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Amos 4

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Learn the Bible with Friends

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Amos 4.

Topics.

- The LORD speaks against Israel (the ten tribes) in the land of Samaria.
- Israel will be taken captive.
- Israel is multiplying their transgressions.
- Israel did not return to God.
- Sins of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Israel is told to prepare to meet their God.

NOTE: For information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

AMOS 4:1

The LORD speaks against Israel (the ten tribes) in Samaria.

- **Amos 4:1:** "Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to your husbands, 'Bring, that we may drink!'"

You cows of Bashan: refers to the Northern Kingdom of Israel (the ten tribes) in the land of Samaria. The people of Israel are oppressing the poor, afflicting the less fortunate and their wives want to drink and party.

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AMOS 4:2-3

Israel will be taken Captive.

- **Amos 4:2-3:** The Lord GOD has sworn by his holiness that, behold, the days are coming upon you (Israel), when they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks. ³And you shall go out through the breaches, each one straight ahead; and you shall be cast out into Harmon," declares the LORD.

Harmon: the location is unknown.

God used Assyria to fulfill these prophetic words of Amos. Assyria besieged Samaria (the ten Tribes) for three years and carried its more prosperous citizens into exile, replacing them with colonists from other provinces of Assyria.

AMOS 4:4-5

Israel is multiplying their Transgressions.

- **Amos 4:4-5:** "Come to Bethel, and transgress; to Gilgal, and multiply transgression; bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes every three days; ⁵offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened, and proclaim freewill offerings, publish them; for so you love to do, O people of Israel!" declares the Lord GOD.

Bethel: Jeroboam set up a worship centre and golden calf at Bethel for the Ten Tribes of Israel to gather at and keep the LORD'S sacrifices and Holy Days etc.

Gilgal: was a town on the plains of Jericho near the northern border of Judah.

The people of Israel love performing religious rites and sacred ceremony, but God tells them, by continuing to offer their sacrifices, their tithes and their freewill offerings they are actually multiplying their transgressions. Religious works mean nothing to God if the heart is not right and those doing them are mistreating other humans, especially the poor.

AMOS 4:6-3

Israel did not return to God.

- **Amos 4:6-3:** "I (the LORD) gave you (Israel) cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and lack of bread in all your places, yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.

Cleanness of teeth: means famine, nothing to eat.

AMOS 4:7-8

God: brought famine to Israel's land.

- **Amos 4:7-8:** "I also withheld the rain from you when there were yet three months to the harvest; I would send rain on one city, and send no rain on another city; one field would have rain, and the field on which it did not rain would wither; ⁸so two or three cities would wander to another city to drink water, and would not be satisfied; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.

God: withheld rain from Israel's crops.

- **Amos 4:9:** "I struck you with blight and mildew; your many gardens and your vineyards, your fig trees and your olive trees the locust devoured; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.

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AMOS 4:10

God: struck Israel's crops with mildew and locusts.

- **Amos 4:10:** "I sent among you a pestilence after the manner of Egypt; I killed your young men with the sword, and carried away your horses, and I made the stench of your camp go up into your nostrils; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.

AMOS 4:11

God: sent pestilence and brought war on the people of Israel.

- **Amos 4:11:** "I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were as a brand plucked out of the burning; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.

God: destroyed cities of Israel.

Sodom and Gomorrah became symbols of wickedness and of God's judgment.

Sins of Sodom and Gomorrah: the men of Sodom and Gomorrah did not aid the poor or the less fortunate and were not ashamed of their sins, but proclaimed them in the open. They were liars and full of pride. The men committed adultery and violently indulged in sexual immorality. They supported evildoers, were prosperous, at ease and had an excess of food.

NOTICE: God brought disasters on Israel and even though God withheld rain from Israel's crops, struck their farms with pestilence and brought war on the people they did not repent of their wicked ways and turn to God.

Syria: (Syrians) is an abbreviation of Assyria, today it is called Iraq. Two of its chief cities were Damascus and Antioch.

AMOS 4:12-13

Israel is told to prepare to meet their God.

- **Amos 4:12-13:** "Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!" ¹³For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth—the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!

The words, "Prepare to meet your God, O Israel," in the context of Amos prophetic message means, God is going to bring disaster upon the Northern Kingdom (the ten tribes). The LORD uses secular nations, kings, and people to achieve His plans and purposes, sometimes to bless and other times to bring judgment. He used Assyria to bring judgment on Israel in the land of Samaria and Babylon to bring judgment on Judah at Jerusalem. Many times, God through the prophets warned Israel and Judah of their impending doom, but they would not listen. Assyria eventually invaded the land of Samaria and took Israel captive, later Babylon's armies surrounded Jerusalem and after a bitter siege of a year and a half the city fell to Nebuchadnezzar and was destroyed. Zedekiah was blinded and carried to Babylon, and the great bulk of the population was taken there with him (587 B.C.). Archaeologists have found that all of the cities of Judah were completely destroyed at this time, thus ended the glorious kingdom of David and Solomon. Observers would have said that the Hebrew nation was annihilated, and indeed, the other nations conquered by the Assyrians and Babylonians did cease to exist. But the prophets proclaimed a better hope for the chosen people. "A remnant shall return" Isaiah had said, and in time this remnant, purged and returned, became the basis on which a new Israel would be built.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
