

Amos 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will break also the bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitant from the plain of Aven, and him that holdeth the sceptre from the house of Eden: and the people of Syria shall go into captivity unto Kir, saith the LORD.

Analysis

"I will break also the bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitant from the plain of Aven, and him that holdeth the sceptre from the house of Eden: and the people of Syria shall go into captivity unto Kir, saith the LORD." The "bar" refers to the massive wooden beam securing city gates—breaking it means the city falls. Damascus, Syria's capital, would be conquered and depopulated. "Plain of Aven" (Biq'at-Aven, "valley of wickedness") likely refers to Baalbek, site of pagan worship. "House of Eden" (Beth-Eden) was a Syrian region. The prophecy specifies total collapse: religious centers destroyed, rulers deposed, population exiled to Kir (somewhere in Mesopotamia). The phrase "saith the LORD" (ne'um-YHWH) functions as divine signature—this isn't human prediction but God's decreed purpose. When God speaks, it's as good as accomplished.

Historical Context

This detailed prophecy found precise fulfillment when Assyria conquered Damascus in 732 BC under Tiglath-Pileser III, deporting inhabitants to Kir (2 Kings 16:9)—exactly as Amos predicted. This demonstrates the supernatural character of biblical prophecy. Skeptics who deny predictive prophecy must resort to late-dating texts after-the-fact, but Amos's mid-8th century date is well-attested. The

Reformed doctrine of inspiration affirms that Scripture is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16), making accurate prediction natural when God reveals His purposes.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does fulfilled prophecy strengthen confidence in Scripture's divine authority and reliability?
2. What does precise historical fulfillment teach about God's sovereignty over nations and history?
3. How should prophetic certainty shape Christian confidence in God's promises?

Interlinear Text

וְשִׁבַּרְתִּי	בַּר יָחַד	דָּמָּ שֶׁקֶן	וְהִכַּחֲתִי י	יוֹשֵׁב	מִבְּקֵעַת
I will break	also the bar	of Damascus	and cut off	the inhabitant	from the plain
H7665	H1280	H1834	H3772	H3427	H1237
אֵל אֲוֵן	וְתוֹמֵךְ הוּא	שֶׁ בִּט	מִבֵּית	עַד דָּן	
of Aven	and him that holdeth	the sceptre	from the house		
H206	H8551	H7626	H1004	H5730	
וְגָל ו	עַם	אֲכַם	קִי יִכָּה	אֶמַר	יְהוָה:
shall go into captivity	and the people	of Syria	unto Kir	saith	the LORD
H1540	H5971	H758	H7024	H559	H3068

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 16:9 (Parallel theme): And the king of Assyria hearkened unto him: for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus, and took it, and carried the people of it captive to Kir, and slew Rezin.

Amos 9:7 (References Lord): 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?

Jeremiah 51:30 (Parallel theme): The mighty men of Babylon have forborn to fight, they have remained in their holds: their might hath failed; they became as women: they have burned her dwellingplaces; her bars are broken.

Lamentations 2:9 (References Lord): Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes are among the Gentiles: the law is no more; her prophets also find no vision from the LORD.

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