

# Amos 5:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name:

## Analysis

**Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion** (עֲשֵׂה כִּימָה וּכְסִיל, oseh Khimah uKhesil)—after condemning injustice (v. 7), Amos declares God's identity as Creator. "Seven stars" (Khimah, כִּימָה) likely refers to the Pleiades star cluster. "Orion" (Khesil, כְּסִיל) is the constellation. Both appear together in Job 9:9, 38:31. God who created these celestial bodies controls cosmic order. The phrase **turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night** (vehophekh laboqer tsalmavet veyom layelah hechshikh, והפָּךְ לַבָּקֵר צְלָמָוֹת וַיּוֹם לַיְלָה הַחְשִׁיךְ) describes God's sovereign control over light and darkness. "Shadow of death" (tsalmavet, צְלָמָוֹת) means deep darkness or death itself—God transforms it into morning light (salvation, deliverance). Yet He also darkens day into night (judgment, calamity).

The verse continues: **that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name** (haqore lemeimei-hayam vayishpekhem al-penei ha'arets YHWH shemo, הַקּוֹרֵא לְמַיִם יָם תְּשַׁפֵּךְ עַל-פְּנֵי הָאָרֶץ וְהִנֵּה שְׁמוֹ). God controls the hydrologic cycle—summoning sea waters and pouring rain upon earth. The climax "The LORD is his name" (YHWH shemo, הָיְהֵה שְׁמוֹ) reveals the Creator's identity as Yahweh, Israel's covenant God. This doxology

(repeated in 4:13, 5:8, 9:5-6) celebrates God's power and sovereignty, contrasting His cosmic authority with Israel's petty injustice.

## Historical Context

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Ancient peoples often worshiped celestial bodies and natural forces as deities. Israel's neighbors served Baal (storm/fertility god), Astarte (associated with Venus), and other astral deities. By celebrating Yahweh as Creator of stars, controller of day/night cycles, and sovereign over rain, Amos declares these forces aren't independent gods but Yahweh's servants. This echoes Genesis 1 where sun, moon, and stars are mere creatures, not deities. The doxologies in Amos (4:13, 5:8-9, 9:5-6) likely drew from existing hymnic material celebrating Yahweh as Creator. By placing these hymns within judgment oracles, Amos declares: the God who created the cosmos will judge His rebel people. If He controls stars, darkness, and seas, He certainly controls history and Israel's destiny.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does celebrating God as Creator of stars and controller of light/darkness relate to His moral governance and judgment?
2. Why does Amos interrupt judgment oracles with doxologies praising God's creative power?
3. What is the significance of declaring "The LORD [Yahweh] is his name" after describing cosmic sovereignty?

## Interlinear Text

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עָשָׂה הָ	כִּימַת הַ	וְקָסֶה יְלָ	וְהַפְּנִים נַ	לְבַב קָרְבָּן
Seek him that maketh	the seven stars	and Orion	and turneth	into the morning
H6213	H3598	H3685	H2015	H1242
צָלָמָת יְהָ	וְיָמָם יְהָ	לְיְלָה יְהָ	פְּקָרָן אַ	פְּקָרָן אַ
the shadow of death	and maketh the day	with night	dark	that calleth
H6757	H3117	H3915	H2821	H7121
לְמַיִם	בְּיַם	יְשַׁפְּכָם	עַל	בְּאַרְצָה
for the waters	of the sea	and poureth them out	upon	upon the face of the earth
H4325	H3220	H8210	H5921	H6440
שְׁמָנוֹן	יְהָה הָ			
The LORD	is his name			
H3068	H8034			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Amos 4:13** (Darkness): For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name.

**Job 9:9** (Parallel theme): Which maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.

**Amos 9:6** (References Lord): It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth; he that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name.

**Psalms 104:20** (Darkness): Thou makest darkness, and it is night: wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth.

**Amos 8:9** (Darkness): And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:

**Psalms 105:28** (Darkness): He sent darkness, and made it dark; and they rebelled not against his word.

**Job 12:22** (Darkness): He discovereth deep things out of darkness, and bringeth out to light the shadow of death.

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