

Amos 8

Israel is ripe for destruction

(The People's Bible, Hosea, Joel, Amos, pages 249-257)

Look

Verse 1 *“Ripe fruit”*—In Hebrew, the words for “summer fruit” and “end” include the same consonants. The NIV translators convey the Hebrew pun by using the English word *ripe*, which can have the same double meaning.

Discuss

1. Chapters 7–9 contain five visions. This chapter contains the fourth vision. What is this vision, and what point does the Lord want to teach Israel with it?
 - verses 1,2 Vision:
 - Lesson:

2. If the Lord had already decided to bring the history of the Northern Kingdom to an end, why did he send Amos to preach in Israel?

3. The Lord would judge his people for their greed and trickery. Find four methods the Israelite grain merchants used to cheat their customers and oppress their fellow Israelites.

4. What two great judgments would the Lord bring on his wayward people?
 - verses 7-10

 - verses 11,12

5. Why would all of these sufferings come on Israel? (verses 13,14)

Apply

6. How can we take these words to heart?

The Lord would judge Israel for its wickedness, as illustrated in the corrupt practices of its merchants. Physical and spiritual catastrophes were in its future.