

## THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET AMOS

Amos was a contemporary of the Pr<sup>o</sup>phets Hosea and Isaiah. He was a native of Tekoa, about six miles south of Bethlehem, an<sup>l</sup> which was inhabited chiefly by shepherds. The Prophet Amos himdelf belonged to this class, being besides this a dresser of Sycomore trees, and not trained in any of the schools of the prophets (Amos 1:1; 7:14,15). Amos prophesied in the days of Uzziah, king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam II, king of Israel. This Jeroboam was an able king, who restored his kingdom to its former glory and gave it splendor. But the restoration of national prosperity was followed by the prevalence of luxury, licentiousness and oppression to such an extent as to provoke the Divine displeasure; and Amos was called from the sheepfolds to be the harbinger of coming judgments. "Nothing could seem more improbable than the fulfilment of Amos' warnings. Yet in about fifty years his kingdom was utterly destroyed. However, the vision of Amos was wider in its scope than the northern kind<sup>g</sup>om itself, as it included the "whole house of Jacob" (Scofield).

Amos first prophesies judgments upon the cities surrounding Palestine (1:1 -- 2:3). Then, the judgments upon Judah and Israel (2:4-16). On this follows a controversy with the "whole house of Israel" (3:1 -- 9:10). Finally, he depicts the future glory of the Davidic kingdom (9:11-15). Our comment will be on a part of this 9th chapter in which the judgments upon Israel almost imperceptibly glide into these of the Latter Day.

Chapter 9:8 indicates the severity of the judgment upon Israel in that Jehovah "will destroy it from off the face of the earth". But this is followed by the qualifying phrase: "Save that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, saith Jehovah. For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all the nations, like as grain is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least kernel