

A Famine of God's Word

February 14, 2016

Text: Amos 8

I. A Vision: The End Has Come (8:1-3; 7:7-9)

II. A Vow: No Mercy for the Unmerciful (8:4-10)

A. The Hypocrisy: The "Religious" Oppressors of Israel
(8:4-6; 2:6-7; 5:11s; Leviticus 19:35-36; Deuteronomy 25:13-16)

B. The Judgment: God Will No Longer Show Mercy (8:7-10)

III. A Void: The Silence of God (8:11-15)

A. God Withdraws the Scorned Gift (7:10-17; Deuteronomy 8:3)

B. The Word of God Comes

Reflection Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. What themes have you seen repeatedly in the book of Amos?
2. Why is care for the poor so central in God's commandments to Israel? How is the need for care for the poor further confirmed in the New Testament?
3. What does a gospel-motivated love for the poor look like? How does this differ from law-driven or guilt-driven service for the poor?
4. Which is the greater judgment: exile from the promised land or a famine of God's Word?
5. How does the coming of Jesus Christ bring an end to the famine of God's Word declared in Amos 8?