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Amos 8

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Learn the Bible with Friends

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Amos 8.

Topics.

- The coming day of bitter mourning.
- The sins of Israel.
- The LORD sees all the sins of Israel.
- Enormous mourning and lamentation.
- A famine of the word of the LORD.
- Israel will fall and never rise.

NOTE: for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

AMOS 8:1-3

The Coming Day of Bitter Mourning.

- **Amos 8:1-3:** This is what the Lord GOD showed me (Amos): behold, a basket of summer fruit. ²And he said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me, "The end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass by them. ³The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day," declares the Lord GOD. "So many dead bodies!" "They are thrown everywhere!" " Silence!"

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Amos in a vision being played out in his mind sees one basket of summer fruit. This could be interpreted in two ways:

1. The harvest is collected and all it produced was one basket of fruit, symbolising great famine.
2. Symbolically the basket could be seen as a symbol of spiritual fruit, justice, kindness, righteousness and helping the poor etc. In these things the people of Judah and Israel are sadly lacking, so much so that the LORD says He will not pass by them again, meaning He will not overlook their gross sin and corrupt ways anymore

AMOS 8:4-6

The Sins of Israel.

- **Amos 8:4-6:** Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, ⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, ⁶that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

The people of Israel were:

- Oppressing and destroying the less fortunate and the poor because they did not want them in the land.
- Wanting the religious days and Sabbaths to be over so they could do business and make more money.

- Deceiving people into paying more for their products than they were actually worth by using false balances.
- Using the poor and less fortunate for cheap labour.
- Selling the waste of their food (what others would throw away) to the poor.

AMOS 8:7-8

The LORD sees all the Sins of Israel.

- **Amos 8:7-8:** The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. ⁸Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who dwells in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?"

The LORD renamed Jacob, Israel he was the father of twelve Sons who became the twelve tribes of Israel, this is why the name Jacob refers to the nation of Israel. God says, the people of Israel will be in terror because of their pride, rebellion and corrupt ways. The Nile River is the longest in the world it covers some four-thousand miles from its sources in equatorial Africa to its divided mouth which open into the Mediterranean. During the annual rain season its waters would rise, overflow its banks and later recede, the LORD says, such will be the people of Israel.

AMOS 8:9-10

Enormous Mourning and Lamentation.

- **Amos 8:9-10:** And on that day (the day the LORD judges Israel), declares the Lord GOD, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. ¹⁰I 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 the mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day.

The day the LORD intervenes and judges Israel will be a day of great sorrow, mourning and lamentation, so much so that God likens it to the sorrow of parents whose only child has died.

AMOS 8:11-12

A Famine of the Word of the LORD.

- **Amos 8:11-12:** "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when 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. ¹²They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.

A famine of hearing the words of the LORD means there will be no prophets in the land.

AMOS 8:13-14

Israel will Fall and Never Rise.

- **Amos 8:13-14:** "In that day (the day the LORD judges Israel) the lovely virgins and the young men shall faint for thirst. ¹⁴Those who swear by the Guilt of Samaria, and say, 'As your god lives, O Dan,' and, 'As the Way of Beersheba lives,' they shall fall, and never rise again."

Samaria Old Testament: was the capital city of the northern kingdom of Israel (the ten tribes). It was established in idolatry and a tradition of luxury, vice and paganism by Ahab and Jezebel his Phoenician bride. Amos, Micah, Isaiah and Hosea raised their protest against Ahab's and Jezebels paganism. Eventually Assyrian conquest brought the utter doom to Samaria, which the prophets had predicted. Today Samaria is called Syria.

Dan: Jeroboam set up a golden calf in Dan and put high places throughout Israel. The city of Dan marked the northern limit of Israel in the common expression, "from Dan to Beersheba"

Beersheba: was the most southerly town in the kingdom of Judah, the expression from Dan to Beersheba is employed to designate the northern and southern extremities of the nations of Israel. Amos was constrained to rebuke the idolatrous tendencies which he saw infiltrating into the religious life of Beersheba from Bethel and from Dan (Amos 8:14).

As Samaria's god lives: (v14) refers to the two golden calves Jeroboam set up at the worship centres at Bethel and Dan.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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