Amos 8 OUTLINE

Trinity Church Sermon | 7.20.25 | Amos 8:1-2

# Intro

* Amos Series
	+ **Context** – fig farmer from Tekoa (southern Judah), making him an outside voice to Israel
	+ God used Amos to teach the prosperous and stable nation of Israel that, even though they were wealthy and experiencing peace, they were far from God’s will because they exploited the poor and viewed worship more as a social activity than a spiritual practice.
	+ Although this series may be abrasive and potentially more convicting than others, I believe the context of Israel in this period has more similarities to our modern society than any other time in the Old Testament. For that reason, I’m eager to learn from what God said to Israel at this time because I suspect He is delivering similar messages to us today.

# Text

**Amos 8:1-2 (NIV)**

This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: a basket of ripe fruit. **2**“What do you see, Amos?” he asked.

“A basket of ripe fruit,” I answered.

Then the Lord said to me, “The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.”

# “Ripe Fruit”

There is so much beauty and depth in these 2 verses we’re going to dig into in a bit. But first, the timing of my getting to preach on this verse is so perfect.

On the list of my top five favorite foods. Not just any mango, but one fresh from the tree. I first experienced this in college during a trip to Haiti, and just two weeks ago, a team of us was in Nicaragua. To my delight, the place we stayed had three mango trees, and as the mangos ripen, they fall to the ground.

You have to get the mangos right after they fall, by the end of the day they are black, rotten, and filled with bugs.

Within moments of arriving, before I even found my room or put my bags down, I walked around the mango trees looking for that ever-evasive perfectly ripe mango, and let me show you what I found (SHOW MANGO PICTURE)

This was honestly the best mango I found all week. You look up in these massive trees and see dozens, perhaps hundreds of green mangos, and then you look around on the ground and you see dozens of rotten mangoes, but it is so rare to find a perfectly ripe mango, and when you do, you do not hesitate or it may spoil.

Remember**, Amos was a fruit farmer himself,** so he was all-too familiar with the reality that ripe fruit, when removed from the tree or cut off the vine is no longer increasing ripeness, but rather constantly nearing the state of rot. Scholars agree that the bowl of was not of mangos, or any other fruit, but specifically of the summer harvest of figs – Amos’s livelihood.

# Word Study

The first layer of profound insight in these verses is that the image of ripe vs. rotten figs to Amos represents a contrast between a life of plenty and a life of scarcity. Ripe fruit is his livelihood.

The second layer is the actual dialogue between Amos and God.

God could have easily shown Amos an image of fruit, and said “this is ripe fruit about to rot”. God, however, asks Amos to say it. There is profound meaning in this:

The Hebrew word for "summer fruit" *qayits* (קַיִץ) sounds like the word for “end” – *qes* (קֵץ)

These words are homophones, meaning they sound the same but have different meanings.

When God asks Amos to identify what he sees, Amos means to say “I see ripe fruit,” but he also says “I see the end.”

God asks Amos to identify this basket of ripe figs to help him see it not as a sign of profit but as a warning that the end is near. The fruit is no longer on the vine; it has been cut off from its life source, and if they do not act now, it will rot and go to waste.

# Wasting Chances

God has gifted me with an abundance of patience with my children. I say this not to boast – in fact quite the opposite. My son Ezra, however, has his own God given gifts. Ezra has been chosen by God as the person on this planet with the ability to humble me quicker than any other person, thing, or situation. Ezra knows every little button to push and string to pull to get me to wear down.

There is a phrase I’ve been using more and more with Ezra. “Ezra, I’ve given you chances where I will be patient with you, but you have wasted all of them – this is your last chance. If you disobey again, there will be a consequence.” This is essentially what God is saying to the nation of Israel through Amos.

The Israelites have been blessed with wealth, peace, and prosperity for a long time, but their ruthless neglect and exploitation of the poor, weak, sick, widows, and orphans is causing God to spare them no longer.

**Loving vs. Indifferent Father**

What we observe throughout the entire book of Amos is not God’s indifference, but His love for His people. An indifferent father disciplines his children without warning or explanation. A loving Father provides His children with an understanding of why they are being disciplined and offers a chance to correct their behavior before discipline becomes necessary.

And we see that Amos’s prophecy does in fact come true when Assyria destroyed and overthrew the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 BC.

# Gospel – Jesus

We know that is not the end of the story. We know that Amos speaks to God’s people for a specific time and place, and we also know that God’s mercies never run out.

Lamentations 3:22-23
**22**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Lamentations%203%3A22-23&version=ESV#fen-ESV-20377a)]
    his mercies never come to an end;
**23**they are new every morning;
    great is your faithfulness.

When I get to those moments with Ezra, that does not mean that from that point on my patience is gone. It renews, and the next day the Lord fills me with a fresh dose of that mercy and grants me new patience. Similarly, God continues to extend grace and mercy to Israel – ultimately even beyond Israel.

God uses Amos to tell Israel they are like fruit on the verge of rot, but then later God uses Isaiah to proclaim that in the midst of decay there will be new life, and new fruit.

"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit." (Isaiah 11:1)

In fact throughout scripture we see Jesus fulfill all of these roles:

1. **A Shoot from the stump to bear fruit (Isaiah 11:1)**
2. **A seed that dies in order to bear fruit (John 12:24)**
3. **The Firstfruits of Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20)**
4. **The vine that bears fruit (John 15:1-5)**
5. **A Shoot from the stump to bear fruit (Isaiah 11:1)**
	1. "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit."
6. **A seed that dies in order to bear fruit (John 12:24)**
	1. "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."
7. **The Firstfruits of Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20)**
	1. "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."
8. **The vine** **(John 15:1-5)**
	1. "I am the **true vine**, and my Father is the vinedresser... Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself... neither can you, unless you abide in me."

Not only is Jesus a redemption of the rotten fruit from Amos’s prophecy, but he also serves as a perfect model of a life that remains connected to the vine, not cut off and thus heading toward decay.

If you want to know how to avoid living like the people of Amos’s time, and instead walk in line with God’s will – look to the life of Jesus. Look to his words, his actions, the people he helped, the people he elevated – and you will see one consistent thread.

Read the beatitudes

Study His Miracles

Look at the disciples

We see God's heart consistently directed toward the poor, the weak, the sick, the orphan, and the widow, from Amos’s prophecy to Jesus’s words, actions, and commands 700 years later.

# Application

A few weeks ago Mike introduced this thought – We often view our time, talent, and treasure as “blessings,” but God sees them more as “tests” or “tools.”

God tells Israel that they have been given massive amounts of tools – wealth, peace, and prosperity – but they continue to fail the tests.

They are still exploiting the poor, still overlooking widows and orphans, still out of line with God’s heart, and because of that, He is about to deny them access to these “blessings” or “tools”.

What tests or tools have you dismissed as blessings and might be nearing their expiration date?

If you want to see what it looks like to prevent your blessings from wasting away, look to Jesus.

If you want to be surrounded by people who are actively utilizing their tools in line with God’s Will, stay connected to the Church.

Specifically, this church:

**GP:** We have people serving the poor and the homeless
**MISO**: we have people serving refugees separated from their families for decades.

**NICARAGUA**: We have people that use their PTO not to go on vacation but to travel to Central America to invest in hundreds of children and dozens of pastors.
**FOSTER CARE:** We have people that have given their careers to making sure the fatherless and motherless belong to a family,
**FAMILY HOPE**: we have mothers that stay at home and open their homes and their families to children in need.

**WELLSPRINGS**

GP Family

**MOMS IN PRAYER
HARK!
LATINO**

Of all of these things listed, not one of them is led by a full-time pastoral staff member here. I don’t mean that to discount our staff, but rather to elevate our congregation.

Conviction where needed.

Encouragement where needed.