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OT655: Amos (Eng Text OA: Spring 2023)

Professor: R. Russell Mack, Ph.D.

Written Assignment: Reading, Reflection, and Essay

Date: 03/29/2023

Amos 7:1-8:3

- 1- Jeremias, Jorg. The Book of Amos: A Commentary. The Old Testament Library. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1995. P. 121-142. Eidevall, Göran, "Amos: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary", Yale University Press. 2017. Pages 190-213
- 2- The Lord will judge his people. By two visions He confirms it to Amos. Following the example of Abraham, who interceded when he was warned of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the prophet pleaded with the Lord to restrain his wrath. Once, twice, the Lord reconsiders his plan. Judgment is temporarily suspended. By the third vision, Amos understands that the government of God will operate anyway.

These three visions probably correspond to the three invasions of the land of Israel by the Assyrians.

First vision: the locusts: verses 1-3

The prophet sees locusts sent on the regrowth after the king's cup. This reaping is reminiscent of the tribute that the people paid to the king after the harvest¹ Kings 4. 7. Normally, the harvest was harvested twice a year in Palestine. The first cup was for the king. The people depended on the second for their livelihood. This harvest is now threatened by locusts.

Second vision: fire: verses 4-6

The Lord proclaims judgment by fire which first devours the great deep (the sea), a symbolic image of the confused mass of peoples, and which then attacks the inheritance. Many drinks of water cannot satisfy love Song of Solomon 8. 7. Nothing can quench the fire of divine wrath, no more than the sea.

Third vision: the level: verses 7-9

Amos sees a level. It is probably not a plumb line, but more likely an instrument used by masons to level a wall. The Lord places him among his people. This level symbolizes the judgment exercised according to divine justice. The Lord will no longer pass over his people to spare them as on the day of the Passover. Amos now understands that God's judgment will inevitably take place. He then ceases to intercede.

This vision found its partial fulfillment when the house of Jeroboam II was cut off in the next generation 2 Kings 15. 8-10, and finally when Shalmaneser carried the ten tribes to Assyria.

3- What is the ripe fruit basket vision spiritual?