**February 18, 2021**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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“PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD”

**Amos 4**

***Amos 4:1 "Hear this word, ye kine of Bashan, that [are] in the mountain of Samaria, which oppress the poor, which crush the needy, which say to their masters, Bring, and let us drink."*** Amos had some choice words for the wealthy, indulgent women of Samaria: This is one a few biblical prophesies that is directed uniquely and gender specifically to women and their role in God’s plan of salvation for mankind. Listen to this message, ye Kine of Bashan. "Kine", in the verse above, means a heifer. This prophecy is not speaking literally of a female cow but speaking spiritually of these Samaritan women. Bashan was an area east of the Sea of Galilee; it had flourishing pastures and plump livestock. Like spoiled cows, these women demanded luxury and pleasure. They oppressed the poor and needy and made demands on their husbands. Solomon called this type of woman as “odious” and “contentious” wrote several warnings about them. Odious means deserving of hatred, hateful; causing or exciting hatred or repugnance, disagreeable, offensive, repulsive; exciting odium. This hateful creature is a woman that has forsaken her Creator, His wise design of her sex, and His commandments for her role in marriage. Her contrariness is confusion itself!

***Proverbs 30:20-23***

***20 Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.***

***21 For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear:***

***22 For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat;***

***23 For an odious woman when she is married; and an handmaid that is heir to her mistress.***

***Proverbs 27:15 A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.***

***Romans 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:***

Since Solomon’s main purpose was to guide his son to a successful and prosperous life, he knew the importance of saving him from a woman that would destroy his soul, strength, success, and reputation. While most women dislike these warnings, virtuous women love them. You can eliminate body odor with a bath or cover it with perfume, but a man cannot hide his odious wife in public, for she cannot stop her irritating ways. Her speech, body language, facial expressions, constant opinions, and many other faults make it obvious to all that there goes a man that made a fatal mistake in courtship. No wonder there is attached to Solomon’s proverbs the wisdom of King Lemuel’s mother, who provided a detailed list of the character of a virtuous woman, the opposite of the odious woman.

***Proverbs 31:10-12***

***10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.***

***11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.***

***12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.***

***Proverbs 31:20 "She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy."***

***Proverbs 31:26-28***

***26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.***

***27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.***

***28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.***

This type of woman is a disgrace to womanhood and a detriment to God’s sovereign eternal agenda. She is not only greedy and hurtful to the poor, but it appears she is a drinker, as well. It is bad enough to see an evil, drunk man. But an evil, drunk woman is demonic and brings the swift judgment of God. Women by divine design have been appointed to be the channel for which God uses to manifest His humanity. Correspondingly, she has a special place in the heart of God that men can only envy.

***1 Timothy 2:9-15***

***9In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;***

***10But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.***

***11Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.***

***12But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.***

***13For Adam was first formed, then Eve.***

***14And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.***

***15Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.***

***Amos 4:2 "The Lord GOD hath sworn by his holiness, that, lo, the days shall come upon you, that he will take you away with hooks, and your posterity with fishhooks."***

***Amos 4:3 "And ye shall go out at the breaches, every [cow at that which is] before her; and ye shall cast [them] into the palace, saith the LORD."***

These women of Samaria, who snubbed God and committed social injustice against his people, would suffer humiliation, and be carried into exile in foreign lands. The Lord swore by his holiness that he would bring this about. There’s no better guarantee than that. God swears by Himself, because there is no one above Him. He is Holiness. God is absolute Truth and Holiness. The mention of the "hooks" means that the people will be helpless to save themselves. God will take them away, as if they had a hook in their mouth. A fish is helpless, when he has a fishhook in his mouth. Cattle find a hole in the fence and go through it. These women will find a break in the wall and go out at it. They will be carried away by the enemy to their stronghold.

***Amos 4:4 "Come to Beth-el, and transgress; at Gilgal multiply transgression; and bring your sacrifices every morning, [and] your tithes after three years:"***

***Amos 4:5 "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."***

Here Amos turns to sarcasm as he prosecutes his case on God’s behalf: Come to Bethel and rebel. Beth-el and Gilgal had been places of true worship in the past. When the nation split into northern and southern kingdoms, King Jeroboam of Israel built an altar at Bethel and made two golden calves for the people to worship in order to prevent them from traveling to Judah and the temple in Jerusalem. This was in direct violation of the Mosaic law. Thus, Amos sarcastically encourages them to continue in the idolatry they love so that they can see where devotion to false gods ends. These of Israel had turned both places into a place for false worship. They, both, were places where idols were worshipped. It is so strange that all the time the Israelites were worshipping false gods, they were still going through the motion of worshipping God. They were still sacrificing every day, as they had before they started worshipping false gods. There was a tithe that took place every third year, but most believe this is speaking of a tithe every three weeks which is not the law. This tithe had to be associated with their worship of false gods. In 2nd Timothy chapter 3, we read that even in our day, people will have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof. Leaven symbolizes sin. The law forbids any leaven in any meat offering consumed by fire. Leavened bread was never to touch the altar. We see, they had strayed very far from the law of their fathers.

***Amos 4:6 "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."***

***Amos 4:7 "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."***

***Amos 4:8 "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."***

The fact that their teeth were clean indicates a famine in the land. God brought the famine to cause them to repent and return to Him. Even the famine did not cause them to repent of their sins. This is speaking of a drought coming. Again, God did this to get them to repent and turn back to Him, and they did not. He caused such selective places to rain, that it should have been obvious that this was a judgment of God upon them. Sometimes, the drought was so bad, they had to go to another city to get water. They still did not recognize God's hand in this and did not repent.

***Amos 4:9 "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."***

Even when they did make a crop, God sent mildew and ruined the fruit and vegetables. They still did not realize, they were being punished for sin in their lives, and they did not repent and turn to God. Even the palmerworm {a type of locust} did not cause them to repent. God's promise had been to bless them, if they obeyed Him, and to curse them, if they did not. If they had known His Word, they should have understood what was happening. It was within their own power to stop all of this. They just needed to repent and return to God.

***Amos 4:10 "I have sent among you the pestilence 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."***

Each punishment that God sent on them became a little worse, but it did no good at all. They did not repent. Even the loss of their sons to the sword, did not cause them to repent. The loss of their horses did not affect them either. The stink comes from the unburied dead bodies, possibly, from some battle.

***Amos 4:11 "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."***

***Amos 4:12 "Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: [and] because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel."***

Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire and brimstone falling from God in heaven. A very similar thing had happened to some of them, but they were not moved enough to repent and return to God. This last punishment will be so great, that they will die. All of the plagues God had sent before to warn them, had not caused them to repent. God does not tell them exactly what this next punishment is but frightens them by telling them to prepare to meet their God.

***Amos 4:13 "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."***

This is a declaration that Creator God will bring this punishment on them. This is no idle threat but is made by the Ruler of the universe. The mountains are from generation to generation and are one of the most permanent of His creations. No one knows where the wind comes from, but God created it, too. God is God of all His creation. The Lord, Jehovah, the Eternal One, Alpha and Omega, the One who exists, the All Powerful, is still in control of all. He can do with any of it whatever He chooses. It all belongs to God.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What does "kine" mean?
2. Who are the kine in verse 1?
3. Where, in Proverbs, do we read about the virtuous woman?
4. This woman, in verse 1, is a disgrace to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. What had God sworn by?
6. Why did He swear by that?
7. What does the mention of the "hooks" mean?
8. Where do the women go to find a way of escape?
9. What did Beth-el and Gilgal have in common?
10. What terrible thing had happened to them?
11. Leaven symbolizes \_\_\_\_.
12. The law forbids leaven in what offering?
13. Why were their teeth clean?
14. Why had God allowed this to happen to them?
15. What is verse 7 speaking of?
16. How bad was the drought?
17. When they did make a crop, what did God do to destroy it?
18. Each punishment that God sent on them became a little \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
19. What did the stink come from?
20. How were Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed?
21. What did God tell them to prepare to do?
22. What is verse 13 a declaration of?
23. Why can God do this?