

Amos 8:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A basket of summer fruit. Then said the LORD unto me, The end is come upon my people of Israel; I will not again pass by them any more.

Analysis

And he said, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A basket of summer fruit. Then said the LORD unto me, The end is come upon my people of Israel— God asks what Amos sees, receives his answer, then delivers the interpretation through devastating wordplay. **Summer fruit** (צַדְקָה, qayits) sounds like **end** (צַדָּקָה, qets)—the phonetic similarity drives home the message: Israel's summer (qayits) means their end (qets). This Hebrew pun makes the judgment unmistakable and memorable.

The declaration **The end is come** (צָדָקָה, ba haqets) echoes Ezekiel's later prophecy against Jerusalem: "An end is come, the end is come" (Ezekiel 7:2, 6). The verb bo (בּוֹא, "come/arrive") presents judgment as imminent reality, not distant possibility. The phrase **upon my people of Israel** (עַל-עֲמִימִי יִשְׂרָאֵל, el-ammi Yisrael) is heartbreakingly—despite covenant violation, they remain "my people," yet this doesn't avert judgment but intensifies it (recall 3:2: "You only have I known... therefore I will punish you").

The final declaration **I will not again pass by them any more** (לֹא-אָסִיף עוֹד עַבּוֹר, lo-osit od avor lo) repeats 7:8's refrain, emphasizing divine decision. The phrase "pass by" (avor) means "overlook" or "spare"—God will no longer extend mercy. This doesn't mean God stops loving Israel but that His holy justice now demands execution of covenant curses (Deuteronomy 28). The repetition "any more" (od,

"again/still") underscores finality—the age of warnings has ended; judgment arrives. Within 30 years, Assyria fulfilled this prophecy (722 BC).

Historical Context

Amos prophesied during Jeroboam II's prosperous reign (793-753 BC), approximately 30-40 years before Assyria conquered Israel (722 BC). This gap demonstrates God's patience—even after declaring "the end is come," God gave decades for repentance. Yet Israel's subsequent kings (Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea) continued wickedness, sealing their fate. Assyrian records confirm brutal conquest, mass deportation, and resettlement of foreign peoples in Israel's territory (2 Kings 17:1-6, 24).

The "end" (qets) wasn't merely political defeat but covenant termination—the northern kingdom never returned from exile. Unlike Judah, who returned after 70 years (Jeremiah 29:10), the ten northern tribes were permanently scattered. Amos's prophecy proved devastatingly accurate.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's patience in delaying judgment for decades after declaring "the end is come" demonstrate both His mercy and the danger of presuming on that mercy?
2. What does it mean that covenant relationship with God increases rather than decreases accountability, and how does this apply to Christians today?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	מה	אתה	רָאָה	עַמּוֹס	וַיֹּאמֶר	ובְּכָל
And he said	H4100	H859	what seest	Amos	And he said	A basket
H559			H7200	H5986	H559	H3619
בְּצִיר	וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה	אֵלָי	בְּאֵל	בְּקָץ	אֶל
of summer fruit	And he said	the LORD	H413	is come	unto me	The end
H7019	H559	H3068	H413	H935	H7093	H413
עִם	ישְׁבָא	לא	אוֹסֵר	עד	ור	לוּ
upon my people	of Israel	H3808	I will not again	H5750	pass	H0
H5971	H3478		H3254		H5674	

Additional Cross-References

Amos 7:8 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more:

Lamentations 4:18 (Parallel theme): They hunt our steps, that we cannot go in our streets: our end is near, our days are fulfilled; for our end is come.

Micah 7:1 (Parallel theme): Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit.

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