

The background image is a landscape photograph. It features rolling, dry hills in shades of brown and tan. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, dry grass. In the middle ground, a calm body of water reflects the sky. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, creating a somber and atmospheric mood. The overall color palette is muted, with earthy tones and greys.

*RIPE BASKETS
ROTTEN HEARTS*

AMOS 8

This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, a basket of summer fruit. And 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. The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day,” declares the Lord GOD. “So many dead bodies!” “They are thrown everywhere!” “Silence!”

AMOS 8:1-3

**Ripeness is not a condition that lasts indefinitely.
Ripeness is the final stage before decay.**

This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, a basket of summer fruit. And 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. The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day,” declares the Lord GOD. “So many dead bodies!” “They are thrown everywhere!” “Silence!”

AMOS 8:1-3

**They had not stopped singing.
God had stopped listening.**

**Hear this, you who trample on the needy
and bring the poor of the land to an end,**

AMOS 8:4

“God knows my heart.”

**Do not be negligent of the reality that He also knows
the rhythms of our lives, our habits, our actions.**

**saying, “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,**

AMOS 8:5

**God does not merely hear what we sing.
He knows what we are thinking about while we sing.**

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: “Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. Shall 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?” “And on that day,” declares the Lord GOD, “I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. 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 the mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day.

AMOS 8:7-10



**“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD,
“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.**

AMOS 8:11

They 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.

AMOS 8:12



Those 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."

AMOS 8:14

Every other god upon which you build your life will eventually fall and remain fallen. Jesus entered death and rose on the third day. He declares, "I died, and behold I am alive forevermore."

Seek the Lord while He may be found. Listen while He is speaking. Open the Bible you already own. Receive correction while your heart can still be convicted. Do not wait for silence to teach you what you should have treasured while God was speaking. Do not assume that because the fruit still looks good, the season will never end. Do not mistake prosperity for approval, religious activity for genuine worship, or God's patience for permission. The God who warned Israel is speaking to us through His Word today, and the fact that we can still hear His voice is evidence of His mercy.

