

What was God upset about in northern Israel of Amos' day?

In Amos 2:6-8 three sins are highlighted, extravagant indulgences (greed, hoarding of resources), corruption of social justice (oppression of the poor) and immorality in religious practices (denial of God's holiness). Amos 3:15 speaks of the extravagance of some in the northern kingdom that own multiple homes. Amos 5 verse 11 displays the poor as being 'trampled' while verse 12 talks of the corrupt judicial system which is overrun with bribes and corruption. Amos 6:8 the pride of Israel is decried, this is the sin that promulgates the other sins that faced northern Israel at this time.

Locate on a map the Cities indicated in chs 1-2.

Is there a pattern?

What would be the pattern or the impact on the immediate Audience?

The cities Amos is being directed to speak of all are in countries which surround Israel. The encircling of the Northern kingdom would bring a sense of entrapment to the people of Israel. If they do not change their ways where will they go? They are surrounded on all sides by inappropriate behavior that God will not allow to continue.