

SO DONE WITH YOU / Sunday, June 28, 2015

Unifying Topic: **GOD WILL NEVER FORGET**

Lesson Text

I. **A Vision From God** (Amos 8:1-3)

II. **Judgment Is Coming** (Amos 8:4-6)

III. **The Day Of The Lord** (Amos 8:9-10)

The Main Thought: 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.. (Amos 8:2, KJV).

Unifying Principle: Some people are so deep into deceit and cheating others that they ignore warnings and must live with the consequences of their wicked ways. What happens to those who do not heed a warning? Amos says that God will no longer overlook their misdeeds and will destroy them for all time.

Lesson Aim: To address how the people of God react to personal and corporate complicity in unjust practices.

Life Aim: To nurture personal responsibility to address both personal and communal unjust practices.

HISTORY:

Chapter 7 - ¹The Lord showed Amos a series of visions foretelling the destruction of Israel, Amos pleaded with God on Israel's behalf. In the first vision he saw a swarm of locusts ready to destroy the harvest (v. 1). Instead of rejoicing because God's sinful people were getting what they deserved Amos cried out in anguish and begged God to forgive (v.2). So, the Lord granted the prophet's request (v.3).

The next vision Amos saw was "*judgment by fire*" to destroy the crops and dry up the underground water supply (v.4). Once again Amos pled with God to relent and judgment was delayed (vv.5-6). After this, Amos is given the vision of a straight wall where the Lord is standing by it with a plumb line (vv.7-9). Because Israel's conduct didn't "*square*" with God's laws, they experienced God's wrath.

An encounter between Amos and Amaziah occurred at Bethel, the king's sanctuary. Amaziah, the priest who officiated at Bethel, wanted to please his leaders. In an effort to sabotage Amos's ministry, Amaziah sent word to Jeroboam II accusing Amos of trying to overthrow him, which will lead to rebellion all across the land. Amaziah then tells Amos to flee into the land of Judah and not to come again; not to show his face again prophesying in Bethel, for it's the king's chapel and king's court (vv.10-13).

Amos gives a simple reference to who he was and how he came to be commissioned by God to prophesy to the people of Israel. It was a sovereign act of God who took a most unlikely person from a most unlikely place and gave him the highest privileges to proclaim the message of God (vv.14-15). Amos ignores Amaziah's request: to not prophesy in Bethel. Then Amos delivers a prophecy against Amaziah. Amaziah's wife would be a harlot, his sons and daughters would be slain, his land would be taken away from him, and he himself would die in a polluted land, and Israel would go into captivity; led into Assyrian exile (vv.16-17).

LESSON:

Amos 8:1-3 A Vision From God

8:1 Thus hath the Lord God shewed unto me: and behold a basket of summer fruit. The vision shown to Amos by God was of a basket of summer fruit. Workers put their fruit in baskets and this gathering of fruit was the last harvest of the year. As fruit was ripened by the summer's sun, so Israel was fully ripe for judgment. Therefore, the basket of summer fruit was Israel's final warning to repent.

8:2 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. The Lord asked Amos, what did he see, and Amos answered a basket of summer fruit. The Lord lets Amos know that the end will come very soon for the people of Israel; there is no more mercy. It was the end of the harvest and it was the end for

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/visions-of-judgment/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

Israel. God's long-suffering had run out. There had been no repentance by Israel!

8:3 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. The word "*temple*" refers both to a palace or a temple. Their songs will be turned into howlings and wailing because of the dead bodies that will be strewn about everywhere. In view of such death and devastation, the only fitting response will be mourning or silence. So deep will be their grief, that at this time, words will utterly fail; and those who are responsible of disposing the bodies, will go about their work in silence.

Amos 8:4-6 Judgment Is Coming

8:4 Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail,— Amos speaks to those who become rich at the expense of others.

1. They that swallow up (rob and are dishonest to) the needy.
2. They that make the poor of the land to fail.

8:5 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?— Amos continues:

3. They that kept the religious observances but not in spirit; not in sincerity, such as, the new moon and Sabbath observances. They couldn't wait for the holy days to be over so they could go back to making money; go back to selling corn; setting up their wheat to be sold.
4. They that defraud the poor by deflating the size of the measure, while at the same time inflating their prices; making the ephah (*unit of dry measure...*) small, and the shekel (*unit of measure...*) great.
5. They also used scales that do not weigh honestly.

8:6 That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the wheat?—

6. They enslave the poor by buying them for silver and the needy for a pair of shoes; and selling them for moldy wheat.

Rather than helping their poor neighbors, the rich and powerful were using their money and power to put the poor and needy people into slavery.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON VERSES 7-8

8:7 The Lord hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works. God swears by Himself will never forget Israel's deeds of the oppression of the poor.

8:8 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. Amos used four illustrations to describe the terror coming to Israel.

1. Earthquake (v.8)
2. Darkness (v.9)
3. Funeral (v.10)
4. Famine (vv.11-14)

Jehovah will pour out judgment against the land, and it will be severe, that the land will shake and every dweller in it will mourn. The land will writhe under the impact of the judgment as though it were struck by an earthquake. All of it shall rise like the annual flooding of the Nile; covering everything and leaving destruction, sinking like the river of Egypt.

Amos 8:9-10 The Day Of The Lord

8:9 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:— There will also be a phenomena in the heavens. The sun to go down at noon, and the earth will be darken at a time when normally it is broad daylight.

8:10 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. Their feasts will be turned into mourning; their festivals into funerals. They will be made to wear sackcloth and shave their heads. These will be the signs of deepest mourning, and the whole day will be one of bitterness and sorrow, including their songs. It will be like mourning one's only son; bitter will be that day. This is reminiscent of the darkness that covered the earth when God's only Son died for the sins of Israel and the whole world.

SUMMARY:

²Amos saw a basket of summer fruit gathered, and ready to be eaten; which signified, that the people were ripe for judgment, that the year of God's patience was drawing towards a conclusion (**vv.1-3**). God had appointed a day of judgment for Samaria and when that day finally came, the sounds of worship in the temple would turn to wailing and bodies would be flung everywhere (v. 3).

The reason for this devastation is given (**vv.4-6**). The rich and powerful were keeping the religious festivals, but not in spirit. They couldn't wait for the holy days to be over so they could go back to making money. They were so interested in becoming rich that they would cheat and short-change the quality, even selling chaff as wheat.

He will cause the sun to go down at noon, and will darken the earth in the broad daylight (**v.9**). All of this will take place when He turns their feasts into mourning and all their songs into lamenting (**v.10**).

² <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/the-vision-of-summer-fruit/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>