

The Biography of the Basket

Amos 8: 1-3; 11-13

Amos is among those known as the Minor Prophets, but we must never associate their recognition as a “minor prophet” in regard to their message. The books of the Minor Prophets are shorter in length than those of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, but they too had a word from God. The words that God spoke through these men were just as powerful and relevant as the others. They may not be as well known in our day, but they shared a message that needed to be heard and heeded.

Amos was not the typical prophet, one of the priestly lines. In fact he was a shepherd, a herdsman, but he had the call of God on his life. Many rejected the words of this shepherd, but in doing so they rejected the words of God. I pray that you won't make the same mistake and ignore the truth of God's word in these verses. Amos preached to Israel prior to the Assyrian captivity, but there is application for our lives as well. We live in a day and an environment much like that which Amos faced.

I want to take a few moments to look at the details God reveals concerning this basket of summer fruit as we think on the thought: [The Biography of the Basket](#).

I. The Vision of the Summer Basket (1-3) – Here God shows Amos a vision of a basket of summer fruit. This basket reveals much about the state that Israel is in. America can also be seen in this vision. This was a time very much like our time. Notice it was:

A. A Delusional Time (1-2a) – [Thus hath the Lord God shewed unto me: and behold a basket of summer fruit. And he said, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A basket of summer fruit.](#)

God chose to show Amos this basket for a purpose. He knew that Amos would see and understand what God was saying. The fruit represents the arrogant attitude of Israel. This was fruit that was harvested in the summer months, the last of the harvest, after a successful year. Israel saw themselves as prosperous and blessed. They were so consumed in their own lives and prosperity that they were blinded to their spiritual condition. Amos had preached that God would soon send judgment, but they rejected his words of warning.

- Many today live a delusional life. They have a steady job, making a good living. Many are young and feel as if trouble will never come. Life is lived in light of material gain and satisfaction. Oh how we need to open our eyes to the truth of God's word. Our land is in desperate need of a move of God. Churches are filled with lost people who have never trusted Christ! It is time for us to wake up to the truth!

- Consider what Jesus said to the church of Laodicea. [Rev.3:15-17 – I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:](#)

B. A Definitive Time (2b) – [Then said the Lord unto me, the end is come upon my people of Israel.](#) God showed Amos their ways and their arrogance. He was telling Amos that Israel had gone too far; they had spurned His mercy and conviction and judgment would come. Israel had crossed the line with God.

- We like to think of God as a God of love and mercy, and I'm thankful that He is, but God is also a holy God who will judge sin. You are living in a definitive time right now. God is dealing with you about areas in your life. He is pleading in mercy to hear His voice. Mercy will not last forever.

- Just as with Israel, it is possible to reject the call of God for the last time. It is possible to cross the line with God and face His judgment. There are those whom God has dealt with time and again, but they rejected His call for the last time.

- We are not promised another opportunity. God is not obligated to put up with our iniquities on and on. You might soon reach the point of no return. God may turn you over to a reprobate mind so that you will never feel His convicting Spirit again. [Rom.1:28 – And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.](#) Don't let this be the day that you rejected God for the last time, defining your eternal destiny!

C. A Dismal Time (2b-3) – [I will not again pass by them any more. 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.](#) God makes a disturbing statement to Amos; He will not pass by Israel any more. They have chosen the life of sin and rebellion and God has given them their desire. He has decided to leave them alone to engage in their sinful lusts.

- It is a dismal time when the Lord removes His Spirit from among men. It is a dreadful time when the Lord allows men to have their desires of sin. Their joy and happiness will soon be turned to grief and sorrow. Their songs of rejoicing will soon become cries of despair.

- Friend you are blessed to be here today. If God has touched your heart, count yourself blessed beyond measure because God is still dealing with you. I have never experienced what Israel did, but I have talked with some who have. It is a miserable existence to never feel the touch of God. It is a horrifying thought to think that God will never touch your heart again in drawing toward salvation. It is difficult to live without hope for the future, fearing eternal condemnation. I am trying to warn you because I care for you.

I. The Vision of the Summer Basket (1-3)

II. The Verdict of the Spiritual Bread (11-13) – It is here that God reveals to Amos the judgment that He will send. It will be a famine unlike they have ever known before. Let's take a moment to consider the famine.

A. The Surety of the Famine (11a) – Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land. Some dark days lay ahead for Israel. God Himself was going to allow them to be taken captive from the land of plenty that He had given. The day of mercy would soon end as their captors came to carry out God's judgment. The seeds that Israel had sown would soon be reaped.

- God will not wink at sin. If we are unwilling to repent, He will bring judgment. When mercy is rejected, all that remains is judgment. Gal.6:7-8 – Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

B. The Severity of the Famine (11b-12) – I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it. This would not be a famine of bread or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the word of God. When Israel found themselves in captivity, there was no word from the Lord. He was no longer speaking to them through His word. They had made their choice and now God would be silent. They would seek near and far for a word from God, but it would not be found.

- We are drawing closer to that day in America. There are those who want nothing more than to silence the church and the word of God. Can you imagine the depravity of this world if the word of God were no longer being preached? Can you imagine the depths that men would sink to if there were no witness from God?

- Lost person don't let this be the situation in your life. Don't reject the call of God on your life. Don't leave this place today mad, feeling as if I have been mean to you. You don't want to live apart from the tender call of God.

- This is the worst kind of famine that America could ever face. Church we must not take the Word of God for granted. Read it; study it; share it, and live by it!

C. The Silence of the Famine (13) – In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst. Church I want to close today with a challenge for you. As I studied this text, this verse troubled my heart. A famine of the word of God will have a devastating impact on our youth. The young people are the ones who would suffer the most.

- I am very thankful for those who helped mold my life. I am thankful for Sunday school teachers who taught me the word of God as a child. I am thankful for a pastor who loved me enough to preach the truth unto me without compromise.
- The teaching of the word of God had a profound impact on my life. If we abandon the ways of God and refuse to take a stand, what will be left for our children? Who will be there to teach them the right way? We need to seek the Lord as never before.
- Without the word of God being preached and taught, this world will slip into darkness. I don't want the lives of my children to be lived in silence to the word of God.

I am sure that these verses have spoken to hearts here today. If we would be honest we all need a desire to be closer to the Lord. If you are here today lost, I beg you to come while the Lord is dealing with you. This could very well be your last opportunity. God may never pass by your way again.

Christian how is your life today? Are you living a life that meets God's holy standard? Do you desire your children and grandchildren to hear the word of God? Why not come and seek the Lord today? He has the power to save as well as restore. Whatever you need today, come!