

# Amos 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of the children of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border:

## Analysis

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Amos addresses Ammon: "Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of the children of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border." Ammon's atrocity—killing pregnant women to expand territory—demonstrates war's brutality and human depravity apart from divine grace. The phrase "ripped up" describes horrific violence against the most vulnerable. This crime combined several evils: murder, violence against women and children, and territorial greed. God's judgment falls because He values life from conception (Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:5, Luke 1:41-44). The Reformed doctrine of total depravity doesn't mean all people are maximally evil but that sin affects every aspect of human nature, making us capable of horrific evil apart from restraining grace.

## Historical Context

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Ammon, descendants of Lot through incest (Genesis 19:30-38), frequently warred with Israel. The referenced atrocity likely occurred during border conflicts in Gilead (Transjordan). Ancient Near Eastern warfare often targeted civilians deliberately—genocide, rape, and brutality were commonplace. God's judgment on

such atrocities demonstrates His universal moral law and compassion for victims, regardless of ethnicity.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's condemnation of killing unborn children inform Christian pro-life engagement?
2. What does Ammon's judgment teach about God's view of violence against vulnerable populations?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּנֵי אֶתְּנָהָרֶם עַל שְׁלִשָּׁה פְּשָׁעִים  
H3541 Thus saith H5921 the LORD H5921 For three H7969 transgressions H6588 of the children  
H559 H3068 H1121

עַל אֶתְּנָהָרֶם עַמּוֹן וְעַל אֶתְּנָהָרֶם עַל אֶתְּנָהָרֶם לֹא אֶרְבַּע הַעֲלָמִים אֲשִׁיבֵכִי  
H5921 and for four H3808 I will not turn away H7725 H5921  
H5983 H702 H1568

בְּקַעַם בְּקַעַם בְּקַעַם  
the punishment thereof because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead  
H1234 H2030 H1568

אֶת גְּבוּלָם אֶת גְּבוּלָם  
that they might enlarge their border  
H853 H1366  
H4616 H7337

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hosea 13:16** (Parallel theme): Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up.

**Isaiah 5:8** (Parallel theme): Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!

**Ezekiel 35:10** (References Lord): Because thou hast said, These two nations and these two countries shall be mine, and we will possess it; whereas the LORD was there:

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