

# 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

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"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

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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

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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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

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מִבְּקָעַת יֹשֵׁב יְהִקְרָת וְדָעַ שָׁק בָּרְ יִם וְשָׁבָרָתִי  
I will break also the bar of Damascus and cut off the inhabitant from the plain  
H7665 H1280 H1834 H3772 H3427 H1237

עַל אֵן יְהִקְרָת וְתָמֵן הַשְׁבָט מִבְּיַת שְׁבָט  
of Aven and him that holdeth the sceptre from the house  
H206 H8551 H7626 H1004 H5730

וְיָלֵד עַם אֶל-יְהָה אֶל-קִר אֶל-יְהָה אֶל-קִר  
shall go into captivity and the people of Syria unto Kir saith the LORD  
H1540 H5971 H758 H7024 H559 H3068

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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