

## Prepare To Meet Thy God

### D. Israel ... Prepare to meet thy God, (Amos 4)

Amos 4:1-13

God Becomes sarcastic...

#### 1. He said, listen you cow (Why a cow?)

1 Hear this word, ye **kine(cow)** of **Bashan(region of east Jordan)**, that are in **the mountain of Samaria**,

##### a. Reason 1 you're a cow messing with the poor

1b which **oppress(violate, defraud)** the poor,

##### b. Reason 2

which **crush(discourage, bruise)** the needy, which say to their masters, Bring, and let us drink.

#### 2. Your going to lose it all

2 The Lord GOD hath sworn by his holiness, that, lo, the days shall come upon you, that **he will take you away with hooks(piercing hook)**, and your **posterity(future)** with fishhooks.

3 And ye shall go out at the **breaches(broken area)**, every cow at that which is before her; and ye shall **cast them into the palace**, saith the LORD.

### Illustration of an Assyrian King Using Hooks and Gouging Eyes



This sketch is an archaeological discovery from the ruins of Ancient Assyria. It reveals an Assyrian king blinding a captive king while holding his head still with a hook in his lips. The other kings are waiting for the same fate with bridles in their noses. The Bible reveals accounts of prisoners being blinded and this metaphor is used of God leading rebellious people and nations.

*"And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon." - 2 Kings 25:7*

*"Because thy rage against me, and thy tumult, is come up into mine ears, therefore will I put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest." - Isaiah 37:29*

*"And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen.." - Ezekiel 38:1-4*

There are many examples revealing Assyrian severity. A captured king was taken to the capital and compelled to pull the royal chariot of triumph. Rings were put through their lips or noses and sometimes hands, feet, noses and ears were cut off, they were blinded and their tongues were torn from their mouths. Prisoners were skinned alive and set on fire. Their skins were also hung near enemy city gates in order to collect tribute. The Lord allowed the ruthless Assyrians to capture the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 BC because of Israel's rebellion against Him. They were never seen again.

**a. Lose Your Soil - Lands**

4 Come to Bethel(**house of God**), and transgress; at Gilgal **multiply transgression**; and bring your sacrifices every morning, and **your tithes after three years**:

**b. Lose your Spiritual Freedom**

5 And offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving **with leaven**, and proclaim and publish the **free offerings**: for this liketh you, O ye children of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

**3. I've already tried other approaches to no avail**

**a. You lost your Sustenance**

6 And I also have given you **cleanness of teeth** in all your cities, and **want of bread** in all your places: **yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.**

**b. You lost your Supply**

7 And also **I have withholden the rain from you**, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered.

8 So two or three cities wandered unto one city, **to drink water; but they were not satisfied**: **yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.**

**c. You lost your Safety**

**i. The health of the land**

9 I have smitten you with **blasting and mildew**: when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the **palmerworm devoured them**: **yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.**

**ii. The health of our bodies**

10 I have sent among you the **pestilence(plague)** after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up unto your nostrils: **yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.**

11 I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: **yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.**

**4. Prepare to meet thy God**

12 Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, **prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.**

13 For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name.