

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

June 2014

Amos

Lesson #5: Ripe Fruit Basket

INTRODUCTION

If food in the US becomes scarce, what will you miss the most?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: While the word “basket” is the key to the fourth vision, the significance of the summer fruit well along in the ripening process should not be overlooked. The ripening process is (1) gradual in its outset, (2) swift in its conclusion, (3) ruinous in its end (if ripening is permitted to continue on to over ripening and ruin) , and (4) is irreversible. So this basket of late summer fruit was a good illustration of the corruption of Israel.¹

Read Amos 8:1-3

1. If people’s wickedness had grown, what is the implication of ripe fruit? What was ripe?
2. What are the chances they can escape punishment? Eze 7:2-9
3. What will be the effect of an invading force?

Read 8:4-6

Note: Apparently they also rigged the scales in their favor (8:5b). Verification of the situation described by Amos was discovered by archaeologists in Tirzah, one of the leading cities of northern Israel. Two sets of weights were found, one for buying and one for selling.²

4. Instead of enjoying the religious feasts that were created for their enjoyment, what were the rich people (merchants) doing?
5. What does this say about God’s view of those that pretend to worship Him, but are more interested in making a profit (covetousness)? How is this different today?

Read Amos 8:7-10

Note: The Pride of Jacob normally refers to Israel’s (promised) land but here it seems to be another title for God.

6. What were some of the punishments that Israel should expect?
7. What is the significance of the land and nature being used for their doom (instead of an invading force)?

Read Amos 8:11-14

Note: The people mentioned in vs 14 are various forms of calf worshippers (idolaters). Ex 20:4-6

8. What did a famine of the word of God look like in Amos’ time? Vs 11 Today?
9. Why was it harder on the young? v 13

APPLICATION

How ripe is your fruit basket (of sin)? What can you do to change it? 1 Jn 1:9

How open are you to hearing from God? What would you do to hear better? 2 Chron 7:14

^{1 2} Smith, J. E. (1994). *The Minor Prophets* (Am 8:1–3; 4-6). Joplin, MO: College Press.