

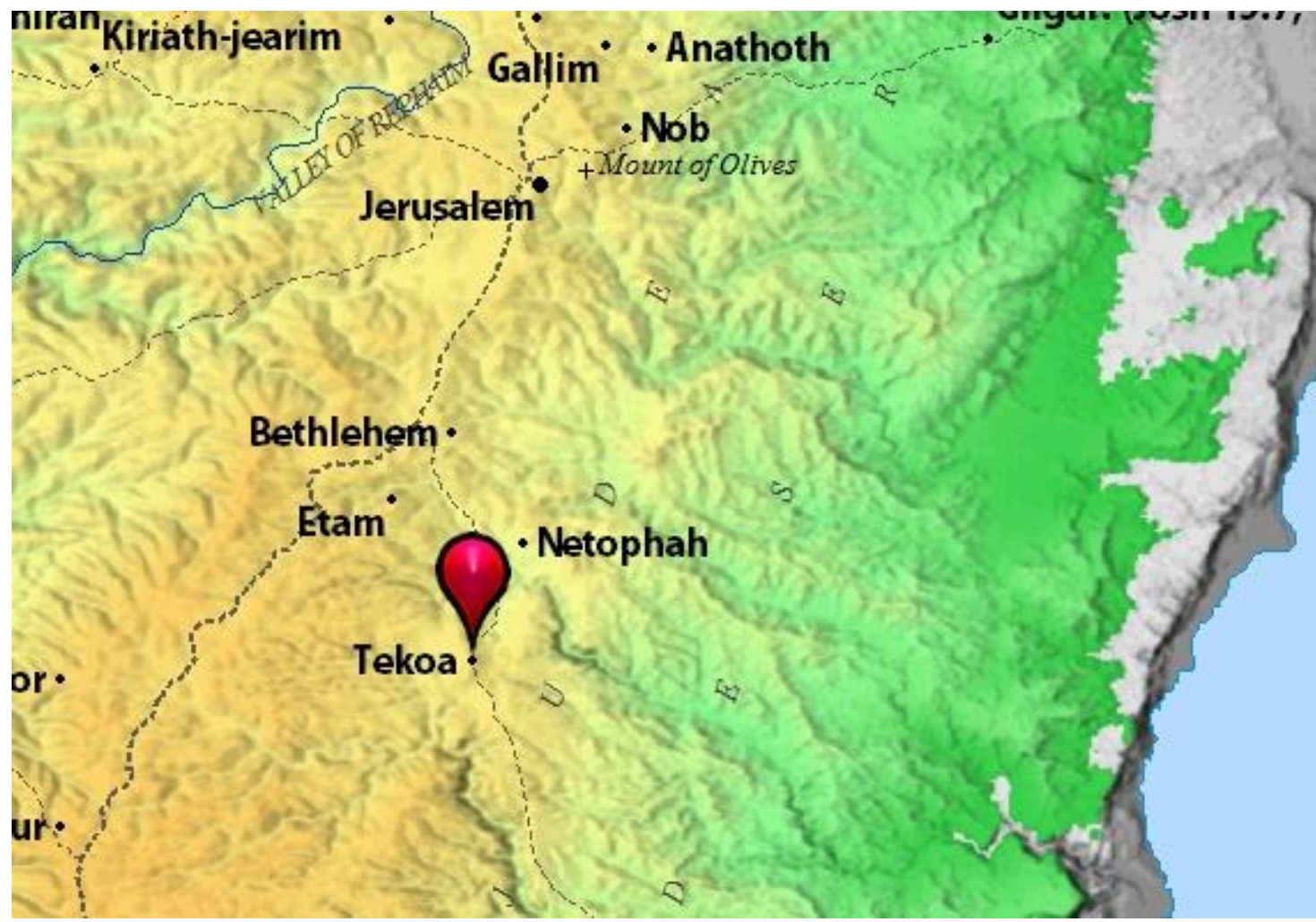
# Minor Prophets—Lesson 7

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Introduction, Overview of Amos  
Amos 1–3

# Amos, the Man

- “Among the sheepbreeders of Tekoa” (1:1), and “a tender of sycamore fruit” (7:14).
  - Other translations: shepherders, herdsmen, shepherds
  - Sycamore was a fig-like fruit (NAS, ESV: “sycamore figs”).
  - “As a shepherd takes from the mouth of a lion two legs or a piece of an ear...” (3:12).
- Tekoa was a small town in Judah, located about 12 miles s. of Jerusalem and 6 miles s. of Bethlehem.
- Name means “burden-bearer,” and he lived up to it.



# Date

- According to 1:1, Amos prophesied during the days of Uzziah, king of Judah (767–740 B.C.), and Jeroboam II, king of Israel (793–752 B.C.).
  - Overlapping years, then, would be 767–752 B.C.
  - Both Israel and Judah were enjoying great material prosperity at this time, and we see that reflected in Amos' prophecy.
- Uzziah's reign is described in 2 Kgs. 15; 2 Chron. 26; Jeroboam II's reign is described in 2 Kgs. 14:23–29.

# Target of His Message

- Amos preached away from home—he was from Judah, but his **principal** target was the northern kingdom of Israel (although other nations are targeted at the beginning of his prophecy).
- **Amaziah to Amos:** “Go, you seer! Flee to the land of Judah. There eat bread, and there prophesy. But never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is the royal residence” (7:12–13).

# Outline

- **Judgment on the nations**, including Judah and Israel (1–2).
- **Three sermons**, which detail Israel’s sins and describe the judgment to come upon them (3–6, each begins with “hear this word” in 3:1, 4:1, and 5:1).
- **Five visions**, which give a picture of Israel’s judgment: (1) locusts, (2) fire, (3) plumb line, (4) basket of summer fruit, (5) Lord standing by the altar (7–9).

# The Thunderous Voice of God

- What a powerful introduction to Amos' message! (1:2).
- Look at everything He says He will do to these various nations—can't help but fear and tremble!
- “A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken! Who can but prophesy?” (3:8).

# Judgment on Surrounding Nations

- 1:3–2:3: Judgment is announced against 6 nations. Which three are related to God's chosen people?
  - **Edom, Ammon, Moab**
- Which three are not?
  - **Damascus (Syria); Philistia (names four different cities); Tyre (Phoenicia)**
- Sins: cruelty in war, involvement in slave trade, hatred toward Israel, vengeance



# Judgment on Judah (s. kingdom)

- For what reasons, according to 2:4–5?

# Judgment on Israel (n. kingdom)

- With what specific sins are they charged, in 2:6–8?
- Injustice, oppression of the poor, immorality (probably connected to idolatrous feasts), false worship, etc.

# Your Cup Runs Over

- “For three transgressions...and for four”—what’s that all about?
  - Full and complete—their cup of iniquity was full.

“But where are the nine?” (Lk. 17:17).

- Ingratitude— isn’t that the point in 2:9–12?

# No Escape

- No matter how skillful, swift, strong, mighty, or courageous you are (2:13–16).

# Privilege and Responsibility

- With greater privilege comes greater \_\_\_\_\_?
- Look at 3:1–2.

# Punishment is Coming

- 3:11–15.