

The Book of Amos

Chapter 8

Chapter 8

- Vision of a Basket of Ripe Fruit
 - vs. 1 – the vision suggests a time of harvest.
 - Gaebelein – “The ripe fruit is a symbol that Israel was ripe for the harvest of judgment.”
 - vs. 2 – pass by – connects to the Vision of the Plumbline in 7:8, the idea that God has already weighed Israel’s guilt and judgment is surely ahead.
 - vs. 3 – There is a progression here – Singing > Howling > Silence
 - vs. 4-6 – Amos addresses the wealthy who are preying on the poor. He gives examples of their sin in that they:
 - vs. 4 - “swallow up the needy” – John Gill: “Like a man that pants after a draught of water when thirsty; and, when he has got it, greedily swallows it down at one gulp; so these rich men swallowed up the poor, their labours, gains, and profits, and persons too; got all into their own hands, and made them bondsmen and slaves to them; see Amos 2:7”
 - vs. 4 - “make the poor of the land to fail” – make it impossible for them to survive
 - vs. 5 – see the religious traditions as hindrances to their greed.
 - vs. 5 – use false measurements to gain an upper hand in business
 - vs. 6 – buy poor for silver – make them slaves because of their debts, even as small as for a pair of sandals.
 - vs. 6 – sell the refuse of the wheat – Barnes – “Literally, the “falling of wheat,” that is, what fell through the sieve, either the bran, or the thin, unfilled, grains which had no meal in them. This they mixed up largely with the meal, making a gain of that which they had once sifted out as worthless; or else, in a time of dearth, they sold to people what was the food of animals, and made a profit on it.”
 - vs. 7 – In 6:8 God said, “I abhor the excellency of Jacob”. If the usage is consistent here, it means that God is vowing to exterminate the sins of Israel because of their immense pride.
 - vs. 8 – This could be earthquake of 1:1. There is also evidence of a massive earthquake in the region around 750 B.C.
 - vs. 9 – Maybe fulfilled by a total solar eclipse on June 15, 762 B.C. - <https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEhistory/SEhistory.html>
 - vs. 11 – The worst famine imaginable!
 - vs. 11-13 – B.H. Carroll – “The final issue of judgment the prophet declared to be a famine of the words of the Lord, as a result of which there would come eager and fruitless search, followed by the fainting of youth because of their

thirst for a knowledge of God. All this finds fulfilment in the events which followed in the history of Israel. They were deprived of prophets and revelations after Amos and Hosea, and the captivity came according to this prophecy, during which they had no prophets in the strange land of their captivity.”

- vs. 14 – This is the purpose of the coming judgment – to purge Israel’s hearts of idolatry so they can turn back to God.