CHAPTER 1

v. 2 — Jehovah will roar and utter voice . . . anthropomorphism . . . pastures shall mourn, the top of Carmel shall wither . . . personification

v. 3 — for three transgressions, yea for four (also in vv. 6, 9, 11, 13, and 2:1, 4, and 6) . . . meiosis they have threshed Gilead with threshing instruments of iron . . . personification of Gilead and verbal metaphor

v. 4 — send fire into Hazael that shall devour the palaces (also in vv. 7, 10, 12, 14, and 2:2 and 5) . . . metaphor

v. 5 — break the bar of Damascus . . . verbal metaphor

v. 11 — cast off pity, anger did tear . . . verbal metaphors or personifications of abstract qualities: pity and anger

CHAPTER 2

v. 7 — they pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor . . . hyperbole

v. 9 — height was like the height of cedars . . . simile they were strong as the oaks . . . simile I destroyed their fruit from above and roots from beneath . . . metaphor

v. 13 — I will press you, as a cart is pressed down that is full of sheaves . . . simile

v. 14 — flight shall perish from the swift . . . personification of flight

v. 16 — flee away naked . . . maybe literal, or an ellipsis if it means naked of courage

In chapters 1 and 2 there is a climax of judgments, in the Oriental custom of "beating around the bush" . . . finally coming to Israel.

CHAPTER 3

v. 1 — children of Israel (throughout book) ... metonymy
      (people called by name of nation's founder)

v. 3-8 — effect: cause:
      Shall 2 walk together—except they have made an
      appointment
      Will a lion roar in the forest—except he hath prey
      Will a young lion cry out of his den—if he has taken
      nothing
      Can a bird fall in a snare upon the earth—where no
      trap is set
      Shall people not be afraid—when the trumpet is blown
      in a city
      so: Shall evil befall a city—the Lord hath not done it
         ... litotes ... climactic parallelism in rhetorical
         questions (interrogation)

v. 10 — store up violence and robbery in their palaces ...
       verbal metaphor and hyperbole of their desire for
       evil.

v. 12 — as this: shepherd rescues two legs or ear out of lion's
       mouth
       so this: Hebrews rescued from silk beds, etc. ...
       similitude

CHAPTER 4

v. 1 — cows of Bashan ... metaphor

v. 4-5 — come to Bethel and transgress ... irony and sarcasm

v. 6 — cleanness of teeth ... metaphor for lack of food

v. 8 — two or three cities wandered into a city to drink ... personification of cities.

v. 9-11 — A climax:

  v. 9 — I have smitten with mildew
  v. 10 — I have sent pestilence
          I have slain men
          I have carried away your horses
          I have made the stench of your camp
          come to your nostrils
  v. 11 — I have overthrown cities among you; YET
          YOU HAVE NOT RETURNED!

397
AMOS

v. 11 — You were as a brand plucked out of the burning . . .

v. 13 — God treads on the high places of the earth . . .

anthropomorphism

CHAPTER 5

v. 2 — virgin of Israel is fallen,

no more rise,

cast upon her land

none to raise her . . .

personification of nation

v. 3 — 1,000 and 100 left

100 and just 10 left . . .

synecdoche (definite no. for indefinite)

v. 6 — God will break out like fire, devour, none will quench

. . .

simile

v. 7 — You turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth . . .

verbal metaphor and perhaps a hyperbole

v. 8 — God calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the earth . . .

anthropomorphism

v. 18 — The day of the Lord is darkness and not light (also v. 20) . . .

metaphor

v. 19 — As a man flees from lion and bear meets him

As a man runs to house, leans on wall and a snake bites him:

So (you seek day of Lord and will find it darkness.) . . .

similitude which climaxes with an interrogation

v. 24 — let justice roll down as waters

and righteousness as a mighty stream . . .

personification of justice and righteousness and a simile.

CHAPTER 6

v. 3 — you that (try to) put away the evil day . . .

and cause the seat of violence to come near . . .

ellipsis

metonomy (cause stated and effect understood)

v. 8 — abhor excellency of Jacob . . .

metonomy (nation called by name of founder)

v. 12 — shall horses run upon rocks?

shall one plow the sea with oxen? . . .

interrogation 6:12b compare with 5:7

398
CHAPTER 7
v. 1-3 — locusts ... vision
v. 4-6 — fire ... vision
eating up the land ... personification
Jacob so small, how shall he stand? (vv. 2, 5)
metonymy and interrogation
v. 7-9 — plumbline ... vision metaphorical
v. 10 — the land is not able to bear Amos' words ... personification
v. 16 — You say, Drop not your word against Israel ... figurative for Do not preach, as in R.S.V.
v. 17 — an unclean land ... metonymy (the lack of purity before God is represented as an actual dirty mess.)

CHAPTER 8
v. 1-3 — summer fruit ... vision metaphorical
v. 4 — you that swallow up the needy ... verbal metaphor
v. 6 — you buy the poor for silver and the needy for shoes
... maybe literal, or a verbal metaphor
v. 8 — land trembles for this ... personification of land
... it rises up like the River, is troubled and sinks again ... simile
v. 9 — the sun goes down at noon
darkens earth in the clear day ... maybe literal or metaphor
v. 11 — send a famine of God's word,
seek it from sea to sea
seek it from north to east
run to and fro and will not find it ... climax
and personification of the Word.
v. 13 — fair virgins and young men faint for thirst (for the word) ... ellipsis
v. 14 — they will fall and never rise up again ... verbal metaphor

CHAPTER 9
v. 1 — Lord standing beside the altar ... vision
smite the capitals, shake the thresholds and break them on their heads ... verbal metaphors
v. 2 — dig into Sheol ... verbal metaphor (want to die climb up to heaven

399
AMOS
hide in Mt. Carmel
hide in bottom of sea
go into captivity before enemies, but GOD
WILL BE THERE!
These are climactic parallelisms and verbal metaphors.
v. 4 — the Lord's eyes are set upon them for evil . . . anthropomorphism
v. 5 — the Lord touches the land and it melts . . . anthropomorphism
and verbal met. compare 5b with 8:8.
v. 6 — God builds his chambers in Heaven
founded his vault upon the earth
calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out . . . see 5:8
This is anthropomorphism and metaphor.
v. 7 — are ye not as the children of the Ethiopians unto me?
both simile and interrogation
v. 8 — the eyes of the Lord are on this sinful kingdom . . . anthropomorphism
v. 9 — I will sift Israel among the nations as a grain if sifted in a sieve, not a kernel will fall on the earth . . . similitude
v. 11-15 — These are Messianic, see Acts 15:16-18.
v. 11 — raise David's tabernacle, close breaches, raise up ruins,
build it as in the days of old . . . metonomy—covenant people meant
v. 12 — they may possess Edom's remnant . . . synecdoche
v. 13 — the plowman shall overtake the reaper
the treader of grapes him that sows seed . . . metaphor
mountains shall drop sweet wine
hills shall melt . . . personification and metaphor
v. 14 — the returned captives:
shall build the waste cities
inhabit them
plant vineyards
drink wine from them
make gardens and eat the fruit . . . climax of metaphors
v. 15 — God will plant them upon their land and they shall
no more be plucked up . . . metaphor.
400