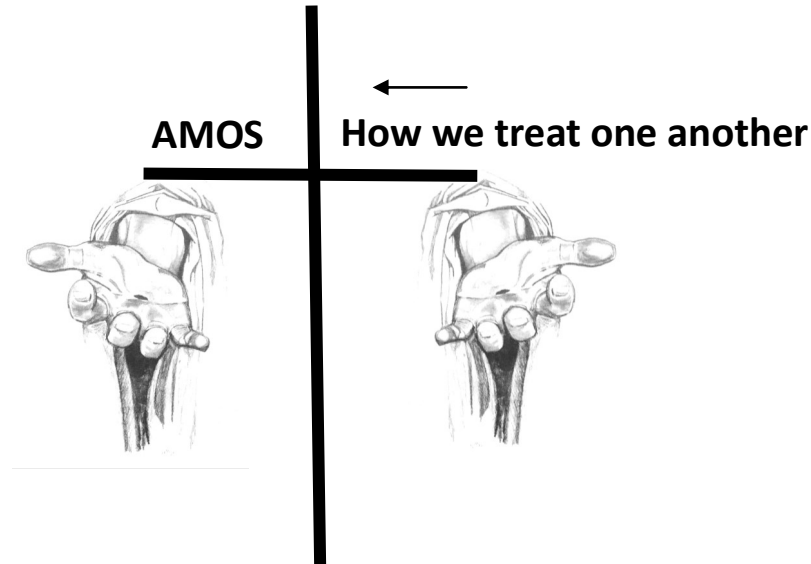


# AMOS - The Template



## ***“Love One Another As I Have Loved You”***

In our vertical view of the Cross we behold the Lamb God as the Sacrifice, selflessly pouring Himself out unto death for others.

In the horizontal view of the Cross (which is Amos' view) we behold the Body of the Sacrifice (us) extending that same selfless Lamb-love/Cross-love to one another and the world.

If we are truly united / joined to the Vine in living union (Hosea's theme) then there will be an extension of His sacrificial love through us, His branches.

If we claim oneness with God while abusing the brethren, then God is going to roar out of Zion and declare judgments upon all that is not Lamb in us.

## ***“Judgement Is Based On Kind”***

***Mat 25:31-40 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.***

God is using the book of Amos to illustrate that His judgement is not partial and is based on nature / kind. A new testament picture of this concept that Jesus used is found in Matthew chapter 25. Here Jesus explains the real essence of His Kingdom and the basis upon which He judges. Jesus comes as a Shepherd, (Amos was a shepherd). He gathers nations before Him and judges them on the basis of nature / kind... lambs or goats. Much like Amos, the Son of man does not gather and judge the nations based on if they are “Israel/Judah... Christians” or “Heathens”, but rather they are judged based on being true lambs or goats. The “acid test” of their judgement is based on how they treated one another, as seen in verses 35-39 of Matthew 25. It is important to note the context of these verses. The theme of these verses is not good works, but what nature you are of. Someone may read these scriptures and set about to start a prison ministry and homeless shelter. The real effect these verses are meant to accomplish is true conformity to the Lamb of God.

## ***Shepherd Ministry***

***Mat 25:31 “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats”.***

A shepherd in Israel had a specific ministry to his sheep, he was preparing them for the altar. Many of the lambs and sheep in Israel had a destiny with God to be presented on His altar as a sacrifice for others. A good shepherd would cultivate and guide his sheep to a place of being willing to be offered up for others. When Jesus spoke of judging the nations in Matthew 25, He described Himself as a shepherd. We know that Amos himself was a shepherd, and that in the second verse of his prophesy he declared that “the habitations of the shepherds shall mourn”. In Amos we hear from one who dwells among the sheep and has observed how they treat one another and their attitude towards sacrifice for others. If the shepherds are mourning, it is probably due to the condition of their sheep.

### ***“Impartial Judgement”***

We may think God chooses favorites (Judah/Israel) and gives special graces to certain people or nations. The book of Amos demolishes that idea. Apart from the final five verses, the entire book of Amos declares this.

1. Syria
2. Philistia
3. Phoenicia
4. Edom
5. Amon
6. Moab
7. Judah
8. Israel

Before addressing Judah or Israel, God exacts strong and impartial judgement of kind on all their surrounding neighbors. The same basis God judges Syria, Philistia, Phoenicia, Edom, Amon and Moab is the same basis He judges Judah and Israel; and that basis is how they treated others. There is no special treatment, brownie points or partiality given to Judah or Israel because they did religious things in God’s name. In fact, God judges those religious things when they were not truly done in His love.

### ***“How You Treated One Another”***

To further bring to bear the specific burden of God’s judgement through Amos, let us look at the exact situation that God addresses with each nation in this prophesy. As we look at these judgements we will find a pattern and from that pattern we will continue to build the template that defines the book of Amos.

1. Syria - *“they dragged logs with spikes over the people of Gilead” (1:3b)*
2. Philistia - *“They dragged off my people from town after town to sell them as slaves to the Edomites” (1:6b)*
3. Phoenicia - *“They broke their treaty and dragged off my people from town after town to sell them as slaves to the Edomites” (1:9b)*
4. Edom - *“They killed their own relatives and were so terribly furious that they showed not mercy” (1:11b)*
5. Amon - *“In Gilead they ripped open pregnant women just to take the land” (1:13b)*
6. Moab - *“They made lime from the bones of the king of Edom” (2:1b)*
7. Judah - *“They have rejected my teachings and refused to obey me. They were led astray by the same false gods their ancestors worshipped” (2:4b)*
8. Israel - **Chapter 2:6- 9:11**

- *Each offence stated had to due with mistreatment of others*
- *The heathen nations were judged based on how they treated other heathen nations and not just the people of God*
- *Judah, God’s own, was judged on how they mistreated God*
- *Israel is judged on all fronts, mistreatment of God and others*

1. Syria - Abusing Gileadites
2. Philistia - Abusing Edomites
3. Phoenicia - Abusing Edmites
4. Edom - Abusing their own people (Edomites)
5. Amon - Abusing Gileadites
6. Moab - Abusing the bones of the kings of Edom
7. Judah - Abusing God

**In these seven judgments we find the full sum of kinds of ways in which to abuse others.**

- Abusing your neighbors
- Abusing your own people
  - Abusing God

Before God even beings dealing with Israel he judges everyone else around them and spares nothing.

He shows impartiality and condemnation to all forms of selfish abuse to others.

**He is gathering the nations and judging them on the basis of sheep or goat.**

## ***Homework***

This principle and template is an ancient path that is confined Amos' prophesy. This same path can found throughout the entire bible. Please look up the following scriptures and comment on how they bear this ancient path.

1. Jeremiah 7:4-7
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Zechariah 7:4-11
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Romans 12:1-2
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Psalm 50    \*\*\* *Comment on this Psalm based on God's judgement based on kind and nature.*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5.     Begin journaling in regards to how God is using Amos in your life right now. Find a portion of your journal writings that is not too private, and share that for this portion of your homework.