

## ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** ***International Bible Lessons***

### **Amos 8:1-14**

**Sunday June 28, 2015**

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

### **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further**

#### **1. Name some of the ways God communicated with Amos and the Kingdom of Israel.**

God spoke words to Amos and gave Amos visions because Amos was a true prophet of God. God also explained to Amos the visions He gave him, sometimes using a question and answer method. God communicated with the Kingdom of Israel through prophets and through the Scriptures they had up to that time (the Law of God given through Moses as a prophet of God). God spoke to both Amos and the Kingdom of Israel through historical events; such as a major earthquake that Amos foretold (perhaps the earthquake mentioned in Amos 1:1, or perhaps a later

earthquake that did far more destruction). God communicated with the Kingdom of Israel when He kept His words and truly fulfilled them in their history and in the history of other nations and people when He brought destruction upon them for their immorality and idolatry (such as the destruction of the idolatrous and immoral Canaanites when the Hebrews entered the Promised Land).

## **2. What kind of vision did God give Amos when He said that the end has come upon His people?**

God gave Amos a vision of a basket of summer fruit that God explained to Amos.

## **3. Why would the songs of the temple become wailings?**

The songs would become wailings because when God punished Israel there would be many dead bodies. They would mourn in a way similar to the death of an only son.

## **4. Why did many Israelites look forward to the new moon to be over?**

They wanted their worship and festivals to come quickly to an end so they could hurry back to cheating and stealing from others; especially from the poor and needy.

## **5. What kind of famine did Amos say God would send upon Israel? Why do you think God said He would do that and how do you think would He do it?**

God would send a famine of the words of God. He said He would do that because they had silenced the prophets He

had sent to them; they refused to hear His words to them. He would bring a famine on the land by refusing to send them any more prophets for them to disregard. Having refused to obey His words of command through the prophets, He would refuse to send them words of comfort through the prophets.

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