

# Judgment & Hope

## Amos 8-9

### Intro

This morning we will wrap up our study of the book of Amos by moving through Amos 8-9 in a message I have entitled ***Judgment & Hope...***

### **Amos 8 (NKJV)**

**1 Thus the Lord GOD showed me:  
Behold, a basket of summer fruit.**

**Lord GOD** — *Sovereign Yahweh...[expand]*

This **basket of summer fruit** is a basket of ripe fruit...[expand]

**2 And He said, "Amos, what do you see?"  
So I said, "A basket of summer fruit."**

- [expand on scene — God asks questions not because He needs information — but to help us understand the situation...]

*To see an example of this, please turn to...*

### **Matthew 16:13-16 (NKJV)**

**13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"**

**14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."**

15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

**APPLICATION** — *What are the questions that God is asking you in this season of life?...[expand]*

*Please turn back to Amos 8 as we continue on in vs 2...*

**Then the LORD said to me:**

**"The end has come upon My people Israel;  
I will not pass by them anymore.**

Like summer fruit that was ripe for eating — the Israelites were ripe for judgment...

- Just as the ripe summer fruit was brought in at the end of the harvest, so it was time for Israel to be harvested in judgment...

Tragically, because of the lack of repentance of the Israelites, judgment would fall upon them...

- ***And this is a reminder that judgment will be a reality for all who refuse to repent...***

*To remind ourselves of the final judgment for all who fail to repent, please turn to...*

## Revelation 20:11-15 (NKJV)

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

This is the coming judgment for all who refuse to repent and trust in the Lord Jesus...

- *But it doesn't have to be that way — there is still time — anyone who turns to the Lord Jesus by faith will escape the judgment to come...*

## John 5:24 (NKJV)

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

*Please turn back to Amos 8 as we move into vs...*

**3 And the songs of the temple  
Shall be wailing in that day,"  
Says the Lord GOD—**

When judgment falls on Israel, all of the *false worship* in the temple will be cut off and it will be replaced by **wailing**...

**"Many dead bodies everywhere,  
They shall be thrown out in silence."**

The Israelites killed in the invasion will be thrown out — like rotten fruit — and there will be no ceremony for them — no memorial services — it will be silent...

- [ex. contrast between funerals in peace time and people killed in wartime (mass graves)...] ]

This is one of the great tragedies of living an ***away-from-God life*** — there is no lasting dignity for the human being who fully and finally rejects God...

- Because human beings ***only have dignity because they are made in God's image — because they are loved by God — and because God desires to honor and glorify them as they live in relationship with Him...***

***However, if a human being rejects these realities — rejects the truth that they have been made in the image of God — rejects the love of God and refuses to love God in return...***

***If a person refuses to honor and glorify God and refuses the honor and glory that God seeks to give them — then what is left?...***

That human being remains lost — remains under judgment for their sins...

- That human being has refused to fulfill the very purpose for which he was created — the purpose of living in loving relationship with the God who created him...

But once again, it does not have to end this way — the lost person does not have to stay lost...

*For a reminder of this wonderful truth, please turn to...*

### **Ephesians 2:1-10 (NKJV)**

**1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,**

**2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,**

**3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.**

**4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,**

**5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),**

**6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,**

**7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

**8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,**

**9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

**10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

*Please turn back to Amos 8 as we move into vs 4-6...*

**4 Hear this, you who swallow up the needy,  
And make the poor of the land fail,**

**5 Saying:**

**"When will the New Moon be past,**

**That we may sell grain?**

**And the Sabbath,**

**That we may trade wheat?**

**Making the ephah small and the shekel large,**

**Falsifying the scales by deceit,**

**6 That we may buy the poor for silver,**

**And the needy for a pair of sandals—**

**Even sell the bad wheat?"**

The ungodly rich of Israel were not concerned with worshipping the Lord at the New Moon or the Sabbath...

They were only concerned with getting the New Moon and Sabbath over with so they could get to what was really important — *making more money...*

- But it wasn't only about making money — it was about making money through deceitful means — it was about ripping people off — and it was about enslaving the poor...

***APPLICATION — Beware of focusing your life on making money instead of focusing on serving the Lord...***

This is a very subtle trap to fall into — *because we should work hard and make money to provide for our families...*

- But it is very easy for the making of money to take priority over our relationship with God...

*And when that happens, everything begins to go sideways...*

**Luke 16:13 (NKJV)**

**“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”**

*Continuing on in Amos 8 to vs...*

**7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:**

- [expand — God swearing by Himself? — He should have been the **pride of Jacob...**]

*God should be our pride — He should be the one that we boast in...*

**Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NKJV)**

**23 Thus says the LORD:**

**"Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom,  
Let not the mighty man glory in his might,  
Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;**

**24 But let him who glories glory in this,  
That he understands and knows Me,  
That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and  
righteousness in the earth.  
For in these I delight," says the LORD.**

**Galatians 6:14 (NKJV)**

**But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our  
Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to  
me, and I to the world.**

***REMINDER — When we feel the need to boast — let's make  
boast of the Lord — boasting of who He is and what He has  
done...***

*Continuing on in Amos 8:7...*

**The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:**

**"Surely I will never forget any of their works.**

God swears that He will not forget the evil works that Israel has committed...



This is a vital truth — God never simply forgets evil works — those evil works must be repented of and someone must atone for them — someone must pay for them...

- Wonderfully, the Lord Jesus has paid for our sins on the cross and anyone who comes to Him in faith will have their sin debt forgiven...

*For a reminder of this truth, please turn to...*

### **Hebrews 10:11-14 (NKJV)**

**11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.**

**12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,**

**13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.**

**14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**

*Let's turn back to Amos 8 as we move into vs...*

**8 Shall the land not tremble for this,  
And everyone mourn who dwells in it?  
All of it shall swell like the River,  
Heave and subside  
Like the River of Egypt.**

Just like the flooding and receding of the Nile River greatly affects the people of Egypt, so God's judgment would greatly affect Israel...

- There would be trembling and mourning in the land of Israel as a result of God's judgment...

**9 "And it shall come to pass in that day,"  
says the Lord GOD,  
"That I will make the sun go down at noon,  
And I will darken the earth in broad daylight;**

- [expand — metaphor for Jeroboam II's reign being cut short?...]

**10 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 mourning for an only son,  
And its end like a bitter day.**

- [expand — all good would be extinguished — there would be no hope for the future for those who fall in judgment...]

***"Abandon all hope, ye who enter here"...***

**11 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD,  
"That 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.**

**12 They shall wander from sea to sea,  
And from north to east;  
They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD,  
But shall not find it.**

Because the people had refused to hear the Word of God from the prophets, God was going to cut off His communication with the Israelites who go into judgment...

***PRINCIPLE — If a person willingly receives the Word of God then more of the Word of God will be given — if a person refuses the Word of God then the Word of God will be withdrawn...[expand]***

*For more on this subject, please turn to...*

**Matthew 10:11-15 (NKJV)**

**11 "Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out.**

**12 And when you go into a household, greet it.**

**13 If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.**

**14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.**

**15 Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!**

*Now please turn to...*

**Acts 13:42-46 (NKJV)**

**42 So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.**

**43 Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.**

**44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.**

**45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.**

**46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.**

*Please turn back to Amos 8 as we move into vs 13-14...*

**13 "In that day the fair virgins  
And strong young men  
Shall faint from thirst.**

**14 Those who swear by the sin of Samaria,  
Who say,  
'As your god lives, O Dan!'  
And, 'As the way of Beersheba lives!'  
They shall fall and never rise again."**

Both young and old will fall to the Assyrians and the false gods that the Israelites worshipped would not be able to deliver them...

*Let's move on to...*

### **Amos 9 (NKJV)**

**1 I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and He said:  
"Strike the doorposts, that the thresholds may shake,  
And break them on the heads of them all.  
I will slay the last of them with the sword.  
He who flees from them shall not get away,  
And he who escapes from them shall not be delivered.**

- [expand — the Lord breaking down the false worship system of Israel and punishing the false worshipers...]

***REMINDER — Every false god will be destroyed one day — every false religious system will be ended...[expand]***

*Continuing on in Amos 9 to vs 2-4...*

**2 "Though they dig into hell [Sheol (abode of the dead)],  
From there My hand shall take them;  
Though they climb up to heaven,  
From there I will bring them down;**

**3 And though they hide themselves on top of Carmel,  
From there I will search and take them;  
Though they hide from My sight at the bottom of the sea,  
From there I will command the serpent, and it shall bite them;**

**4 Though they go into captivity before their enemies,  
From there I will command the sword,**

**And it shall slay them.  
I will set My eyes on them for harm and not for good.”**

*There is no place for the people to hide from the judgment of God because you cannot hide from an Omnipresent God...*

**Revelation 6:15-17 (NKJV)**

**15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,**

**16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!**

**17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"**

**Revelation 20:11 (NKJV)**

**Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.**

*Moving on in Amos 9 to vs...*

**5 The Lord GOD of hosts,  
He who touches the earth and it melts,  
And all who dwell there mourn;  
All of it shall swell like the River,  
And subside like the River of Egypt.**

**6 He who builds His layers in the sky,  
And has founded His strata in the earth;**

**Who calls for the waters of the sea,  
And pours them out on the face of the earth—  
The LORD is His name.**

The Lord GOD — Sovereign Yahweh — is Creator, Sustainer, and Judge — and all who choose to live in rebellion against Him will fall...

**7 "Are you not like the people of Ethiopia to Me,  
O children of Israel?" says the LORD.**

**"Did I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt,  
The Philistines from Caphtor,  
And the Syrians from Kir?**

**8 "Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are on the sinful  
kingdom,  
And I will destroy it from the face of the earth;  
Yet I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob,"  
Says the LORD.**

**9 "For surely I will command,  
And will sift the house of Israel among all nations,  
As grain is sifted in a sieve;  
Yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground.**

**10 All the sinners of My people shall die by the sword,  
Who say, 'The calamity shall not overtake nor confront us.'**

The Lord GOD is the judge of *all* the nations — and He will judge Israel — but He will not bring a complete end to them because He still has purposes for them...

*Now, as we move into the last section of Amos, we see hope for the future in what I understand to be the Millennial Kingdom of Christ...*

## ***Israel Will Be Restored***

**11 "On that day I will raise up  
The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down,  
And repair its damages;  
I will raise up its ruins,  
And rebuild it as in the days of old;**

**12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom,  
And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,"  
Says the LORD who does this thing.**

- [expand — restoration of the Kingdom of David — with the Lord Jesus ruling and reigning — and Gentiles will be a part of this kingdom...]

**13 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD,  
"When the plowman shall overtake the reaper,  
And the treader of grapes him who sows seed;  
The mountains shall drip with sweet wine,  
And all the hills shall flow with it.**

In the Millennial Kingdom, the earth will be incredibly fruitful and the laborers will be tripping over one another as they seek to harvest and plant...

**14 I will bring back the captives of My people Israel;  
They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them;  
They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them;  
They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.**

**15 I will plant them in their land,  
And no longer shall they be pulled up  
From the land I have given them,"**



**Says the LORD your God.**

- [expand — future blessings for restored Israel...]

***This is a prophecy of hope...***

***(1) hope for the restoration of the Davidic dynasty***

***(2) hope for the conversion of the nations***

***(3) hope for the fruitfulness of the land***

***(4) hope for Israel's return from captivity***

***(5) hope for the rebuilding of the waste cities***

***(6) hope for Israel's permanent settlement in the holy land***

## **Conclusion**

*And this is the subject that I want to end our study on — the subject of hope for the future...*

- *So I will read the familiar words of hope that God delivered through the prophet Jeremiah in...*

### **Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NKJV)**

**11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.**

**12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.**

**13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.**