

# The Book of Amos

## Chapter 6

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- vs. 1 – Here God addresses both kingdoms of Israel: southern kingdom of Judah (Zion) and northern kingdom of Israel (Samaria).
  - It is also interesting to note that God refers to these two by the names of the hills/mountains they are founded upon as mountains are used prophecy to signify nations.
- vs. 2 - Three city/kingdoms are mentioned that were similar in power and wealth to Israel but that had also recently fallen. The Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary describes them:
  - “Calneh—on the east bank of the Tigris. Once powerful, but recently subjugated by Assyria (Isaiah 10:9; about 794 B.C.).”
  - “Hameth—subjugated by Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:25).”
    - Reese dates this to 800 B.C., maybe 12 years before Amos’s message
  - “Gath—subjugated by Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:6).”
    - Reese also dates this to 800 B.C., maybe 12 years before Amos’s message
- vs. 3 – They deny they will face judgment even as it draws near.
- vs. 4-6 – The scene described here is a grand banquet. They recline in comfort as they eat and drink their fill while being serenaded.
- vs. 6 – I think Joseph is used in the same sense as in 5:6 in that it signifies their leadership in the tribe of Ephraim.
- vs. 7 – Seen fulfilled in places such as II Kings 15:29, I Chronicles 5:26, and finally II Kings 17:6.
- vs. 8 – Samaria was besieged for three years before falling (II Kings 17:5).
- vs. 9 – The eradication of the prestigious families of Samaria.
- vs. 10 – the gist of this verse is that the great and powerful families are left desolate – no direct survivors, just near kinsmen. Yet even in such extreme judgment they refuse to call on the Lord.
- vs. 10 – The burning of the dead shows they are in great distress as Jews otherwise would have buried their dead.
- vs. 11 – None shall be spared in the day of judgment.
- vs. 12 – The questions are meant to illustrate the absurd, which is what God says about their ability to turn right things into deadly poison through their sins.
- vs. 13 – horns – Hebrew *qeren* – represent power or kingdoms.
- vs. 13 – Likely refers to military victories of King Jeroboam II as he expanded Israel’s borders – II Kings 14:25-28.
- The attacking nation is Assyria. The places mentioned are the northern and southern borders.