### Amos

## Chapter 8

1Then {Look!} the [messenger of the] Lord came and showed me the cage of a bird hunter, 2and he asked:  
  
 ‘What do you see, Amos?’  
  
And I replied:  
  
 ‘A bird cage.’  
  
Then the [messenger of the] Lord said:  
  
 ‘These things were said by Jehovah:  
  
 ‘My people, IsraEl, have now reached their end,  
 For I’ll overlook what they’re doing no longer.  
  
 3‘So in that day...  
 There’ll be screams from their temples and stock pens…  
 For there’ll be many [people] that fall there,  
 As I bring silence to this place.’  
  
 4‘So listen, O you who are destroying the needy,  
 And those tyrannizing the poor…  
 5Yes, all of you who keep asking  
 When the [New Moons] will be over  
 So that you can go back to your trading…  
 And you who look for the Sabbaths to end  
 So that you can open your [cash drawers],  
 Then measure out small and [unfairly]  
 By adding weights to the things that you weigh,  
 And by using unbalanced scales.  
 6Then, from the needy and poor,  
 You take all of their silver  
 In return for sandals and [clothes].’  
  
  
7And after that, Jehovah swore this oath against Jacob’s pride:  
  
 ‘Do you think that I’ll forget about this  
 And that I’ll let you win? Well, I won’t!’  
  
8Then [He said]:  
  
 ‘Won’t this bring disturbance to the land,  
 And won’t all who live there start mourning?  
 For destruction will rise like a river,  
 And in its deep waters they’ll sink.’  
  
9Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘Then the sun will set at midday,  
 And the land will get dark in the daytime.  
 10So their holiday feasts will turn into mourning,  
 And all of their songs into wailing.  
  
 ‘Then, upon every loin, I’ll bring sackcloth,  
 And baldness, I’ll bring upon every head.  
 I’ll appoint them as those who mourn loved ones,  
 And their happy days, I’ll turn into grief.  
  
 11‘Look, the days are coming,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘When to this land, I’ll send famine…  
 But it won’t be a famine of bread  
 Nor a famine of water,  
 But a famine of hearing the Word of Jehovah.  
  
 12‘Then from sea to sea, the waters will shake,  
 And [people] will run from the north to the east  
 Seeking the Word of Jehovah.  
 But then, no way will they find it.  
  
 13‘In that day, all of your pretty virgins  
 And all of your [handsome] young men  
 Will be wilting from thirst.  
  
 14‘And those who swear oaths by Samaria’s Redeemer,  
 And say, O Dan, as your god lives,  
 Or, As your god lives, O BeerSheba…  
 These will fall and not rise again.’