'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
• territory, country, land
• thematic in prophets esp. Hab, Zech, Jo, Jer, Is, Am, Mic, Zeph, Ez (Gen, Dt, Jos and Ps have similar frequency)
• soil, earth
• Amos greatest frequency
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amo 1 (0.000%, 0 / 286)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amo 2 (0.000%, 0 / 299)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amo 3 (0.733%, 2 / 273)</td>
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<td>Amo 4 (0.000%, 0 / 289)</td>
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<td>Amo 5 (0.234%, 1 / 428)</td>
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<td>Amo 6 (0.000%, 0 / 264)</td>
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<td>Amo 7 (1.235%, 4 / 324)</td>
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<td>Amo 8 (0.000%, 0 / 290)</td>
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<td>Amo 9 (0.813%, 3 / 369)</td>
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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..."
    • 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..."
Narrative 7:10-17

• 10 & 11 difference between שְׁמֶרֶת וְאֵּדָם
  – Amaziah accuses v.10: “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words.”
  But in v.11 he quotes: “Israel must go into exile away from his land שָׁמֶרֶת וְאֵּדָם.”

• שְׁמֶרֶת recurs in argument as “territory” v.12

• but אֵדָם 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

- 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

- 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 7:13 and as promise
  – 4:13
  – Silence of prophecy 8:11-12
• The book that begins with the pastures mourning
• Ends with Israel planted on her