

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What does the “basket of summer fruit” imply?
2. How long does God extend patience and mercy toward sinners?
3. Why are these experiences of Israel recorded in this way?

### SUMMARY:

Through the centuries of Israel’s history God had been very displeased time and again because of their sinfulness and idolatry. He had brought various judgments upon them to lead them back to Him. Now, however, He sent His messengers to tell the people that His patience had run out and they were to be destroyed, as a nation. He would not hear their cries. In effect they would have no God. There would be no escape for the wicked.

Yet in all of this God “left the door open” for the repentant ones to return to Him. How beautiful is His grace and mercy. It is still available to men today who turn to Him in repentance.

### NOTES:

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #12

June 20, 2004

Second Quarter

## AMOS FORETELLS ISRAEL’S FALL

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**LESSON TEXT:** *Amos 8:1-14 through 9:1-10*

**LESSON SETTING:** The northern part of Israel.

**TIME:** Approximately 730 B.C.

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- I. A NATION RIPE FOR JUDGMENT.** Amos 8:1-3
  - A. A Prophetic Vision (vs. 1-2) Ezekiel 12:27-28; 37:1-4
  - B. God’s Patience Runs Out (vs. 2-3) Zephaniah 1:15-18; Luke 12:20
- II. JEHOVAH’S CASE AGAINST ISRAEL.** Amos 8:4-14
  - A. Oppression of the Poor. (vs. 4-6) Proverbs 14:31; Ecclesiastes 5:8
  - B. God’s Judgment (vs. 7-9) Jeremiah 17:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10
  - C. Sinners Will Mourn (vs. 10) Matthew 8:11-12; Matthew 13:41-42
  - D. A Spiritual Famine (vs. 11-14) Psalm 74:9; Revelation 3:17
- III. ISRAEL’S DOOM FORETOLD.** Amos 9:1-10
  - A. Destruction of the Wicked (vs. 1) Luke 3:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:9
  - B. No Escape (vs. 2-5) Jeremiah 11:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:3
  - C. A Remnant To Be Saved (vs. 8-9) Romans 11:5, 22; Revelation 12:17

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *HE THAT BEING OFTEN REPROVED HARDENETH HIS NECK, SHALL SUDDENLY BE DESTROYED, AND THAT WITHOUT REMEDY.*  
Proverbs 29:1

**NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON:** 1 John 5:1-15

**SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES:** Luke 17:5, 6; Romans 4:1-25;  
Galatians 3:7-9; Hebrews 11:1-40;  
James 2:21-25

**QUARTERLY THEME:** Marks of a Christian

**TOPIC:** FAITH

**INTRODUCTION:**

The first step in the conversion of a person is to become aware that he or she is a sinner and can only merit God's sure just judgment. A sick person cannot be healed unless there is a knowledge of the need of the physician. Secondly, one must repent. This means to have a sorrow for sin with a desire to make amends. The third step is to seek out the Great Physician. Then one must have faith that the Physician—in this case the Lord Jesus—can heal.

Oftentimes medicine prescribed by a doctor will not help the patient if the patient does not have faith in the doctor. So likewise, we must believe God and His Word. We must have faith in the healing power of the Lord Jesus. Only when Faith has its roots firmly established in us, only then can we know of God's mercy and forgiveness.

Faith also has another result. With the healing comes the desire to be free of any further illness, so we learn to be obedient to the Master. Obedience is so important because this is the fulfillment of love. "For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments." (1 John 5:3a)

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** Faith in God is the secret of successful Christian living.

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *WHATSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD OVERCOMETH THE WORLD: AND THIS IS THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMETH THE WORLD, EVEN OUR FAITH.*  
John 5:4

We must overcome the world if we would be a testimony of the fact that we are born of God. Those who profess to be Christians and still walk in the ways of the world (darkness) are liars and the truth is not in them (1 John 1:6). If we say we have love, but go about tearing down or destroying confidence in a brother or sister again the truth is not in us.

We cannot overcome the world if we try it on our own. We so soon find that we are frail and have no power to do this. This would lead us to utter defeat if we could not in faith look to the Lord Jesus. When we yield ourselves to Him, when we diligently pray and seek out His help, when we have faith to believe that He can help, then we find victory that was so elusive before. Then we can say with the Apostle "Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:57)

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 21 - 27**

- M. Faith that Believes the Impossible. Romans 4:16-25
- T. Faith that Pleases God. Hebrews 11:1-7
- W. Faith that Trusts. Hebrews 11:8-19
- T. Faith that Endures. Hebrews 11:20-31
- F. Faith For All Things. Hebrews 11:32-40
- S. \*Faith that Overcomes. 1 John 5:1-5
- S. \*Faith that Brings Assurance. 1 John 5:6-15