

Amos Part 22 – The Vision of a Fruit Basket

Key Verses: Amos 8:1 - 8:7

Having to give an account to the Lord for our deeds is how we are learning through chastening grace of the Lord that we do indeed reap what we have sown (Gal 6:7). This process of learning by chastening judgment is how we are saved (Isa 26:9, Eph 2:8) and afterwards bear the peaceable fruit of righteousness (our obedience). The Elect are not being redeemed and saved in this age for ourselves but only for the Lord's purposes.

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, **zealous of good works.**

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that **we should walk in them.**

God's plan in saving us, His people, is to manifest the spiritual fruit that comes forth to His glory. This is why we have been chosen. Fruit in Scripture represents our works and it is by these works, what type they are by which we will be known.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may **see your good works**, and glorify your Father which is in heaven

Mat 7:20 Wherefore **by their fruits** ye shall know them.

It takes time to manifest fruit, it's a process of growing. As we die daily to our flesh and the man of sin is destroyed, our fruit abounds more and more. This is the purpose of the Lord in bringing us together in a Body and assembling us in New Jerusalem. These works are the spiritual nourishment and healing of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ (all men).

Rev 22:2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were **for the healing of the nations.**

Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works (fruits) do follow them.

With this reminder on spiritual fruit being our works, here are the key verses for today.

<p>Amo 8:1 Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me: and behold a basket of summer fruit.</p> <p>Amo 8:2 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.</p> <p>Amo 8:3 And the songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord GOD: <i>there shall be</i> many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast <i>them</i> forth with silence.</p> <p>Amo 8:4 Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail,</p>

Amo 8:5 Saying, when will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit?

Amo 8:6 That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; *yea*, and sell the refuse of the wheat?

Amo 8:7 The LORD hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works.

The Lord's strange ways has us learning good and evil and being humbled (Ecc 1:13) by causing us to first do the opposite of what is His stated commandments and plan. We gain our life by losing it, we avoid judgment by going through judgment now and similarly, we produce good works by first producing evil ones. It is by the death of our rebellious and disobedient man of sin that good fruit comes forth from the fig tree that represents the Israel of God.

Jer 8:13 I will surely consume them, saith the LORD: there shall be no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and the things that I have given them shall pass away from them.

Our flesh and carnal mind is the marred first vessel (Jer 18:4) that was made to be destroyed and is cursed when Christ appears because it is incapable of bringing forth good fruit.

Mat 21:19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

Deu 28:18 **Cursed** shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

This prophesy is being given to King Jeroboam and Israel through Amos. But these are prophecies we are living out (Mat 4:4, 1Co 11:11) as judgment is now on the house of God. The works of a proud, idol worshipping and worldly fornicating King of Israel does not measure up to the plumbline. The hedged-out life of the old man is coming to and as it is destruction from the Almighty designed to bring forth fruit for God.

Joe 1:15 Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

Seeing a vision of summer fruit is an indication that the time of judgment is at hand and the angels of the Lord (the reapers, the Elect) are sent to bring about the destruction of the harlot and old man whose sins have reached into the heavens (Rev 18:5, Jon 1:2).

Joe 3:13 Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

Rev 14:18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

The word translated as "summer fruit" is actually the word for SUMMER as the KJC reflects

and represents more broadly the season of harvest of any crop including fruit;

H7019, qayits

Total KJV Occurrences: 20

summer, 20

Gen 8:22, 2Sa 16:1-2 (2), Psa 32:4, Psa 74:17, Pro 6:8, Pro 10:5, Pro 26:1, Pro 30:25, Isa 16:9, Isa 28:4, Jer 8:20, Jer 40:10, Jer 40:12, Jer 48:32, Amo 3:15, Amo 8:1-2 (2), Mic 7:1, Zec 14:8

The warm time of the year beginning in late spring and continuing into the summer is when the leaves of a tree or its fruit become evident for all to see. The harvest of souls like the harvest of physical crops begins at summer. Several of the verses that incorporate **summer** are linked to judgement and the threshing of the wheat from the chaff. Another concept Amos's words touched upon.

Dan 2:35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the **summer** threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Pro 10:5 He that gathereth in **summer** isa wise son: *but* he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.

We are all gathering our meat (enduring trials and afflictions of judgment) in the summer as we partake of the Body of Jesus Christ.

Christ tells us this judgment time is near when we learn the parable of the fig tree and see the coming forth of our service to the Lord (good works, fruit). When we see this with spiritual eyes then we know the destruction of the old vessel is well underway and we should not be surprised of the fiery trials to come (1Pe 4:13).

Mat 24:32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

Mat 24:33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

“All these things” being seen is the end of the age which has an outward application to come but an inward application that the Elect are living out now in our day of judgment. We are witnessing these events today in the Body as Christ is appearing and our old way of life is passing away.

Mat 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Mat 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall

gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Amo 8:1 Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me: and behold a **basket [H3619]** of summer fruit.

Amo 8:2 And he said, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A **basket [H3619]** 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 anymore.

We see some hidden manna in this Amos vision by the Hebrew word used for basket. It is not the common word for basket but instead is a word found only twice in Scripture and here is how H3619 “kelub” is used the only other time with some added context.

Jer 5:27 As a **cage [H3619]** is full of birds, so *are* their houses full of deceit: therefore they are become great, and waxen rich.

Jer 5:28 They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge.

Birds that fly in our heavens (mind) represent lies and false doctrines that keep us in spiritual darkness and in bondage to everything but faith in the Word of God. A cage full of fruit is speaking of the fruit of self-righteousness we all first produce/endure before the Lord pours out His wrath to reveal our wretched state within (Rom 7:24). The basket of fruit is in spiritual actuality two baskets as we are the Lord's two witnesses who live both the good and the evil.

Jer 24:2 One basket had very good figs, even like the figs that are first ripe: and the other basket had very naughty figs, which could not be eaten, they were so bad.

Evil figs represent our tainted works of the world that are rejected works fit to be destroyed in our judgment. First the natural and then the spiritual. The first fruit (good works) brought forward from our earth is not an acceptable offering to the Lord. It is the offering of Cain (Gen 4:3-5). The flesh profits itself nothing and the immature and hasty summer fruit that comes when we are puffed up and drunk with knowledge (wine) will be taken away when we stumble in our judgment.

Isa 28:3 The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under feet:

Isa 28:4 And the glorious beauty, which is on the head of the fat valley, shall be a fading flower, and as the hasty fruit before the summer; which when he that looketh upon it seeth, while it is yet in his hand he eateth it up.

The Israel of God is the fig tree made to cast forth her fruit in an untimely manner and is devoured by the adversary in order to bring us to Christ and lose our old life.

Rev 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

Nah 3:12 All thy strong holds *shall be like* fig trees with the firstripe figs: if they be shaken, they shall even fall into the mouth of the eater.

The Body of Christ is the basket in which the fruit of the Lord (the good works) appears after the evil fruit is tossed aside.

Deu 26:2 That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there.

The Body is the place where the Lord our God has chosen to place His name. We are the basket in which are found those summer fruits.

Exo 29:32 And Aaron and his sons shall eat the flesh of the ram, and the bread that *is* in the basket, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Abiding in the Body/Basket is where we eat the flesh of Jesus Christ that is meat indeed for eternal life. The bread of life is the very same that brings forth death in our old man and that is judgment. That is what we are fed as we partake of this communion here with the saints of God.

Eze 34:16 I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up *that which was* broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; **I will feed them with judgment.**

A basket is woven together in the same way the Body is knitted together in love.

Col 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

Paul is our example of how we too escape the pulls and persecution of the world by being put into this basket (Body) through an opening the Lord provides in the wall that is keeping us in bondage.

Act 9:25 Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.

2Co 11:32 In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:

2Co 11:33 And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

Our flesh always resists the things of the Spirit. Being saved requires warfare and the false peace in our temple of God (1Co 3:16) will turn into howling as we die daily and the lust of the flesh and pride of life is destroyed within us.

Amo 8:3 And the songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord GOD: *there shall be many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast them forth with silence.*

Ravening hungry wolves howl and that is what we do when our sins and rebellions are recompensed in the day of the Lord.

Joe 1:5 Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth.

Isa 13:6 Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.

Jas 4:9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

This verse seems to be a contradiction in describing the transformation that occurs during the process of judgment. We start out howling as we resist giving up our old life and dying to the world and pride of life. Howling is likened to mourning and is what the flesh does over the loss of life as we are stripped of our self-righteousness and deceived sense of free will.

Jas 5:1 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

Yet the Lord speaks of things that are not as if they were (Rom 4:17) and so it is with our casting forth dead bodies with silence. As we mature in the chastening fire of the Lord in our day of the Lord, and as we begin to accept the Lord's will in our life and the suffering to which all of Israel, the Elect of the Lord have been appointed to endure (Phi 1:29, Act 14:22); we will receive such affliction with joy.

1Pe 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

1Pe 4:13 But **rejoice**, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

The old man howls but the new man will cast forth our dead bodies with silence, knowing it is the Lord working righteousness within us. We will give thanks in all things as we take the true communion in the Body of Christ.

1Co 11:24 And when he had **given thanks**, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

1Th 5:18 In **everything give thanks**: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

We learn to drink the cup of wrath and give thanks to the Lord in all things, knowing it is all for the greater good of our sanctification as Christ is raised from the dead within us.

Zec 2:13 Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.

We learn righteousness by our judgment (Isa 26:9, Exo 6:6). Yet to learn we must know the occasion for judgment and what we are doing wrong contrary to the narrow way. The Lord is faithful to reveal to us those reasons for our judgment and chastening.

Amo 8:4 Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail,
Amo 8:5 Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath,
that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the
balances by deceit?
Amo 8:6 That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; *yea*, and sell
the refuse of the wheat?
Amo 8:7 The LORD hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of
their works.

The excellency of Jacob is referring to our pride and self-righteousness. These works (bad fruit) not being forgotten is simply another way of saying we are reaping what we have sown. This is how we learn the fear of the Lord and tremble at every Word.

Rom 2:5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;
Rom 2:6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

Rev 22:12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

This wickedness for which we are being chastened pertains to our oppressing the new man within and without who is the poor and the needy who needs a Saviour who is also the spiritual physician (Mar 2:17). The poor man fails and enters not in when the righteous judgment of God is wrested away. This robs the Lord and thereby robs the poor.

Pro 31:9 Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Isa 10:2 To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and that they may rob the fatherless!

The rich man who needs nothing is not being saved. It is only the beggar (poor man) the Lazarus of the Luke 16 parable who is saved and even that so as by fire of judgment (1Co 3:15). The rich man is the deceived old man in all of us who thinks he is something of his own works and stores up the Lord's treasures (knowledge) in order to further his kingdom (building bigger barns). The only riches that save us are the ones purchased in the fire of our trials and tribulation, aka our suffering.

Rev 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Rev 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

We do not fool the Lord with our outward displays of righteousness and holiness. He sees what is in our hearts. Outward obedience is exemplified by our obeying the Sabbath yet that obedience is not inward as we are yet carnal and conniving to take the things of God and

buying and selling (i.e. making merchandise with the kings of the earth - Rev 18). Falsifying scales and playing games with the measures (ephah) and the money (shekels) is speaking our judging/walking after the flesh and seeking gain for the man of sin and resisting the Lord's work in our life. We are still learning to be content as the heat in the furnace of affliction is turned up (Rom 5:20).

1Ti 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

1Ti 6:8 And having (spiritual) food and raiment let us be therewith content.

If we treasure up the things of this world we have our reward now. If that is our attitude and it's not changed by grace we have our reward and will not be in the first resurrection which is the prize and the higher calling we are to strive for attainment (Phi 3:14).

Pro 23:23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

Those humbled by the fires of judgment, don't oppress the poor, they give to the poor who are all of God's people being stripped of the love of this world. The one thing we lack in moving on to perfection is being given the faith to obey this commandment in putting God first in all things and giving up our life.

Mat 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, **go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor**, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

But as our eyes our opened further to the things of the spirit and our faith in God's plan grows in maturity, we will give it all up.

Mat 13:45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

Mat 13:46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Giving to the poor is giving them godly love (1Jo 5:3) and this applies inwardly as well as outwardly as we are to judge righteous judgment. The good news is that we will be saved but yet by fire that requires the old man and old way of life to be burned up (1Co 3:15). Bringing this fire is the greater work of Christ's Christ (Joh 14:12, Jer 5:14). We all say we will go work in the Lord's field before we actually do (Mat 21:29). Going through judgment is what changes our mind and we go with great zeal to serve the Lord who has and is saving us as we follow in His footsteps and lay down our lives for the brethren.

The Lord hears the cries of the poor and needy in spirit. Those petitions will bring about deliverance and the Lord will rescue His people from the oppressor within and without ourselves.

Psa 82:2 How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah.

Psa 82:3 Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.

Psa 82:4 Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked.

The oppressor within is our man of sin, our beast who trades in silver in buying and selling righteousness. But this silver is the silver that is dross (Isa 1:22), that is cankered with SELF RIGHTOUSNESS as our focus is on the outside outside of the cup while we ignore the inside

and the weightier matters of the law of faith. Such silver merchandising and trading in the refuse of wheat (the chaff, leavened truth) will not save us in the day of wrath. We are saved from the wrath to come by going through the wrath of the Lord in this age (1Th 5:9).

Isa 48:10 Behold, I have refined thee, but **not with silver**; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

Zep 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

We must be found having none of our own righteousness (Phi 3:9) which is all contrary to the law of faith. The adulterers and adulterers (Jam 4:4) in the Body of Christ, not separated from the world are enemies of the Lord because we oppress the poor and needy by shutting up the kingdom of heaven. We read a partial extract to remind us of what oppressing our neighbor while looking righteous on the outside looks like. More judgment (woe) is sent in due time to bring correction.

Mat 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Mat 23:25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Ezekiel 18 contrasts the good works and obedience of two men. Those who feed the poor and give to the needy shall surely live. But those that oppress the needy and rob them shall not live and the Lord's purpose is to destroy that mindset in judgment.

Eze 18:12 If he has oppressed the poor and needy, Robbed by violence, Not restored the pledge, Lifted his eyes to the idols, Or committed abomination;

Eze 18:13 If he has exacted usury Or taken increase—Shall he then live? He shall not live! If he has done any of these abominations, He shall surely die; His blood shall be upon him.

Our calling is considered a HIGH CALLING for good reason. The Lord will put within us in due time the zeal for His house and that zeal will consume our old way of life. Thankfully the Lord is patient and longsuffering with us in correcting us. He is teaching us how to give out mercy and save all mankind by His own acts in saving us now by judgment in this age.

Rom 11:30 For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:

Rom 11:31 Even so have these also now not believed, that **through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.**

Few of us are rich by the world's standards of money and physical possessions, yet all of God's people are rich with the true treasures of eternal life and knowing the Lord and His Christ. We are charged to take this for granted but to keep our focus on the Lord's purposes and produce fruit. Examining ourselves should include looking at the fruit and our works.

1Ti 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

1Ti 6:18 That they do good, that they **be rich in good works**, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

In the next study Lord willing, we will complete the scourging process that converts our evil works into good works which brings forth the lasting fruit and proves our hearts and minds are submitted to the Lord. Our feasting and the time of plenty will be changed to mourning and famine as we are forsaken (separated from the Word) for a “little while” to be returned to the Lord and our hearing in due time. We will look into this more deeply next week.

Amo 8:11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: