



**'Exile away from his land'**

**Is landlessness the ultimate  
punishment in Amos?**



# Land in Amos

- Motto 1:2 introduces three characters
  - Prophet “he”
  - YHWH “roars”
  - Pastures “mourn”
- Conclusion
  - Mountains & hills as characters

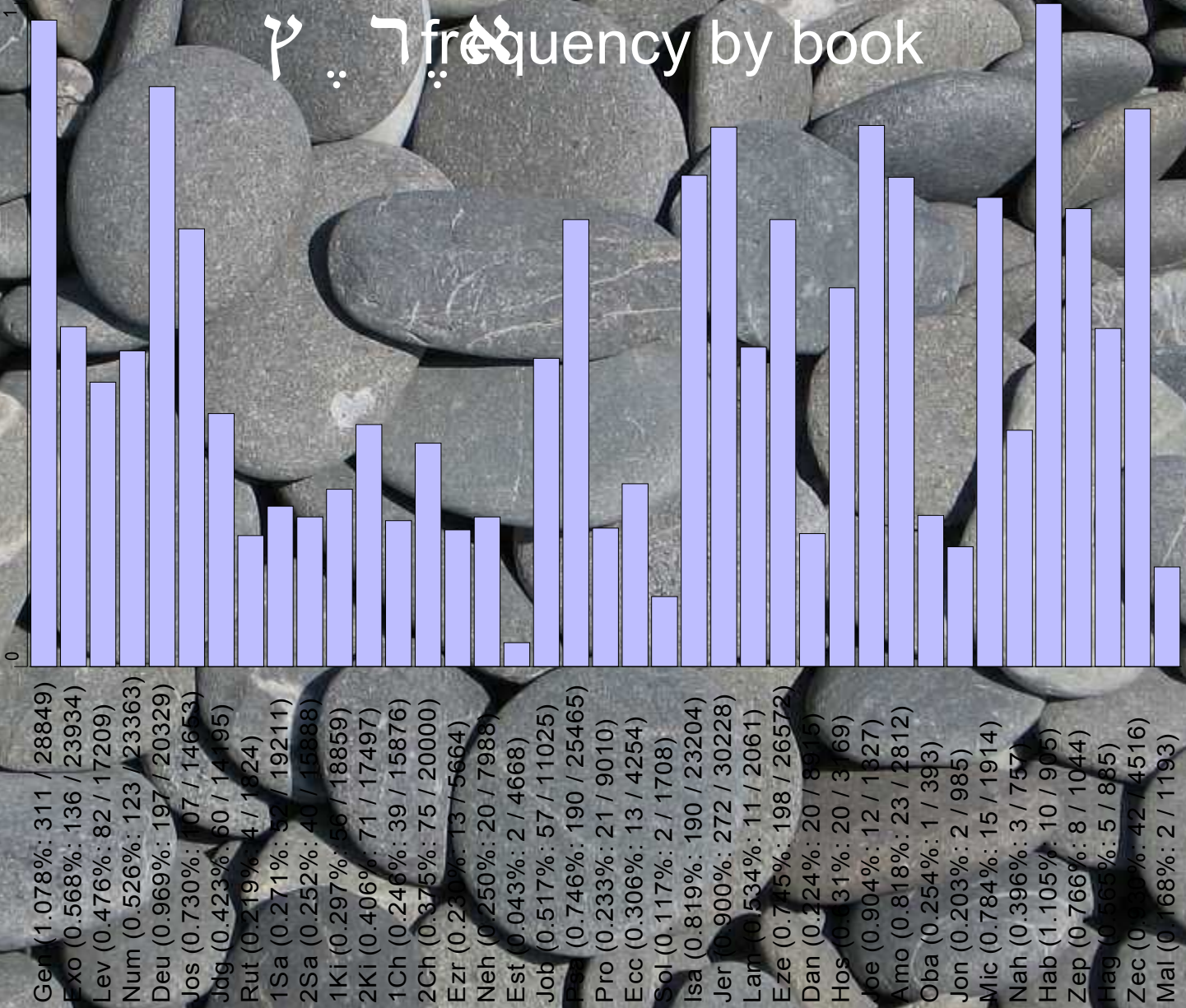


# אֶרֶץ

- territory, country, land
- thematic in prophets esp. Hab, Zech, Jo, Jer, Is, Am, Mic, Zeph, Ez (Gen, Dt, Jos and Ps have similar frequency)

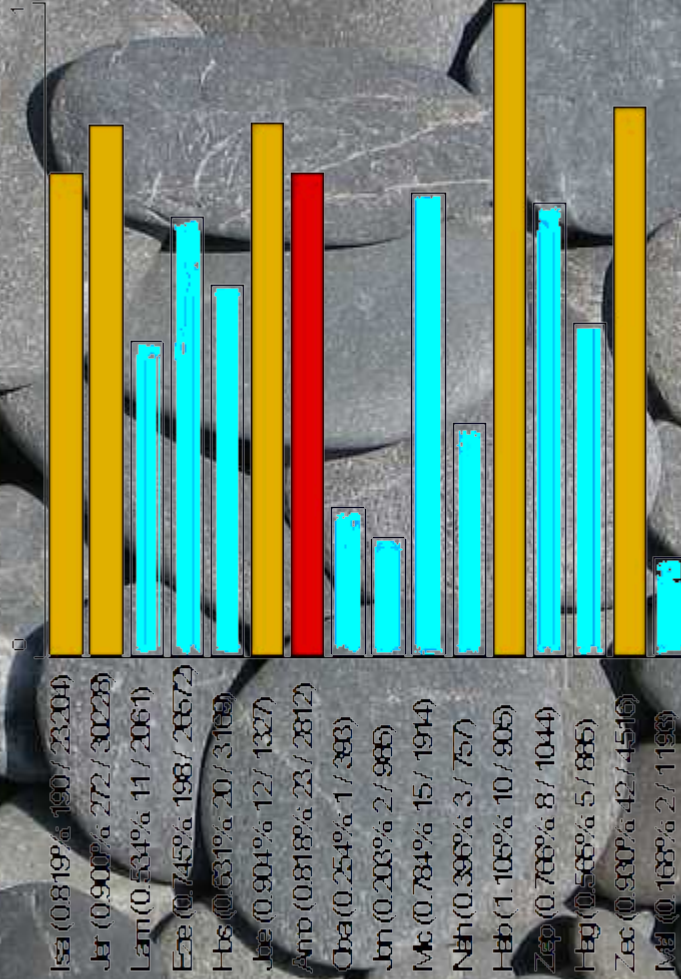


# פְּ frequency by book





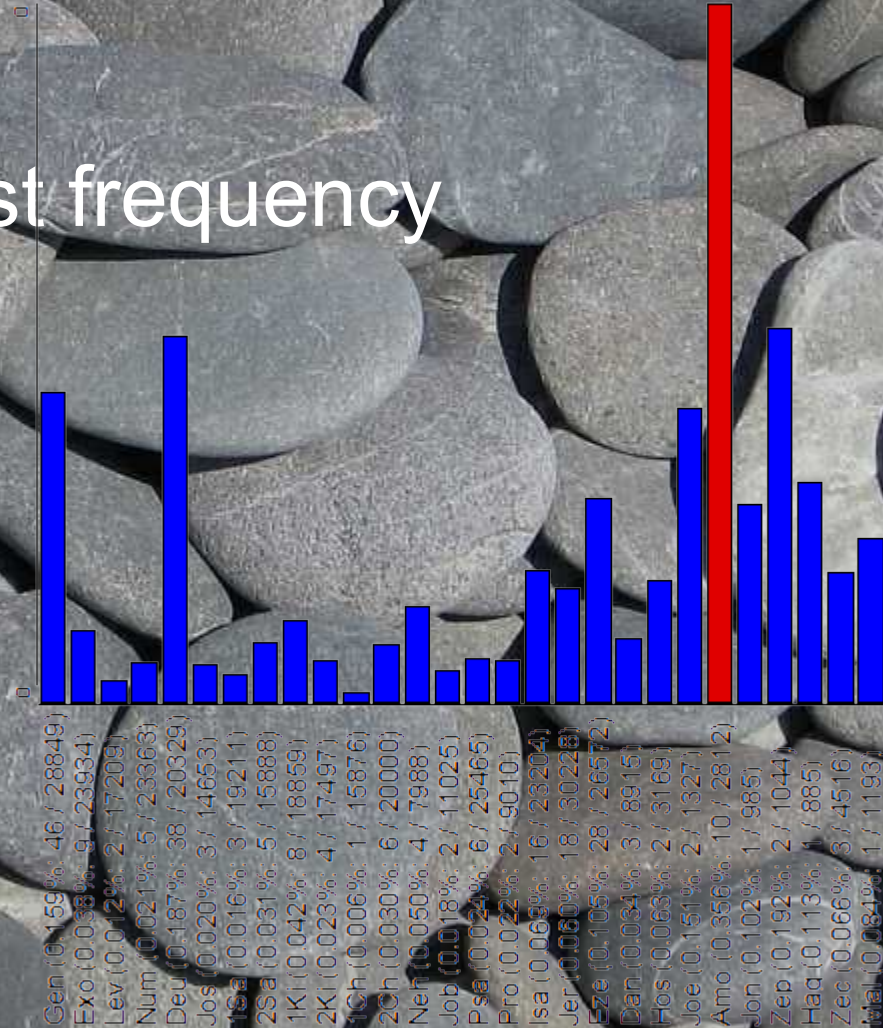
# עֵינַי בְּנְבִיאִים





# אֶדְמָה

- soil, earth
- Amos greatest frequency





# אָנוס מַה

Amo 1 (0.000%: 0 / 286)  
Amo 2 (0.000%: 0 / 299)  
Amo 3 (0.733%: 2 / 273)  
Amo 4 (0.000%: 0 / 289)  
Amo 5 (0.234%: 1 / 428)  
Amo 6 (0.000%: 0 / 254)  
Amo 7 (1.235%: 4 / 324)  
Amo 8 (0.000%: 0 / 290)  
Amo 9 (0.813%: 3 / 369)





# The pastures mourn

- 1:2 opens the book with three characters
  - YHWH who roars
  - His prophet who “says”
  - The pastures who “mourn”



# Theology of book

- Grounded in election and promise
  - Israel (Amorites, land, Egypt) 2:9-10
  - cf. Judah 2:4 law and statutes
  - But esp. 3:1-2
    - “you only have I known from all the families of the אֱלֹהֵי מִצְרַיִם
    - Cf. 3:3 “Do two walk together unless they have agreed?”
- First half of the book
  - Threat of God’s decisive intervention 4:12-13
  - The main judgment is invasion 5:2
    - “Forsaken on her אֱלֹהֵי מִצְרַיִם with no one to raise her”



# Narrative 7:10-17

- 10 & 11 difference between אֶרֶץ אֱדוֹמִים מִן הַמֶּלֶךְ  
– Amaziah accuses v.10:  
“Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land (אֶרֶץ) is not able to bear all his words.”  
But in v.11 he quotes:  
“Israel must go into exile away from his land (אֶדְוֹמִים מִן הַמֶּלֶךְ)  
• אֶרֶץ recurs in argument as “territory” v.12  
• but הַמֶּלֶךְ is focus of the last word v.17:  
“and your **land** shall be parceled out by line; you yourself shall die in an unclean **land**, and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its **land**.”



# The end of the book

- הַמֶּלֶךְ יָשׁוּב returns in a last glimpse of hope 9:8
  - Although the sinful kingdom will be destroyed
  - The House of Jacob will not totally be destroyed from the אֲדָמָה
- Ending the restoration (and the book) 9:15
  - “I will plant them upon their **land**, and they shall never again be plucked up out of the **land** that I have given them, says the LORD your God.”



# Conclusion

- Is “exile away from his land” ultimate punishment?
- Yes: last & most terrible political threat
- No: “exile from his land” symptomatic of real threat
- That God will withdraw from Israel
  - in Amos הַמָּוֹלָד אֶלְדָּם אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן
  - 4:13
  - Silence of prophecy 8:11-12
- The book that begins with the pastures mourning
- Ends with Israel planted on her אֶלְדָּם אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן