

Amos 8

A. Judgment Unrelented (7:7-9:10)

The basket of ripe fruit (ch. 8)

a. The vision (8:1-3)

b. The exposition (8:4-14)

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Vision of the Summer Fruit

¹ Thus the Lord GOD showed me: Behold, a basket of summer fruit. ² And He said, "Amos, what do you see?"
So I said, "A basket of summer fruit."
Then the LORD said to me:

Summer fruit: **יָיִץ** *kayitz* summer, summer-fruits. So why the comparison?

Summer fruits are delicious and sweet, but go rotten almost overnight. In like manner, the northern tribes of Israel, who think themselves a strong and prosperous nation, will be suddenly laid waste and dispersed.

Any nation that rejects the Kingship of God will face this same result.

"The end has come upon My people Israel;
I will not pass by them anymore.
³ And the songs of the temple
Shall be wailing in that day,"
Says the Lord GOD—
"Many dead bodies everywhere,
They shall be thrown out in silence."

In silence: **חָשָׁה** *hish'likh* has will-send-out hushed. The picture is of a city in siege. You need to get rid of the dead bodies due to

A second possibility: there will no one left in the family to mourn their dead, who are then simply discarded without ceremony.

⁴ Hear this, you who swallow up [fn1] the needy,
And make the poor of the land fail,

Swallow up: **הִשְׁאָפוּ** *ha-sho'afim* the 'panthers;' to gasp, pant, pant after, long for, breathe heavily

8:4 Or trample on (compare 2:7)

Pant after the dust of the earth...: **הִשְׁאָפוּ אַחַר עֹפֶרֶת-אֶרֶץ בְּרֹאשׁ דָּלִים** *ha-sho'afim al afar eretz b'rosh dalim* the 'snuffing

Perhaps a picture of unequal weights and measures which they forced on those who could not defend themselves against such treachery.

⁵ Saying:

"When will the New Moon be past,

That we may sell grain?
And the Sabbath,
That we may trade wheat?
Making the ephah small and the shekel large,
Falsifying the scales by deceit,
6 That we may buy the poor for silver,
And the needy for a pair of sandals—
Even sell the bad wheat?”

When will...: If you spend your Shabat lusting for doing your business, you miss the point entirely. It is a sign of rebellion from the Kingship of God to turn away from your God-given rest. See Sh'mot (Exodus) 16.4-5

4 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.
5 And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.”

Also 31.12-17

12 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 13 “Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it *is* a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that *you* may know that I *am* the LORD who sanctifies you. 14 You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for *it is* holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does *any* work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. 15 Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh *is* the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does *any* work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. 16 Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations *as* a perpetual covenant. 17 It *is* a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.’”

Luke 6.5 5 And He said to them, “The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.”

Ephah small, shekel large: Deceit in business makes God very angry.

vaYikra (Leviticus) 19.35-37

35 ‘You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume. 36 You shall have honest scales, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin: I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.
37 ‘Therefore you shall observe all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them: I *am* the LORD.’”

7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
“Surely I will never forget any of their works.
8 Shall the land not tremble for this,
And everyone mourn who dwells in it?
All of it shall swell like the River, [fn2]
Heave and subside
Like the River of Egypt.

The River: כְּאֵרֶב *kha-or* like the river, stream, canal, Nile, Nile-canal

River of Egypt: נְאִיר מִצְרַיִם *kiy'or mitz'rayim* like light of Egypt

8:8 That is, the Nile; some Hebrew manuscripts, Septuagint, Syriac, Targum, and Vulgate read *River*; Masoretic Text reads *the light*.

9 "And it shall come to pass in that day," says the Lord GOD,
"That I will make the sun go down at noon,
And I will darken the earth in broad daylight;
10 I will turn your feasts into mourning,
And all your songs into lamentation;
I will bring sackcloth on every waist,
And baldness on every head;
I will make it like mourning for an only *son*,
And its end like a bitter day.

11 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD,
"That I will send a famine on the land,
Not a famine of bread,
Nor a thirst for water,
But of hearing the words of the LORD.
12 They shall wander from sea to sea,
And from north to east;
They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD,
But shall not find *it*.

From north to east: any direction but south, to Jerusalem.

13 "In that day the fair virgins
And strong young men
Shall faint from thirst.
14 Those who swear by the sin [fn3] of Samaria,
Who say,
'As your god lives, O Dan!
And, 'As the way of Beersheba lives!
They shall fall and never rise again."

The sin of Samaria: בַּאֲשַׁמַּת שֹׁמְרוֹן *b'ash'mat shom'ron* in (guiltiness, guilt, offense, sin, wrong-doing) Samaria

8:14 Or *Ashima*, a Syrian goddess

Taken in context with verse 10 and the rest of verse 14, it appears the guilt of Samaria is the turning away from the commands of God to invent their own religion.