

**LESSON 35**  
**“God Reveals His Secrets to His Prophets”**  
**Amos 3; 7-9; Joel 2-3**

**OVERVIEW:**

Amos was the first of a series of prophets whose words were put into writing. He prophesied in the Northern Kingdom in the mid eighth century BC. Before his call as prophet, he was among the herdmen of Tekoa. Tekoa was about 6 miles southeast of Bethlehem and 12 miles from Jerusalem.

Amos 1:1 Heb for a sheepbreeder. Suggests he may have supervised other shepherds. A herdman of goats and sheep. A wool grower in Judah – he may have traveled to the Northern Kingdom and Damascus. Worked with sycamore figs (Amos 7:14) would have taken him into the lowland of Judah. These trees won't grow at high altitudes.

Because of Amos' background with agriculture, his writings include many images he was familiar with.

The earthquake mentioned was so severe that it was used to date historical events. The only earthquake explicitly mentioned in the Old Testament. It was mentioned 2 and a half centuries later in Zechariah 14:5 - And ye shall flee *to* the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the <sup>a</sup>earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, *and* all the <sup>b</sup>saints with thee.

**SCRIPTURES:**

The book of Amos is in two sections: First the curses on Israel and her neighbors, second Amos' visions are documented.

AMOS  
CHAPTER 3

*The Lord revealeth his secrets unto his servants the prophets—Because of Israel's rejection of prophets, and espousal of evil, the nation is overwhelmed by an adversary.*

1 HEAR this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I <sup>a</sup>brought up from the land of Egypt, saying,

2 You <sup>a</sup>only have I <sup>b</sup>known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will <sup>c</sup>punish you for all your iniquities. (Israel has a special relationship with the Lord which includes cursings for disobedience.)

3 Can two walk together, except they be <sup>a</sup>agreed?

4 Will a lion roar in the forest, when he hath no prey? will a young lion cry out of his den, if he have taken nothing?

5 Can a bird fall in a snare upon the earth, where no <sup>a</sup>gin (ie bait, or lure) is for him? shall *one* take up a snare from the earth, and have taken nothing at all?

6 Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be <sup>a</sup>evil in a city, and the LORD hath not <sup>b</sup>done (known) *it*?

7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, <sup>a</sup>but\* (until) he <sup>b</sup>revealeth his (the) <sup>c</sup>secret unto his servants the <sup>d</sup>prophets.

8 The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but <sup>a</sup>prophesy? (These verses show cause and effect relationships. The last few verses are saying that the people had been

warned of impending destruction and He would not have had to do so if they didn't deserve it.)

9 ¶ Publish in the palaces at <sup>a</sup>Ashdod, and in the palaces in the land of Egypt, and say, Assemble yourselves upon the mountains of Samaria, and behold the great tumults in the midst thereof, and the oppressed in the midst thereof.

10 For they know not to do right, saith the LORD, who store up <sup>a</sup>violence and robbery in their palaces. (Summons Assyria and Egypt to witness the evils of Israel. Those nations were evil, but Israel was worse.)

11 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; An adversary *there shall be* even round about the land; and he shall bring down thy strength from thee, and thy palaces shall be spoiled. (No matter where they turn, will be an enemy.)

12 Thus saith the LORD; As the shepherd taketh out of the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear; (Only a remnant will remain and it will be with great difficulty. But it will be recognizable as being a sheep.) so shall the children of Israel be taken out that dwell in Samaria in the corner of a bed, and in Damascus *in* a couch.

13 Hear ye, and testify in the house of Jacob, saith the Lord GOD, the God of hosts,

14 That in the day that I shall visit the transgressions of Israel upon him I will also visit the altars of <sup>a</sup>Beth-el: (This is criticizing the high priest at Bethel. Amos 7:10 the priest responded.) and the horns of the altar shall be cut off, and <sup>b</sup>fall to the ground.

15 And I will smite the <sup>a</sup>winter house with the summer house; and the houses of <sup>b</sup>ivory shall perish, and the great houses shall have an end, saith the LORD. (None will escape the destruction. This sack of the Northern Kingdom occurred under Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria.)

## CHAPTER 7

*Amos relates how he was called of God to be a prophet—He prophesies the captivity of Israel.*

(The first three visions in verses 1-9 have Amos as a Moses or intercessor on behalf of Israel. He pleads their case and the Lord relents the first two times.)

1 THUS hath the Lord GOD ~~shewed~~ (showed) (vision) unto me; and, behold, he formed grasshoppers in the beginning of the shooting up of the latter growth; and, lo, *it was* the latter growth after the king's mowings (the second growth is the latter-days).

2 And it came to pass, *that* when they had made an end of eating the grass of the land, then I said, O Lord GOD, forgive, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he *is* small.

3 ~~<sup>a</sup>The LORD <sup>b</sup>repented for this: It shall not be, saith the LORD.~~ (And the Lord said, concerning Jacob, Jacob shall repent for this, therefore I will not utterly destroy him, saith the Lord.)

4 ¶ Thus hath the Lord GOD ~~shewed~~ (showed) (vision) unto me: and, behold, the Lord GOD called to contend by fire, and it devoured the great deep, and did eat up a part.

5 Then said I, O Lord GOD, cease, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he *is* small.

6 ~~<sup>a</sup>The LORD <sup>b</sup>repented for this: This also shall not be,~~ (And the Lord said, concerning Jacob, Jacob shall repent of his wickedness; therefore I will not utterly destroy him,) saith the Lord GOD.

7 ¶ Thus he ~~shewed~~ (showed) (vision) me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall *made* by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand. (A common military intelligence technique to determine the necessary sizes of siege engines, ladders, scaling ropes, etc. Also, all wickedness will be sought out, measured or judged, and destroyed.)

8 And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again <sup>a</sup>pass by them any more:

9 And the high places of Isaac shall be desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste; and I will rise against the <sup>a</sup>house of Jeroboam with the sword. (Amos did not plead for Israel this time. In the

first two instances no one of Israel would be spared. In the third one, a remnant will be spared.)

10 ¶ Then Amaziah the priest of Beth-el sent to <sup>a</sup>Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words.

11 For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land.

12 Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou <sup>a</sup>seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there:

13 But prophesy not again any more at Beth-el: for it *is* the king's <sup>a</sup>chapel, (or sanctuary) and it *is* the king's court.

14 ¶ Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I *was* no <sup>a</sup>prophet, neither *was* I a prophet's son; but I *was* an herdman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit: (I was not a professional prophet, but one called of God.)

15 And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the <sup>a</sup>LORD said unto me, <sup>b</sup>Go, <sup>c</sup>prophesy unto my people Israel.

16 ¶ Now therefore hear thou the word of the LORD: Thou sayest, Prophesy not against Israel, and drop not *thy word* against the house of Isaac. (Amaziah said not to prophecy against Israel, so now Amos prophecies against Amaziah.)

17 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Thy wife shall be an harlot in the city, and thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the sword, and thy land shall be divided by line; and thou shalt die in a polluted land: and <sup>a</sup>Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of his land. (He again states that Israel will go into exile against Amaziah's orders..)

## CHAPTER 8

*Amos prophesies the downfall of Israel—There will be a famine of hearing the word of the Lord.*

1 THUS hath the Lord GOD ~~shewed~~ (showed) (vision) unto me: and behold a basket of summer fruit. (Ripening of Israel. Summer fruit must be eaten when picked or it will spoil.)

2 And he said, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A basket of summer fruit. Then said the LORD ~~unto~~ (with) me, The <sup>a</sup>end is come upon my people of Israel; I will not again <sup>b</sup>pass by them any more. (Israel will be harvested and consumed by her enemies.)

3 And the songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord GOD: *there shall be* many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast *them* forth with silence.

4 ¶ Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail,

5 Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the <sup>a</sup>sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the <sup>b</sup>ephah small (Bible Dictionary: The usual measure for dry substances; sometimes translated "measure." It probably contained about 8 gallons.), and the shekel great, and falsifying the <sup>c</sup>balances by deceit?

6 That we may <sup>a</sup>buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; *yea*, and sell the refuse of the wheat?

7 The LORD hath sworn by the <sup>a</sup>excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never <sup>b</sup>forget any of their works.

8 Shall not the land tremble for this, and every one <sup>a</sup>mourn that dwelleth therein? and it shall rise up wholly as a flood; and it shall <sup>b</sup>be cast out and drowned, (Heb overflow and recede like the river of Egypt) as *by* the flood of Egypt.

9 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the <sup>a</sup>sun to go down at noon, (Destruction occurs during prosperity when the sun is high. The sun will be darkened and refuse to give her light which will be a sign for the wicked of the latter days that their sun is about to set at noon.) and I will <sup>b</sup>darken the <sup>c</sup>earth in the clear day:

10 And I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into <sup>a</sup>lamentation; and I will bring up

sackcloth upon all loins, and <sup>b</sup>baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an <sup>c</sup>only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day. (Israel will be destroyed because of her wickedness.)

11 ¶ Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a <sup>a</sup>famine of bread, nor a <sup>b</sup>thirst for water, but of hearing the <sup>c</sup>words of the LORD: (The hardness of their hearts reached such a state that from 400BC until the ministry of John the Baptist, there were no prophets in Israel. This also has reference to the apostasy following the death of the Apostles after Christ's death. President Kimball said: "After centuries of spiritual darkness...we solemnly announce to all the world that the spiritual famine is ended, the spiritual drought is spent, the word of the Lord in its purity and totalness is available to all men. One need not wander from sea to sea nor from the north to the east, seeking the true gospel as Amos predicted, for the everlasting truth is available. CR, April 1964, p 93-94)

12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall <sup>a</sup>run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it. (Because of the captivity, they will not be able to find the word of the Lord.)

13 In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst.

14 They that <sup>a</sup>swear by the sin of Samaria, and say, Thy god, O <sup>b</sup>Dan, (furthest place north in Israel) liveth; and, The manner of Beer-sheba (furthest place south in Israel) liveth; even they shall fall, and never rise up again. (Those who swear false oaths.)

## CHAPTER 9

*Israel shall be sifted among all nations—In the last days, they will be gathered again into their own land, and it shall become productive.*

1 I SAW (vision – this vision deals with the sifting of the wicked from Israel and its subsequent restoration) the Lord standing upon the altar: and he said, Smite the lintel of the door, that the posts may shake: and cut them in the head, all of them; and I will <sup>a</sup>slay the last of them with the sword: he that <sup>b</sup>fleeth of them shall not flee away, and he that escapeth of them shall not be delivered. (At the Second Coming none shall escape the judgments of the Lord.)

2 Though they dig into <sup>a</sup>hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down:

3 And though they <sup>a</sup>hide themselves in the top of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from my sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent, and he shall bite them:

4 And though they go into captivity before their enemies, thence will I command the sword, and it shall slay them: and I will set mine eyes upon them for <sup>a</sup>evil, and not for good. (Those who seem to avoid punishment in this life will be punished. No one will be able to hide from the Lord at that day.)

5 And the Lord GOD of hosts *is* he that toucheth the land, and it shall <sup>a</sup>melt, and all that dwell therein shall <sup>b</sup>mourn: and it shall rise up wholly like a flood; and shall be drowned, as *by* the flood of Egypt (the Nile river overflowing).

6 *It is* he that buildeth his <sup>a</sup>stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the <sup>b</sup>waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD *is* his name.

7 *Are* ye not as children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel? saith the LORD. Have not I brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt? and the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir?

8 Behold, the <sup>a</sup>eyes of the Lord GOD *are* upon ~~the~~ (a) sinful kingdom, and I will <sup>b</sup>destroy it from off the face of the earth; saving that I will not utterly <sup>c</sup>destroy the house of Jacob, saith the LORD. (Amos seemed to be pointing out in response to an assertion of spiritual superiority on the part of Israel that Jehovah is God of all peoples from "beyond Damascus" to the land of Cush, and he warned Israel in unmistakably plain language that "the eyes of the Lord God are upon the sinful kingdom.")

9 For, lo, I will command, and I will <sup>a</sup>sift the house of <sup>b</sup>Israel among all nations, like as *corn* is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain <sup>c</sup>fall upon the earth. (Not one righteous person will be left behind. By preserving a righteous remnant, the Lord creates a group of people who are humble and spiritual.)

10 All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, which say, The evil shall not overtake nor <sup>a</sup>prevent (Heb confront) us.

11 ¶ In that day (meaning in the last days) will I raise up the <sup>a</sup>tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: (The Temple in Jerusalem will be built in its proper place. Who will build the Temple in Jerusalem?)

Zechariah 6:12-15 says - And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man <sup>a</sup>whose name is The <sup>b</sup>BRANCH; (The Savior) and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: 13 Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both. 14 And the crowns shall be to Helem, and to Tobijah, and to Jedaiah, and to Hen the son of Zephaniah, for a memorial in the temple of the LORD. 15 And they *that are* far off shall come and <sup>a</sup>build in the temple of the LORD, and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. And *this* shall come to pass, if ye will diligently <sup>b</sup>obey the voice of the LORD your God. “They that are far off are the Jews who have been scattered afar. By what power and under whose authorization shall the work be done? There is only one place under the whole heavens where the keys of temple building are found. There is only one people who know how to build temples and what to do in them when they are completed. That people is the Latter-day Saints. The Temple in Jerusalem will not be built by the Jews who have assembled there for political purposes as at present. It will not be built by a people who know nothing whatever about the sealing ordinances and their application to the living and the dead. It will not be built by those who know nothing about Christ and his laws and the mysteries reserved for the saints. But it will be built by Jews who have come unto Christ, who once again are in the true fold of the ancient Shepherd, and who have learned anew about temples because they know that Elijah did come, not to sit in a vacant chair at some Jewish feast of the Passover, but to the Kirtland Temple on April 3, 1936 to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery. The temple in Jerusalem will be built by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. “They that are far off” they that come from an American Zion, they who have a temple in Salt Lake City will come to Jerusalem to build there another holy house in the Jerusalem portion of “the mountains of the Lord’s house.” D&C 133:13 – Bruce R. McConkie, Millennial Messiah, p. 279-280 )

12 That they may <sup>a</sup>possess the remnant of <sup>b</sup>Edom, and of all the <sup>c</sup>heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this. (All righteous people who take upon themselves the name of the Lord, be he Israelite or Gentile, will be brought into the kingdom.)

13 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that <sup>a</sup>soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall <sup>b</sup>melt.

14 And I will bring again the <sup>a</sup>captivity of my people of <sup>b</sup>Israel, and they shall <sup>c</sup>build the <sup>d</sup>waste cities, and inhabit *them*; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. (Israel will return to her ancestral lands as promised in the Abrahamic covenant. The earlier curses will be reversed.)

15 And I will <sup>a</sup>plant them upon their <sup>b</sup>land, and they shall <sup>c</sup>no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God. (The righteous remnant will return to be restored to fulfill the promises made to Abraham.)

## JOEL

We have no information about when or where Joel lived. Using the linguistics of the Bible, he may have lived around 500 BC putting him in the time frame of Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. Some believe he lived about 850 BC, others around 720 BC. It’s possible that Joel did not want us to focus on his time

period but on the future. Except for the first verse, every word of Joel is about the latter days from Joseph Smith into the Millennium. John's Revelation draws heavily on material and rhetoric from Joel.

## CHAPTER 2

*War and desolation precede the Second Coming—The sun and the moon shall be darkened—The Lord will pour out his Spirit upon all flesh—There will be dreams and visions.*

The first half of this chapter tells of Jerusalem being overrun by an army so powerful nothing can stop it. The second half tells of the repentance of the people and their subsequent blessing of the Lord.

1 BLOW ye the <sup>a</sup>trumpet (Heb shofar, or ram's horn) in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy <sup>b</sup>mountain: (Where the temple is. This scripture has dualism – the holy mount meant Jerusalem as well as the temple in the last days.) let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the <sup>c</sup>day of the LORD cometh, for *it is* nigh at hand;

2 A day of <sup>a</sup>darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; (shall descend upon Israel in the last days) there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, *even* to the years of many generations.

3 A fire <sup>a</sup>devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land *is* as the garden of <sup>b</sup>Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. (Following the battle, that which was once beautiful shall be wasted.)

4 The appearance of them *is* as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.

5 Like the <sup>a</sup>noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the <sup>b</sup>stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. (These images all refer to a powerful army.)

6 Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather <sup>a</sup>blackness. (Heb idiom meaning gloom)

7 They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:

8 Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and *when* they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. (The weapons against the enemy shall be ineffectual.)

9 They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.

10 The <sup>a</sup>earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall <sup>b</sup>tremble: the <sup>c</sup>sun and the moon shall be <sup>d</sup>dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

11 And the LORD shall utter his <sup>a</sup>voice before his army: for his camp *is* very great: for *he is* strong that executeth his word: for the <sup>b</sup>day of the LORD *is* <sup>c</sup>great and very terrible; and who can <sup>d</sup>abide it? (It should be clear by this point that Joel was describing neither bugs nor people with lion teeth. His words were meant to convey the awesome power, terror, and despair that will accompany the day of the Lord, that day in which the Lord will return to earth to bring judgment upon the wicked and peace to the righteous.)

12 ¶ Therefore also now, saith the LORD, <sup>a</sup>turn ye *even* to me with all your <sup>b</sup>heart, and with <sup>c</sup>fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

13 And <sup>a</sup>rend your heart, and not your garments, <sup>b</sup>and (repent, and) turn unto the LORD your God(;) for he *is* gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great <sup>c</sup>kindness, and <sup>d</sup>repenteth him of the evil. (he will turn away the evil from you.) (In due time, the house of Israel will indeed accept the Lord's invitation and come unto Christ. Then he will have compassion on them and restore their fortunes: those who oppress them will be removed, the fertility of the land will be restored, the storehouses will overflow with plenty, and the devastation of the locust, the cankerworm, the caterpillar, and the palmerworm will be undone. The Lord's covenant people will praise his name.)

14 (Therefore repent, and) <sup>a</sup>Who knoweth ~~if~~ (but) he will return and ~~repent~~, and leave a blessing behind him; ~~even~~ (that you may offer) a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?

15 ¶ Blow the trumpet in (verses 15-17 are the response to verses 12-14. The people have a fast.) Zion, sanctify a fast, call a <sup>a</sup>solemn assembly:

16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her <sup>a</sup>closet. (Heb wedding canopy)

17 Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, <sup>a</sup>weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy <sup>b</sup>people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to <sup>c</sup>reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where *is* their God?

18 ¶ Then will the LORD be <sup>a</sup>jealous (Heb zealous) for his land, and <sup>b</sup>pity (or have compassion on) his people.

19 Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen:

20 But I will <sup>a</sup>remove far off from you the northern *army*, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the <sup>b</sup>east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his <sup>c</sup>stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things. (Joseph Fielding Smith said: “the Lord says that He will take that great army in hand, that He also has an army. And He will take things in hand. When I say the other army, the Lord’s army, do not get an idea He is thinking about England or the United States. He is not. He is not thinking about any earthly army. The Lord’s army is not an earthly army, but He has a terrible army; and when that army marches, it will put an end to other armies, no matter how terrible they may be; and so He says in these closing words ... that He would do this thing. He would drive this terrible northern army into the wilderness, barren and desolate, with his face towards the west sea and his hinder part towards the utmost sea. He would do that, and then He would bless His people – having references, of course, to Israel.” Signs of the Times, p. 160-161)

21 ¶ Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things.

22 Be not afraid, ye <sup>a</sup>beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.

23 Be glad then, ye children of <sup>a</sup>Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the <sup>b</sup>rain, the former rain, and the <sup>c</sup>latter rain in the first *month*.

24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the <sup>a</sup>fats (or vats) shall overflow with wine and oil.

25 And I will <sup>a</sup>restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

26 And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be <sup>a</sup>ashamed.

27 And ye shall know that I *am* in the <sup>a</sup>midst of Israel, and *that I am* the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed. (The covenant of Israel will be restored.)

28 ¶ And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will <sup>a</sup>pour out my <sup>b</sup>spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall <sup>c</sup>prophesy, your <sup>d</sup>old men shall <sup>e</sup>dream dreams, your young men shall see <sup>f</sup>visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. (With the repentance of the righteous people, the Lord’s spirit will be poured out upon all people.)

30 And I will ~~show~~ (show) <sup>a</sup>wonders in the <sup>b</sup>heavens and in the earth, blood, and <sup>c</sup>fire, and pillars of smoke.

31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into <sup>a</sup>blood, (This reference may be that the religious feasts which usually occurred on the full moon have been corrupted by blood.) before the great

and the terrible <sup>b</sup>day of the LORD come.

32 And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall <sup>a</sup>call on the name of <sup>b</sup>the LORD (Heb Jehovah) shall be <sup>c</sup>delivered: for in <sup>d</sup>mount <sup>e</sup>Zion and in <sup>f</sup>Jerusalem shall be <sup>g</sup>deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the <sup>h</sup>remnant whom the LORD shall <sup>i</sup>call. (Moroni quoted 28-32. He also quoted the second chapter of <sup>a</sup>Joel, from the twenty-eighth verse to the last. He also said that this was not yet fulfilled, but was soon to be. And he further stated that the fulness of the <sup>b</sup>Gentiles was soon to come in. (The Millennium will be the greatest era of fulfillment, since it will be the day in which “the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” But spiritual experiences are had among the Lord’s Saints today, and it may be that the time of outpouring, which Moroni said “was soon to be,” has now arrived. Perhaps the greatest fulfillment of these words is in the quiet witness that faithful Saints receive in answer to their humble prayers concerning the truthfulness of the gospel and the divine mission of the Church. The most powerful manifestation of the Spirit today is the personal revelation that we call a testimony, which is granted freely by the Lord to the sons, daughters, old and young, servants and handmaids of the Church. God’s Spirit is at work among the Latter-day Saints as they quietly “prophesy” enjoy personal revelation in their lives – “dream dreams,” “see visions,” and otherwise enjoy the blessings of the gift of the Holy Ghost. In 1917, Great Britain captured Jerusalem for the Jews to return.)

### CHAPTER 3

*All nations shall be at war—Multitudes stand in the valley of decision as the Second Coming draws near—The Lord will dwell in Zion.*

1 FOR, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall <sup>a</sup>bring again the captivity (Heb cause the return) of Judah and Jerusalem,

2 I will also <sup>a</sup>gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat (Jehovah is judge), and will <sup>b</sup>plead with them there for my people and *for* my <sup>c</sup>heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land. (Foreign invaders are brought to Jerusalem to be judged)

3 And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.

4 Yea, and what have ye to do with me, O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine? will ye render me a recompence? and if ye <sup>a</sup>recompense me, swiftly *and* speedily will I return your <sup>b</sup>recompence upon your own head;

5 Because ye have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried into your temples my goodly pleasant things:

6 The children also of Judah and the children of Jerusalem have ye sold unto the Grecians, that ye might remove them far from their border.

7 Behold, I will raise them out of the place whither ye have sold them, and will return your recompence upon your own head:

8 And I will sell your sons and your daughters into the ~~hand~~ (hands) of the children of Judah, and they shall sell them to the Sabeans, to a people far off: for the LORD hath spoken *it*. (As the Lord is restoring Israel, he will also take care of the gentile nations by destroying them in the end. These verses have reference to the battle of Armageddon in Jerusalem when the great earthquake will strike the massive army and Jesus will appear on the Mount of Olives to deliver Israel. These verses are a declaration of war by the Lord.)

9 ¶ Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare <sup>a</sup>war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up; (All nations are summoned to war. But their mightiest will not prevail. The Lord will be the battle.)

10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I *am* <sup>a</sup>strong.

11 Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy <sup>a</sup>mighty ones to come down, O LORD.

12 Let the <sup>a</sup>heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to <sup>b</sup>judge all the heathen round about.

13 Put ye in the <sup>a</sup>sickle, for the <sup>b</sup>harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the <sup>c</sup>press is full, the <sup>d</sup>fats (or vats) overflow; for their wickedness *is* great.

14 Multitudes, <sup>a</sup>multitudes in the valley of decision: for the <sup>b</sup>day of the LORD *is* near in the valley of decision.

15 The <sup>a</sup>sun and the moon shall be <sup>b</sup>darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

16 The <sup>a</sup>LORD also shall <sup>b</sup>roar out of <sup>c</sup>Zion, and <sup>d</sup>utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall <sup>e</sup>shake: but the LORD *will be* the <sup>f</sup>hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

17 So shall ye know that I *am* the LORD your God <sup>a</sup>dwelling in Zion, my holy <sup>b</sup>mountain: then shall <sup>c</sup>Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no <sup>d</sup>strangers pass through her any more. (No impure people will be allowed to pass through the City.)

18 ¶ And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the <sup>a</sup>mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a <sup>b</sup>fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim. (The Prophet Joseph Smith said: "Judah must return, Jerusalem must be rebuilt, and the temple, and water come out from under the temple, and the waters of the Dead Sea be healed. It will take some time to rebuild the walls of the city and the temple, etc.; and all this must be done before the Son of Man will make His appearance. (Teachings, p. 286.) The waters issuing forth from under the temple and the healing of the Dead Sea may occur when the Lord himself sets foot upon the Mount of Olives, causing this mountain to divide in two and create a large valley. See Zechariah 14:4, D&C 133: 20-24)

19 <sup>a</sup>Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence *against* the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land.

20 But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation.

21 For I will cleanse their blood *that* I have not cleansed: *for* the LORD dwelleth in <sup>a</sup>Zion. (The wicked shall be destroyed and the righteous shall dwell with Christ.)

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