

# Amos 1:11-2:5 – Edom, Ammon, Moab, Judah

## Edom:

**Amos 1:11 – “Thus says the Lord:  
“For three transgressions of Edom,  
and for four, I will not revoke the  
punishment,**

- The next countries are identified by the name of the country and not the leading cities.
- Edom, the descendants of Esau, had always been hostile toward their brother (Gen. 25:29-30; Num. 20:14; Deut. 2:4; 23:7; Obadiah 12)

**because he pursued his brother with the  
sword  
and cast off all pity,**

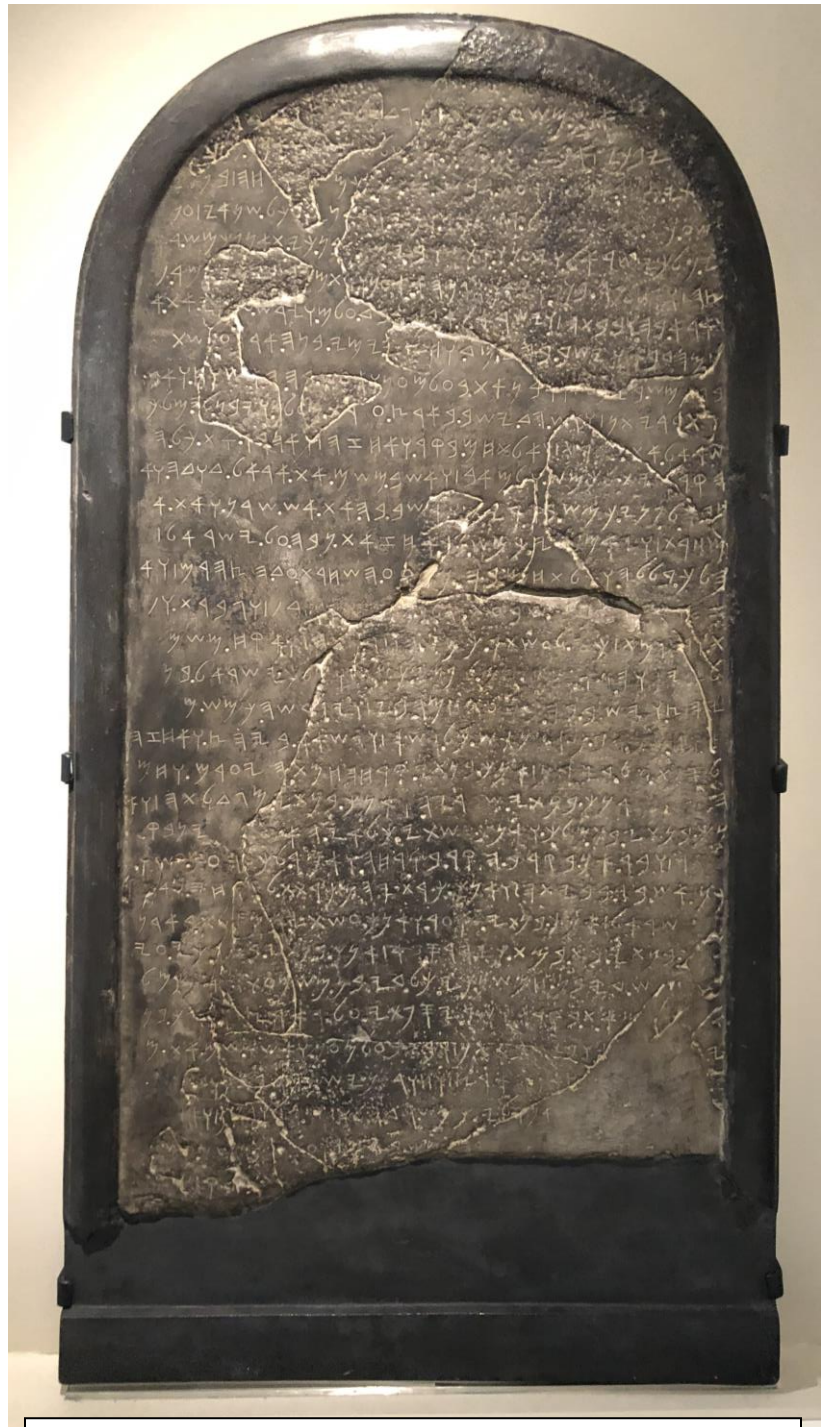
- According to Obadiah 10 the Edomites had attacked Israel “with the sword”

**and his anger tore perpetually,  
and he kept his wrath forever.**

- These are two parallel lines of the oracle that refer to Edom’s continuous anger and fury towards Israel.

**Amos 1:12 - So I will send a fire upon  
Teman,  
and it shall devour the strongholds of  
Bozrah.”**

- Fulfilled when Assyrians made the Edomites subjects in the 700’s BC and the Nabateans (an Arabian tribe) took over their land in the 300’s BC
- Bozrah is one of the largest cities in northern Edom located at an oasis on the King’s Highway that runs from the Gulf of Aqaba to Syria.
- Teman is a northern district of Edom with the capital of Bozrah.



The Mesha Stele, or Moabite Stone, set up by Moabite King Mesha 840 BC. (4 ft tall, 2 ft wide, 14 inches thick). Found in 1868 20 miles east of the Dead Sea in Dibon in Moab. Records 2 Kings 3:5 “Mesah, king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel...”. The stone mentions Israel, Yahweh, house of David, Omri, “Omri’s son”, Gad, Chemosh.

Ammon:

**Amos 1:13 – “Thus says the Lord:**

**“For three transgressions of the Ammonites,  
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,**

- Israel was not allowed to confront the Ammonites in Deut. 2:19 because they were relatives.
- Ammon is located between the Arnon River off the Dead Sea and the Jabbok River off the Jordan River.

**because they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead,  
that they might enlarge their border.**

- A common practice 2 Kings 8:12; 15:16; Hosea 13:16
- Violent war crimes always bring the Lord’s judgment.
- Criminal because it was to expand borders

**Amos 1:14 - So I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah,  
and it shall devour her strongholds,  
with shouting on the day of battle,  
with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind;**

- Rabbah is the main city and sets on the headwaters of the Jabbok River.
- “Shouting” can mean – “raise a shout for attack or for victory or for worship.”
- Shouting refers to war.
- Each nation had its own war cry
- “tempest” refers to weather/climate

**Amos 1:15 - and their king shall go into exile,  
he and his princes together,”  
says the Lord.”**

- Fulfilled when Tiglath-Pileser III invaded Ammon in 734 BC and when Ammon met its final fate in 586 when Nebuchadnezzar sacked Rabbah and took citizens captive. The last reference to Ammonites was when Judas Maccabeus defeated them around 150 BC.

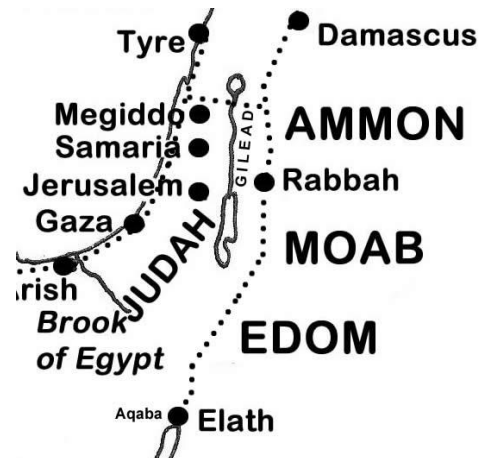
Moab:

**Amos 2:1 – “Thus says the Lord:**

**“For three transgressions of Moab,  
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,**

**because he burned to lime the bones of the king of Edom.**

- Four actions involved:
  - Opening the tomb
  - Removing the remains
  - Burning the bones
  - Mixing the ashes to make mortar for a building or plaster to whitewash walls.



- This was either done to punish the king for eternity (peaceful burials were sought) or the bones were needed as material to make the plaster.

**Amos 2:2 - So I will send fire upon Moab,  
and it shall devour the strongholds of Kerioth,  
And Moab shall die amid uproar,  
amid shouting and the sound of the trumpet;**

- “Send fire” means:
  - YHWH’s judgment will be sent
  - There will be a literal burning of cities
- Kerioth is the name of a city, possibly also called Kir.
  - It had a major shrine to Chemosh, the Moabite fertility god
  - Mentioned on the Moabite Stone
- Trumpets used to direct troops in the field of battle

**Amos 1:15 – I will cut off the ruler from its midst,  
And will kill all its princes with him,”  
says the Lord.”**

- Fulfilled by Assyria as tributary in 700’s; Conquered y Nebuchadnezzar in 582 BC and resettled by the Nabataeans by 300’s BC

Judah:

**Amos 2:4 – “Thus says the Lord:  
“For three transgressions of Judah,  
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,**

**because they have rejected the law of the LORD,  
and have not kept his statutes,  
but their lies have led them astray,  
those after which their fathers walked.**

1. “lies” indicates false gods
2. Charges against Judah are theological (rejecting YHWH’s Law) not social

**Amos 2:5 - So I will send a fire upon Judah,  
And it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem.”;**

