

# Amos 1:1 - 2

**The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa...** (verse 1).

What does Amos’s profession tell us about the sort of people God often uses to speak his word?

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**... the vision he saw concerning Israel...** (verse 1, again).

Tekoa is in the southern kingdom, Judah. So Amos is sent to another country and culture to prophesy. What can we learn from this?

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**... two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel** (verse 1, again).

In his sermons Amos warns about this earthquake before it happens (Amos 8:8 & 9:5). What does this say about the quality of the prophecies he gives?

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**He said: “The LORD roars from Zion and thunders from Jerusalem...”** (verse 2).

How might people in the northern kingdom, with their capital in Samaria and their temples at Dan and Bethel, have felt to be reminded that God speaks from His temple in Jerusalem, the capital of Judah?

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Does this language of ‘roaring’ and ‘thundering’ speak of comfort or of challenge?

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**“... the pastures of the shepherds dry up and the top of Carmel withers”** (verse 2, again).

From this description, do you think that the book as a whole will be one of comfort or challenge to Israel?

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