

Chapter 8

**Amos 8: [1] Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me: and behold a basket of summer fruit.**

**[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.**

**[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.**

**1. The Certainty of Israel's Destruction**

**1-3**

God has shown Amos visions of devouring locusts, consuming fire and a judiciary plumb-line. Now God reveals another vision to Amos, a basket of summer fruit.

God asks Amos what he saw. Amos responds "*A basket of summer fruit.*"

God wanted Amos to be sure of what was revealed.

God reveals to Amos the meaning of the basket of summer fruit.

God has Israel in a good land, tended to them, and watered them.

God has patiently watched and endured the nation.

Now God will harvest the nation.

To harvest is to gather the ripened crop, for the tree is no longer producing.

God "*will not pass by them any more*" for the nation will be picked clean.

Israel will be gathered as the basket of summer fruit; they will be picked and gathered.

The life of the ripe fruit is at its end.

Their fruit is perishable, ready to rot, ruin or be consumed or devoured by the enemy.

Israel is destined for destruction, **Jeremiah 8:20**.

In verse 3, the sin of Israel has turned their joy into sadness.

The jubilant songs of the temple has turned into "*howlings*" or sorrowful wailings.

The sin of Israel has brought death.

**James 1:15 "sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."**

There will be so many dead bodies that there aren't enough people to bury them.

Israel sin has brought forth sorrow and death, the sword and pestilence.

**Amos 8: [4] Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail,**

**[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?**

**[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?**

**2. The Catalogue of Israel's Dealings**

**4-6**

**A. Carnal Gain**

God says "*hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy.*"

Israel took advantage of the poor and did not practice mercy.

Israel made sure that the poor could not escape their state.

Israel was filled with dishonest practice, cheatings, lyings, stealings and schemes.

## B. Contempt for God

Listen to Israel's conversations and watch their so called consecration to God.

Israel said "*when will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn?*"

Listen as they cry "*when will the sabbath be gone that we may set forth wheat?*"

Israel wanted the feast days and sabbath days to pass quickly so they could pursue their worldly gains.

Today we will not even slow down for a day or an hour to serve the Lord.

That's is why I admire a company like Chick-Fil-A who close on Sunday.

## C. Covetous Greed

Watch as Israel skimps their measures, boosts their prices and load dishonest scales.

They would create a crisis in order to promote further personal gains.

## D. Cruelty to Gentlemen

The rich made the poor further poor through high interest or usury.

Then the rich made the poor sell themselves into slavery to pay their debts.

In other words greed caused slavery.

We think slavery has been abolished, but merchants all across the nation enslave the common man.

\* There was a farmer who sold a pound of butter to the baker. The baker weighed the farmer's butter on several occasions. Finally the baker found he was not getting his money's worth and he took the farmer to court. The judge asked the farmer "I presume you have scales?" The farmer said "Yes, of course, Your Honor." "And weights?" the judge asked. "No," replied the farmer. "I do not have a set of weights." "Then how do you hope to weigh accurately the butter you sell to your neighbor?" the judge asked.

The farmer replied "Your Honor, long before the baker started buying butter from me, I have been buying a pound loaf of bread from him. Every day when the baker brings the bread, I put it on the scale and give him the same weight in butter. If the weight of the butter is wrong, the baker only has himself to blame."

**Amos 8: [7] The LORD hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works. [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. [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: [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.**

## 3. The Consequences of Israel's Deeds

7-10

Amos says "*the Lord hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, surely I will never forget any of their works.*"

"*The excellency of Jacob*", is the promise and presence of the Lord Himself.

God knows how Israel has returned to their former nature. Jacob means deceiver.

Remember God changed Jacob's name when Jacob desired the blessings of God, Genesis 32:24-32.

In verse 8, God will allow an evil enemy to invade and flood the land with oppression.

If the nation will oppress the poor, then God will see to it that the nation will be oppressed by an enemy.

In verse 9, God will cause the sun of prosperity to be suddenly taken away and darkness will rule. If the nation will serve sin, then God will see to it that the nation will fall into darkness.

In verse 10, God will turn the joy of the nations feasts into a time of mourning and weeping. God will cause the merry songs of the nation to be turned into lamentations for a funeral dearth.

God will cause the delightful apparel of the nation to be changed into the sackcloth of grief and agony. God will cause baldness upon every head as men shave their heads in sorrow. God will cause baldness upon every head as men pull out their hair in misery.

**Amos 8: [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:**  
**[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.**  
**[13] In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst.**  
**[14] They that swear by the sin of Samaria, and say, Thy god, O Dan, liveth; and, The manner of Beer-sheba liveth; even they shall fall, and never rise up again.**

#### **4. The Calamity of Deprivation 11-14**

God says that He will "*send a famine in the land of hearing the words of the Lord.*" God will send a spiritual famine to individuals, to the sanctuary and to the nation. The nation has rejected God's Word, so they will no longer have it available.

This is the sorest of all judgments, much greater than a famine of bread. The soul is superior to the body.

*"Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."*

It is obedience to the Word of God that severs sin from a nation. It is reverence to the Word of God that brings the blessings of God upon a nation.  
*Psalm 33:12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."*

God did not say there would be a shortage for preaching, but of hearing. There is much preaching, but are we preaching the word, are we preaching truth?

In verse 12, the famine is so bad that men would wander seeking the true word of God but could not find it. From the Malachi to where God spoke to Zacharias about the birth of John the Baptist was 400 silent years.

In verse 13, the spiritual drought will cause the strong to be weary as spiritual food is taken away.

In verse 14, God says those that continue to worship false gods are to be surely destroyed. The nation had false religion in Samaria, which is the golden calf of Bethel and the golden calf in Dan. The nation practiced worshipping false gods at Beersheba. As the enemy comes, the nation will rely on its false gods and they cannot deliver.

**Concl:** If anyone knew about crop failure and rotten fruit, it would be Amos the gatherer of sycamore fruit.