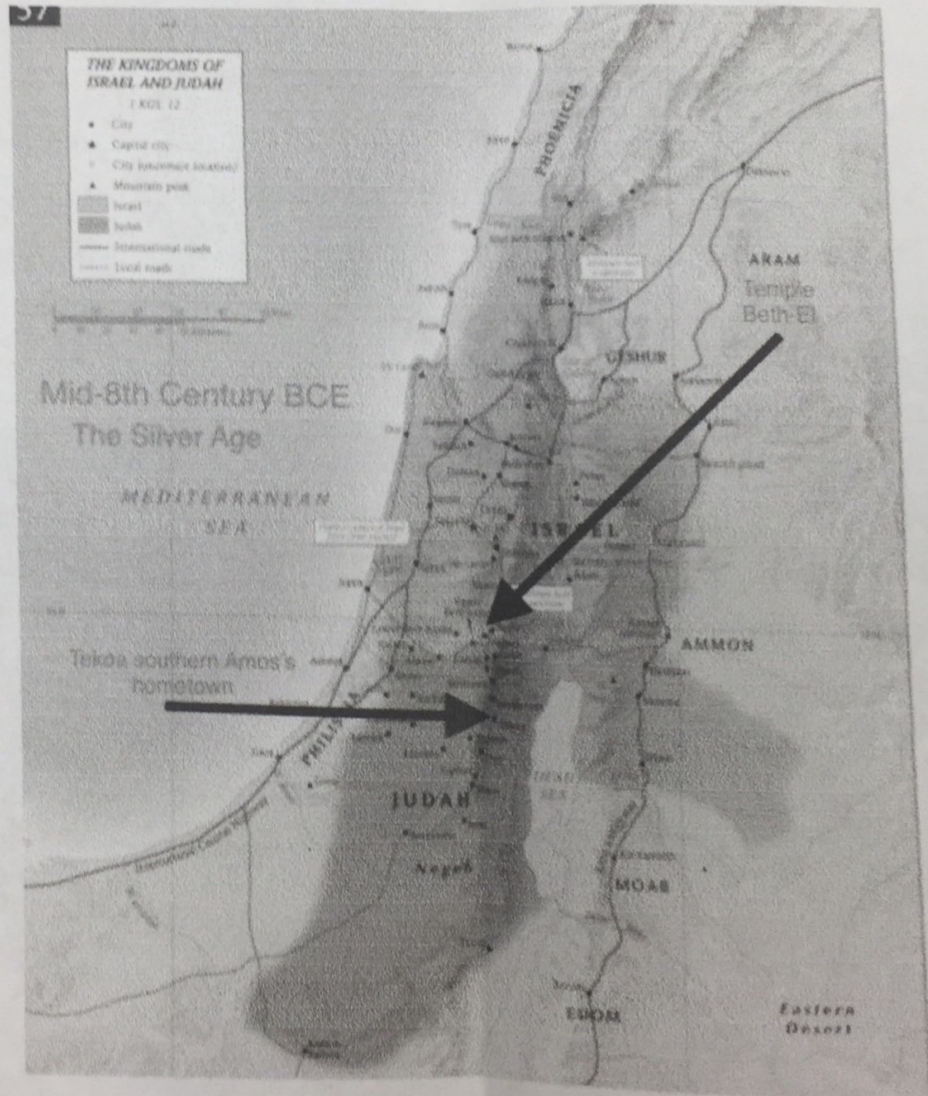


The Prophet Amos

Rite without Right is Wrong

Source Sheet by Lee Buckman

More info >



How does this revolutionary and outsider earn his audience?

He begins with prophecies against his audience's seven classic enemies.

Amos 1-2

עמוס א'-ב'

Source #1

Source #1

Chapter 1

פרק א

(3) Thus said the LORD:

For three transgressions of Damascus,
For four, I will not revoke punishment:

(ג) כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה עַל־שְׁלֹשָׁה פְּשָׁעֵי
דַּמָּשֶׁק וְעַל־אַרְבַּעָה לֹא אֲשִׁיבֶנּוּ

Because they threshed the people of
Gilead with threshing tools of iron. (4) I
will send down fire upon the palace of
Hazeal....

עַל־דְּוָשֶׁם בַּחֲרָצוֹת הַבַּרְזֶל אֶת־הַגִּלְעָד:
(ד) וְשִׁלַּחְתִּי אֵשׁ בְּבַיִת חֲזַאֵל....

(6) Thus said the LORD: For three
transgressions of Gaza

(ו) כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה עַל־שְׁלֹשָׁה פְּשָׁעֵי עֲזָה

(9) Thus said the LORD: For three
transgressions of Tyre

(ט) כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה עַל־שְׁלֹשָׁה פְּשָׁעֵי־צֹר

(11) Thus said the LORD: For three
transgressions of Edom

(יא) כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה עַל־שְׁלֹשָׁה פְּשָׁעֵי
אֱדוֹם

(13) Thus said the LORD: For three
transgressions of Ammon

(יג) כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה עַל־שְׁלֹשָׁה פְּשָׁעֵי
בְּנֵי־עַמּוֹן

Chapter 2

פרק ב

(1) Thus said the LORD: For three
transgressions of Moab

(א) כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה עַל־שְׁלֹשָׁה פְּשָׁעֵי
מוֹאָב

(4) Thus said the LORD:

For three transgressions of Judah,
For four, I will not revoke punishment:

(ד) כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה עַל־שְׁלֹשָׁה פְּשָׁעֵי
יְהוּדָה וְעַל־אַרְבַּעָה לֹא אֲשִׁיבֶנּוּ

Because they have spurned the Teaching
of the LORD and have not observed His
laws; they are beguiled by the false idols
that their fathers worshipped.

עַל־מְאַסָּם אֶת־תּוֹרַת יְהוָה וְחָקוּיֹ לֹא
שָׁמְרוּ וַיִּתְעוּם בְּזִבְיָתָם אֲשֶׁר־הִלְכוּ
אֲבוֹתָם אֲחֲרֵיהֶם:

(5) I will send down fire upon Judah, and
it shall devour the fortresses of
Jerusalem.

(ה) וְשִׁלַּחְתִּי אֵשׁ בְּיְהוּדָה וְאָכְלָה אֲרָמְנוֹת
יְרוּשָׁלָּם:

What seals the North's fate?

Not the commission of war crimes (just as those committed by foreign nations)
Not idolatry (which is what typically invokes Divine punishment in the Tanach)

But everyday acts of incivility and moral decay.
This is unprecedented.

Source #2

Source #2

(6) Thus said the LORD:
For three transgressions of Israel,
For four, I will not revoke punishment:

(ו) כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה עַל־שְׁלֹשָׁה פְּשָׁעַי
יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל־אַרְבָּעָה לֹא אֲשִׁיבֵנּוּ

(a) Because they have sold for silver
those whose cause was just,

(a) עַל־מְכָרָם בַּכֶּסֶף צְדִיק

(b) and the needy for a pair of sandals.

(b) וְאֶבְיוֹן בְּעֶבְרַת נְעָלָיִם:

(7) (c) you who trample the heads of the
poor into the dust of the ground,

(ו) (c) הַשֹּׁאֲפִים עַל־עַפְר־אֲרֶץ בְּרֹאשׁ
דָּלִים

(d) and make the humble walk a twisted
course!

(d) וְהִדְרִי עֲגֻנִים יָטוּ

(e) Father and son go to the same girl,
and thereby profane My holy name.

(e) וְאִישׁ וְאָבִיו יִלְכוּ אֶל־הַבְּעֻלָּה לְמַעַן
חַלֵּל אֶת־שֵׁם קֹדְשִׁי:

(8) (f) They recline by every altar on
garments taken in pledge,

(ח) (f) וְעַל־בְּגָדִים חִבְלִים יָטוּ אֹצֵל
כָּל־מוֹזֶבֶת

(g) and drink in the House of their God
wine bought with fines they imposed.

(g) וַיִּין עֲנוּשִׁים יִשְׁתּוּ בַּיִת אֱלֹהֵיהֶם:

Amos 8

עֲמוֹס ח'י

Source #3

Source #3

(4) Listen to this, you who devour the
needy, annihilating the poor of the land,

(ד) שְׁמַעוּ־זֹאת הַשֹּׁאֲפִים אֶבְיוֹן וְלִשְׁבִּית
עֲנוּי־[עֲנוּי־] אֲרֶץ:

(5) saying, "If only the new moon were
over, so that we could sell grain; the
sabbath, so that we could offer wheat for
sale, using an ephah that is too small,
and a shekel that is too big, tilting a
dishonest scale,

(ה) לֹא־אָמַר מִתִּי יַעֲבֹר הַחֹדֶשׁ וְנִשְׁבְּרָה
שָׁבֵר וְהִשְׁבַּת וּנְקַתְסָה־בָּר לְהַקְטִין אִיפָה
וְלִהְגִּזֵּיל שֶׁקֶל וְלַעֲנֹת מֵאֲנָגִי מִרְמָה:

(6) We will buy the poor for silver, the
needy for a pair of sandals, and sell grain
refuse as grain!"

(ו) לִקְנוֹת בַּכֶּסֶף דָּלִים וְאֶבְיוֹן בְּעֶבְרַת
נְעָלָיִם וּמִפָּל בָּר נִשְׁבְּרָה:

You are the Chosen People
but not how you think.

Amos 3:1-2
Source #4

עמוס ג': א'-ב'
Source #4

(1) Hear this word, O people of Israel,
that the LORD has spoken concerning
you, Concerning the whole family that I
brought up from the land of Egypt:

(א) שָׁמְעוּ אֶת־הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה
עֲלֵיכֶם בְּגִי יִשְׂרָאֵל עַל כָּל־הַמִּשְׁפָּחָה
אֲשֶׁר הֵעֵלִיתִי מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לֵאמֹר:

(2) You alone have I singled out of all the
families of the earth—

(ב) רַק אַתְּכֶם יָדַעְתִּי מִכָּל מִשְׁפָּחוֹת
הָאָדָמָה

That is why I will call you to account
For all your iniquities.

עַל־כֵּן אֶפְקֹד עֲלֵיכֶם אֶת כָּל־עֲוֹנוֹתֵיכֶם:

The Primacy of Ethics
Rite without Right is Wrong

Amos 5
Source #5

עמוס ה'
Source #5

(14) Seek good and not evil, so that you
may live....

(יד) דַּרְשׁוּ־טוֹב וְאַל־רַע לְמַעַן תִּחְיִו....

(15) Hate evil and love good, And
establish justice in the gate....

(טו) שִׂנְאוּ־רָע וְאָהֲבוּ טוֹב וְהִצִּיגוּ בַשַּׁעַר
מִשְׁפָּט....

(21) I loathe, I spurn your festivals, I am
not appeased by the sacrifices offered on
your holidays.

(כא) שִׁנְאתִי מֵאֲסֹתֵי תִּגְיֵיכֶם וְלֹא אֲרִיחַ
בְּעֲצֹרֹתֵיכֶם:

(22) If you offer Me burnt offerings—or
your meal offerings—I will not accept
them; I will pay no heed to your gifts of
fatlings.

(כב) כִּי אִם־תַּעֲלוּ־לִי עֹלוֹת וּמִנְחֹתֵיכֶם
לֹא אֲרַצֶּה וְשִׁלְמִם מְרִיאֵיכֶם לֹא אֲכִיט:

(23) Spare Me the sound of your hymns,
and let Me not hear the music of your
lutes.

(כג) הִסַּר מֵעֲלֵי הַמִּזְבֵּחַ שִׁירֵיךָ וְזַמְרַת נְבִלֶיךָ
לֹא אֲשָׁמַע:

(24) But let justice roll down like water,
and righteousness like a mighty stream.

(כד) וַיִּגַּל כַּמַּיִם מִשְׁפָּט וְצִדְקָה כַּנְּחָל
אֵיתָן:

(25) Did you offer sacrifices and gifts to
Me those forty years in the wilderness, O
House of Israel?

(כה) הֲזִבַּחְתִּים וּמִנְחָה הִגַּשְׁתֶּם־לִי בַמִּדְבָּר
אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל: