

## Amos Chapter 4

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V: 1 As the prophet launches into this section of his prophecy, bearing in mind he's delivering the Word of God - thus saith the Lord - God refers to the women, the wives as the "cows of Bashan on the mountains of Samaria."



- Not the most complimentary reference. Bashan is the area of upper Galilee, in the Golan Heights of today. This is excellent pasture land for grazing cattle.
- He's addressing the women who have joined in the apostasy against the Lord, encouraging their husbands in debauchery and drunkenness.

**Jeremiah 50:11** "Because you were glad, because you rejoiced, you destroyers of My heritage, because you have grown fat like a heifer threshing grain, and you bellow like bulls." Referring to them as cattle that have grown "fat & sassy."

V: 2 The Lord God has sworn by His holiness - God is Holy! And He has called His people to be holy.

**1 Peter 1:15-16** "<sup>15</sup>But has He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup>because it is written, "be holy, for I am holy.""

- The Assyrians were known for their cruel treatment of any survivors. They frequently maimed, mutilated, and disfigured their prisoners. Often times they would place large hooks like fish hood through their jaws and drag them back to Assyria where they would be enslaved or killed. Jeremiah spoke of the same thing.

**Jeremiah 16:16** "Behold, I will send for many fishermen, says the LORD, and they shall fish them; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks."

V: 3-4 Led through the broken walls of their cities, cast into Harmon... another name for Samaria.

- Then they are taunted, go to Bethel or Gilgal, the places of their idol worship to multiply your transgressions and see if your powerless gods can help or deliver you.

V: 5 Their offerings and sacrifices mixed with leaven has been unacceptable to the Lord and He calls them on it.

**Leviticus 2:11** "No grain offering which you bring to the LORD shall be made with leaven, for you shall burn no leaven nor any honey in any offering to the LORD made by fire."

- They weren't to offer sacrifices mixed with leaven because leaven represent sin.

**1 Corinthians 5:8** "Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

- They were offering sacrifices to God and at the same time engaged in idolatry and all kinds of wickedness.

**Isaiah 1:11** "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me? says the LORD, I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs or goats."

V: 6-11 I've given you "cleanness of teeth" - meaning I've brought famine, no food, no bread = clean teeth.

- Yet you didn't learn and haven't repented and turned to Me.
- I withheld the rain and you didn't learn or repent or turn back to Me.
- I sent blight and mildew on your gardens, your vineyards, fig trees, on your olive trees.
- Yet you did not repent and turn to Me.
- I sent the plagues of Egypt, I killed your young men - yet...
- I overthrew you like Sodom and Gomorrah, you were like a hot coal I pulled out of the fire, yet...

**Jeremiah 24:9-10** "9I will deliver them to trouble into all the kingdoms of the earth, for their harm, to be a reproach and a byword, a taunt and a curse, in all places where I shall drive them. 10And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence among them, till they are consumed from the land that I agave to them and their fathers."

- I am so grateful for the mercy of God and for the grace of God:

**Psalms 103:10** "He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities."

**Psalms 119:71** "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes."

*"Yet you have not returned to Me, says the LORD."*

- They were afflicted but sadly they didn't learn.

V: 12-13 Prepare to meet your God! Ominous words. The creator of all things is bringing you to a reckoning.

**Hebrews 9:27** “And as it is appointed for men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

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## ***Amos Chapter 5***

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V: 1-3 “*Hear this Word...*”. 3<sup>rd</sup> time, **Amos 3:1, 4:1.**

- This chapter starts off with a lamentation for Israel because of the judgment that will soon befall them.

**Jeremiah 9:20-21** “<sup>20</sup>Yet hear the Word of the LORD, O women, and let your ear receive the Word of His mouth; teach your daughters wailing, and everyone her neighbor a lamentation. <sup>21</sup>For death has come through our windows, has entered our palaces, to kill off the children - no longer to be outside!”

- Jesus wept over Jerusalem knowing that they had rejected Him and the judgment that would follow - because they didn't know the day of their visitation.

**Luke 19:41-42** “<sup>41</sup>Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, <sup>42</sup>saying, If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.”

- Our Lord goes on to describe the destruction that would befall them. Here Amos does the same.
- Only a small remnant will remain, 100 out of 1,000 and 10 out of 100 - 90% losses.
- The first three verses are a lamentations, the next 16 verses (V:4-20) are an exhortation to repentance.

V: 4 “*Seek Me and live*”

**Deuteronomy 30:19** “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.”

Jesus said:

**John 14:6** “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes unto the Father except by Me.”

**Psalm 27:8** “When You said, “seek My face,” My heart said to You, “Your face, LORD, I will seek.”

V: 5-6 Don't go to Bethel, the golden calf, the idols can't help you. Same with Beersheba & Gilgal - no help there, they can't defend themselves, they're gong into captivity.

- Again, “seek the LORD and live.”
- Seek Him lest He break out upon you and devour you.

**Hebrews 12:29** “For our God is a consuming fire.”

**Matthew 12:30** “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.”

V: 7 You're guilty, you've turned justice into poison, you've perverted justice, and buried righteousness.

**Ezekiel 18:20** “The soul who sins shall die...”

V: 8-10 He, God made the stars and the universe, the constellations in the heavens above.

**Psalm 19:1-4** “<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. <sup>2</sup>Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. <sup>3</sup>There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. <sup>4</sup>Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world....”

- The all powerful creator of all things is who they are dealing with, He turns the shadow of death into morning / light.
- He makes the day dark as night, He controls the waters of the seas - He is the LORD!
- The wicked hate the righteous.

**John 3:20** “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.”

- We've seen the same thing in our day, those who speak truth mocked in the public square, the media hates Christians and generally portrays them as foolish and ignorant.

V: 11-13 Because you oppress the poor through taxation whilst you live in luxury (homes of hewn stone) - you'll be taken from those homes.

- You've planted pleasant vineyards, but you will not eat from them because I know you many sins and transgressions.
- He knows their many sins because they have not repented of them or asked to be forgiven.

**1 John 1:9** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

- They've afflicted the just, taken bribes, perverted justice at the gates of the city.
- The prudent, the upright have been silenced in this evil time.

**Proverbs 22:22-23** "<sup>22</sup>Do not rob the poor because he is poor, nor oppress the afflicted at the gate. <sup>23</sup>For the LORD will plead their cause, and plunder the soul of those who plunder them."

V: 14-15 Exhortation to do the right thing.

- Perhaps the Lord would relent in judgment if they repented and did the right thing.

**Psalm 34:12-16** "<sup>12</sup>Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good? <sup>13</sup>Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. <sup>14</sup>Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. <sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. <sup>16</sup>The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth."

**Proverbs 8:13** "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate."

V: 16-17 There will be weeping and wailing in the streets, incredible devastation.

- Just like when the Angel of the Lord passed through the land of Egypt striking the firstborn of men and beast - there will be incredible mourning.

V: 18-20 Woe to those who desire the day of the LORD! They don't know what they're asking for. It will be a dark day of inescapable judgment.

- We're excited about the day of the Lord - Maranatha! The Lord cometh. We want to be caught up to see Him in the air.
- Imagine the horror, the despair, the disappointment of those left behind when His church, the true believers are caught up to be with Him and they are left behind.

**Jeremiah 30:7** "Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it."

- Running from a lion right into a bear. Escaping into a house only to be bitten by a deadly snake. No escaping the judgment of the Lord.

V: 21-23 God rejects their hypocritical worship:

**Isaiah 1:11-16** ([Turn to / read](#))

**Mark 7:6-7** "6... well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: this people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. 7And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

V: 24 Do the right thing! Let justice flow!

**Micah 6:8** "He has shown you oh man, what is good and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

V: 25-27 Were you really worshipping me in the wilderness? You also carried you pagan idols with you.

- They were worshipping their false gods and acting like they were worshipping the True God - but not really. They came out of Egypt and they brought their little idols with them. They didn't think that God knew, but He did, and does.

**Joshua 24:14-15** "14Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! 15And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

- "Therefore" - Because they didn't, they will go into captivity and learn not to worship idols.
- God is not through with them.