

# Amos 8 - Vision of Summer Fruit; Israel Ripe for Judgment

## IV. Five visions of judgment against Israel (Amos 7:1—9:10)

### (5) Basket of summer fruit (8:1-14)

#### (A) Vision (8:1-2a)

#### (B) Judgment (8:2b-14)

##### (a) Prediction of judgment (8:2b-3)

##### (b) Israel's sins leading to judgment (8:4-6)

###### (i) Mistreating the poor (8:4)

###### (ii) Placing materialism over religious obligations (8:5a)

###### (iii) Dishonest commercial activity (8:5b-6)

##### (c) Results of judgment (8:7-14)

###### (i) Topographical changes (8:7-9)

###### (ii) Laughing turned into mourning (8:10)

###### (iii) Famine of God's Word (8:11-14)

## Amos 8

### (5) Basket of summer fruit (8:1-14)

**1** This is what the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, *there was* a basket of summer fruit.

**1** Thus the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, *there was* a basket of summer fruit.

**1** This is what the Lord GOD showed me: Look! A basket of summer fruit!

**1** Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me: and behold a basket of summer fruit.

- Amos received two more visions from God, that he continued to preach to the Israelites—  
in spite of Amaziah's threats

- A basket of summer fruit would normally be a pleasant sight associated with the joys and provisions of the harvest

#### (B) Judgment (8:2b-14)

##### (a) Prediction of judgment (8:2b-3)

**2** And He said, "What do you see, Amos?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me, "The end has come for My people Israel. I will not spare them any longer.

**2** He said, "What do you see, Amos?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me, "The end has come for My people Israel. I will spare them no longer.

2 And he was asking, "What do you see, Amos?" I answered, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD told me, "The end approaches for my people Israel. I will no longer spare them.

2 And he said, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A basket of summer fruit. Then said the LORD unto me, The end is come upon my people of Israel; I will not again pass by them any more.

- Then God told Amos that Israel was also ripe like the summer fruit, but they were instead ripe for judgment

— Like the fruit in the basket, Israel also needed to be consumed soon

3 The songs of the palace will turn to wailing on that day," declares the Lord GOD. "The corpses *will be* many; in every place they will throw them out. Hush!"

3 The songs of the palace will turn to wailing in that day," declares the Lord GOD. "Many *will be* the corpses; in every place they will cast them forth in silence."

3 At that time," declares the Lord GOD, "the temple songs will be wailing. Many bodies will accumulate everywhere.

3 And the songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord GOD: there shall be many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast them forth with silence.

- When judgment came, the singing in the royal palace at Samaria would turn to wailing and lamenting

- There would be many dead bodies lying around because of the enemy's slaughter, and those people who remained alive would dispose of the corpses in silence, because it would be such a terrible sight

- Like rotten fruit, the dead Israelites would be thrown out

(b) Israel's sins leading to judgment (8:4-6)

(i) Mistreating the poor (8:4)

4 Hear this, you who trample the needy, to put an end to the humble of the land,

4 Hear this, you who trample the needy, to do away with the humble of the land,

4 "Hear this, you who are swallowing up the needy, who intend to make the poor of the land fail,

4 Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail,

- Amos called those who oppressed the needy and tried to exterminate them to hear him (Cf. 5:11)

— Israel's law called God's people to extend an open hand of generosity to the poor (Deut 15:7-11; Cf. Ps 72:12-13), but the stingy Israelites were trying to eliminate them

(ii) Placing materialism over religious obligations (8:5a)

(iii) Dishonest commercial activity (8:5b-6)

5 saying, "When will the new moon be over, So that we may sell grain; And the Sabbath, so that we may open the wheat *market*, To make the ephah smaller and the shekel bigger, And to cheat with dishonest scales,

5 saying, "When will the new moon be over, So that we may sell grain, And the sabbath, that we may open the wheat *market*, To make the bushel smaller and the shekel bigger, And to cheat with dishonest scales,

5 and who are saying, 'When will the New Moon fade so we may sell grain, and the Sabbath conclude so we may market winnowed wheat?— shortchanging the measure, raising the price, falsifying the scales by treachery,

**5** Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit?

- These oppressors were eager for the new moon festivals and the weekly Sabbaths to end, so that they could get back to work cheating their fellow countrymen—in order to make big profits

— These holidays should've been days of rest and worship (Cf. Num 28:11; 2 Kings 4:23), but the Israelite workaholics did not enjoy them, though they observed them as good religious people

— They were anxious to enslave "the needy" in their debt ("buy the helpless for money," v6), so they could control them and use them for their own selfish ends (Cf. 2:6)

6 So as to buy the helpless for money, And the needy for a pair of sandals, And *that* we may sell the refuse of the wheat?"

6 So as to buy the helpless for money And the needy for a pair of sandals, And *that* we may sell the refuse of the wheat?"

6 buying the poor for cash, and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling chaff mixed in with the wheat.'

6 That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the wheat?

(c) Results of judgment (8:7-14)

(i) Topographical changes (8:7-9)

**7** The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob, "Indeed, I will never forget any of their deeds.

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**7** "The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: I will never forget anything they have done.

7 The LORD hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works.

- God vowed to never forget any of the sinful Israelites' unrighteous deeds

8 "Because of this will the land not quake, And everyone who lives in it mourn? Indeed, all of it will rise up like the Nile, And it will be tossed about And subside like the Nile of Egypt.

8 "Because of this will not the land quake And everyone who dwells in it mourn? Indeed, all of it will rise up like the Nile, And it will be tossed about And subside like the Nile of Egypt.

8 Surely the land will tremble because of this, won't it? And all who live in it will mourn, won't they? The entire land will swell up like a flooded river. It will be stirred up and then will sink like the river of Egypt.

8 Shall not the land tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein? and it shall rise up wholly as a flood; and it shall be cast out and drowned, as by the flood of Egypt.

- The waves of terror from the approaching enemy would be like the rising and receding of the Nile River

9 "And it will come about on that day," declares the Lord GOD, "That I will make the sun go down at noon, And make the earth dark in broad daylight.

9 "It will come about in that day," declares the Lord GOD, "That I will make the sun go down at noon And make the earth dark in broad daylight.

9 It will come about at that time," declares the Lord GOD, "I will cause the sun to set at noon and the earth to darken in the daylight.

9 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:

- On the day of judgment, God would send darkness over the land

(ii) Laughing turned into mourning (8:10)

10 "Then I will turn your festivals into mourning, And all your songs into songs of mourning; And I will put sackcloth around everyone's waist, And baldness on every head. And I will make it like a *time of* mourning for an only son, And the end of it will be like a bitter day.

10 "Then I will turn your festivals into mourning And all your songs into lamentation; And I will bring sackcloth on everyone's loins And baldness on every head. And I will make it like a *time of* mourning for an only son, And the end of it will be like a bitter day.

10 I will turn your festivals into mourning, and all of your songs to dirges. I will cause all of you to put on sackcloth and to shave all of your heads. I will make that time like mourning for an only son, and its conclusion will be like the end of a bitter day."

10 And I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; and I will bring up sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day.

- God's judgment would turn their festivals into funerals and their singing into mourning  
— Mourning would come because judgment had come

- It would be as sad a time as the death of an only son, extinguishing any hope for the future and losing provision in old age

(iii) Famine of God's Word (8:11-14)

11 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the LORD.

11 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, But rather for hearing the words of the Lord.

11 "Look! The days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "when I will send a famine throughout the land— not a famine of food or a thirst for water— but rather a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.

11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

- As part of His judgment, God would withhold His words from His people; this would be a famine of spiritual food

— God's word provide spiritual nourishment and refreshment, so when they are not available, people suffer spiritually

12 "People will stagger from sea to sea And from the north even to the east; They will roam about to seek the word of the LORD, But they will not find *it*.

12 "People will stagger from sea to sea And from the north even to the east; They will go to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, But they will not find *it*.

12 People will stagger from sea to sea, from north to east. They will run back and forth, searching for a message from the LORD, but they won't find it.

12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

- The Israelites had rejected the LORD's words to them (2:11-12; 7:10-13), so He would not send them to them any longer (Cf. 1 Sam 3:1; 28:6)

— This is a sobering prospect: if we do not listen to the Word of God, we may not be able to hear the Word of God (Cf. Luke 17:22; John 7:34)

13 "On that day the beautiful virgins And the young men will faint from thirst.

13 "In that day the beautiful virgins And the young men will faint from thirst.

13 At that time, the beautiful virgins will faint, as will the strong young men—from thirst.

13 In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst.

- The Israelites would search all over the land for some word from *Yahweh*—a word of explanation, forgiveness, or hope—but they would not be able to find one  
— Even "beautiful virgins" and strong "young men" would "faint" from lack of spiritual refreshment. These types of individuals would have the greatest stamina and could look the hardest and longest, but even they would find nothing.

14 "As for those who swear by the guilt of Samaria, And say, 'As your god lives, Dan,' And, 'As the way of Beersheba lives,' They will fall and not rise again."

14 "As for those who swear by the guilt of Samaria, Who say, 'As your god lives, O Dan,' And, 'As the way of Beersheba lives,' They will fall and not rise again."

14 Those who have been swearing oaths by the sin of Samaria, or who say, 'As your god lives, Dan...' or who say, 'As the way of Beer-sheba lives...'— will fall, and will never rise again."

14 They that swear by the sin of Samaria, and say, Thy god, O Dan, liveth; and, The manner of Beersheba liveth; even they shall fall, and never rise up again.

- The apostate Israelites who swore in the name of their favorite pagan deities would fall, never to rise again, because their idols would not uplift them

— Amos described the prominent idol in Samaria as "Samaria's guilt" or shame

— One of the idols they worshipped in Samaria was Ashimah (Cf. 2 Kings 17:29-30), which Amos apparently alluded to here