

Amos Part 12 – Prepare to Meet Thy God

Key Verses: Amos 4:5 – 4:13

Before we get into our new verses let's address the second half of verse 5.

Amo 4:5 And offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven, and proclaim *and* publish the free offerings [H5071]: for this liketh [love] you, O ye children of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

We are called into the camp of the saints (Gilgal, Bethel, Hermon etc.) in our filthy garments still in marred vessels of clay. As the chosen few (Mat 22:14), the elect of the Lord are only given an **earnest deposit** of the spirit of God which is a down payment of the fullness to come (2Co 1:22, Eph 1:14) at the first resurrection. It is here in the Body of Christ that we bring sacrifices to the Lord **with leaven** (Lev 7:13), initially a virtual sinning machine (Psa 51:5), helpless to do otherwise until the Lord brings the fire of judgment upon us.

Rom 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Joh 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

This is one of those verses the carnal Christian world thinks speaks of man having a free will, free from the will of God. The SUM of God's word is the truth (Psa 119:160 - ASV) and no Scripture is of its own explanation (2Pe 1:20 – CLV).

Man, not having any free will, **is a firmly established truth** in the true Church which is the Body of Christ (see links at the end for several Free Will's studies to firmly establish this in your minds if this Truth is not settled in your mind). Man, not having any free will is true despite the KJV translators use of the word *neda`ba`h*, H5071 as "freewill". Carnal men have taken these Scriptures by themselves (ignoring the SUM) to create and defend the false doctrine of free will.

H5071, *neda`ba`h*

Total KJV Occurrences: 26

freewill, 15

free, 2

freely, 2

voluntary, 2

willing, 2

Without going into details of all these references, let's just point out some other Scriptures that make it perfectly clear that man has a will but it is by no means free of the Lord's working all things.

Php 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

In fact, I like to point out the last verse in Amos 4 and get one to think about just how big God is and how active the Lord is in every minute detail of everyone's life. Not only does the Lord order all our steps (Psa 37:23, Jer 10:23), gives us every word we speak (Pro 16:1. Isa 57:19), but our every thought is given to us by the Lord.

Amo 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.

Our study next week will begin with Amos 4:13 and I will share a dialog Steven Crook and I had about it some time ago. The issue in discussion was on who the “his” was in “his thought” because who is the “his” in “his thought” could be subject to different interpretations. But in the meantime, a God that declares thoughts to His creation is a mighty God indeed!

As carnal men, we have no idea of the Lord’s hand in our life and we only see this as we grow and mature in the truth and look behind us in our day of judgment. We truly are just clay in His hands (Isa 64:8).

Pro 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

We continue on as the Lord who loves us (Heb 12:6) drags us to Himself as we are being prepared to meet our God.

Amo 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.

Amo 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.

Amo 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.

Amo 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.

Amo 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.

Amo 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.

Amo 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.

We are being prepared to meet our God by being caused to err from His ways and then not responding to the chastening intended to bring us to repentance. The theme of chapter 4 is “you have not returned to the Lord”. It is no coincidence this phrase is found 5 times (grace thru faith) in today’s verses as repentance comes about only by the Lord’s process of pouring out of wrath that works righteousness in us little by little. The repentance, the baptism and the process of salvation is all the same process of judgment the Holy Spirit brings.

Act 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Joh 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness,

and of judgment:

It is this process of chastening that brings salvation and is teaching us righteousness (Isa 26:9).

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Tit 2:12 Teaching (chastening) us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Repentance is the process of learning obedience by the things we are given to suffer. Flesh is stubborn and despite seeing many miraculous works and having much wrath and tribulation already poured out upon our old man, **we refuse to turn to the Lord**. Each of the seven churches, which represent the complete church, all of which are inside of us, are called to repent. Here are three of the seven “repentance” messages to the seven churches.

Rev 2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and **she repented not**.

Rev 2:16 **Repent; or else** I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, **and repent**.

This is the purpose of judgment, to turn us to repentance yet we are not going there willingly. We indeed have to be “drug” there (Joh 6:44) our old man kicking and screaming all the way. Flesh and the carnal mind is extremely stubborn and we see this in the pouring out of wrath in the Book of Revelation as well as throughout all the prophets.

Rev 9:12 One woe is past; *and*, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

Rev 9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet **repented not** of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

Rev 9:21 **Neither repented** they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

Repentance is proven by the fruit our deeds produce (Mat 3:8). Knowledge is not enough.

Amo 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.

The elect of God is given the blessing of knowing the mysteries of the kingdom and eating the bread of Life at an altar that no other man can eat at (Heb 13:10, Mat 13:11). Having spiritual ears to hear and eyes to see is what enables us to know the truth and how properly divide the Scriptures. We have to eat the Word (the true bread from heaven) and suffer the loss of the kingdom of the old man to become doers of the Word. We can't serve two masters. Having true doctrine, drinking the milk does grow us in the faith (1Pe 2:2, Gen 49:11-12) but that is to prepare us for the second coming of Christ that will bring lasting fruit bearing repentance.

Isa 11:11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord will **set his hand again the second time** to recover the remnant of his people, that shall remain, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

Heb 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear **the second time** without sin unto salvation.

The harlot within us will deceive us into thinking we are doing no wickedness despite our eating and drinking in the Kingdom of God.

Pro 30:20 So is the way of an adulterous woman; **She eateth**, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, **I have done no wickedness.**

Jer 5:31 The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

Our beastly nature loves feasting on the knowledge of the truth. Like physical riches and possessions, these spiritual blessing also become stumbling blocks. Fighting the good fight of faith requires us to be content on what we have and beware the snare of riches that drown men into destruction and perdition (1T1 6:9).

Amo 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.

Amo 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 Lord is the only physical and spiritual rain maker. Spiritually speaking, rain is the Truth and our understanding of the Word of God and sound doctrine.

Deu 32:1 Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

Deu 32:2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

Cities represent strongholds within the Kingdom of God within us that need deliverance from our bondage to sin and the carnal enmity with God. The Lord spiritually rain on some cities to bring forth spiritual growth (fruit of righteousness) and in other cities there are a drought and all spiritual things wither. This is all designed to cutoff the pride of man and humble us by showing us the Lord is truly working all things in heaven and earth.

1Pe 1:24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

The rain and blessing of the Lord are withheld when we turn back and remain defiant in our day of the Lord.

Jer 3:2 ...and thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness.

Jer 3:3 Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

Amo 8:11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD

Joe 1:13 Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God.

The Lord has given us the two or three witnesses to establish every matter of truth (Deu 19:15); yet even after seeing multiple witnesses to the Words of Christ, stubborn flesh do not turn back to the Lord. The living waters are to our bellies (Exo 15:23, Rev 10:10) and we would rather have the old drink rather than the new (Luk 5:39). So we wander seeking relief from our trials

and reproach, drunk on knowledge but finding no peace. Every learning but never able to come to knowledge of the truth, we are brought to our wits ends.

Psa 107:27 They reel to and fro, and **stagger [H5128]** like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end.

The word for wandering is the same word the Psalmist used for *stagger*. It is only those brought to this place of crying out in meekness that are then able to eat and drink and be satisfied (Psa 22:26, Mat 5:3-6). Thankfully salvation is the Lord's work in us and He is bringing it to pass through the means He has devised exactly on schedule. A loving Father scourges every son He receives (Heb 12:6).

Rev 3:19 As **many as I love, I rebuke and chasten**: be zealous therefore, and repent.

We will look behind ourselves to see the blessing and the miracle of righteousness the Lord has worked and is working in us as we continue running the race for the prize.

Amo 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.

Blasting and mildew are part of the long list of curses of the Lord for disobedience.

Deu 28:22 The LORD shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish.

Growing into maturity is hard because flesh keeps on wanting to take credit for what the Lord is doing. Even when the spiritual growth (the crops, the vineyard, trees etc.) increases, the Lord sends His army to devour that crop because we have not returned to Him. A jealous God is not going to allow His wife to continue to commit fornication and adultery.

Rev 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

Salvation is only of the Lord and there is NO, I, me or my in any of it. We all like Job, will come to see ourselves as very righteous and godly (Job 29) long before we ever are and BEFORE we are given to meet the Lord in the whirlwind of judgment. The fruit of self-righteousness will not remain (Joh 15:16), it will be burned up and spoiled by the plagues the Lord sends.

Joe 1:11 Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished.

The plagues come to reveal the hidden thing of darkness that need purging. The subsequent chastening of the Lord is what teaches us the right way and brings about the fruits worthy of repentance. Before we learn to overcome, we will be overcome by the beast (Rev 13:7). Only later in the process (in the end) do we overcome is, was and will be IF we are called, chosen and faithful (Rev 17:14).

Drunk on knowledge and thinking we have arrived, far from the end, the Lord brings out the worms of our self-righteousness to show us our need for repentance.

Joe 1:4 That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.

Joe 1:5 Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth.

Mold is mildew which is likened to a plague similar to leprosy which we know is our sinfulness. The root word for mildew [H3418] comes from a word translated as green and described as yellowish green or sickly vegetation per Strong's. Green and yellow represents a mixed mind of flesh and spirit and is a very immature mindset that we need to come out of.

H3418, *yereq*, *yeh'-rek*

From **H3417** (in the sense of *vacuity* of color); properly *pallor*, that is, hence the yellowish *green* of young and sickly vegetation; concretely *verdure*, that is, grass or vegetation: - grass, green (thing).

The Lord's purpose in these plagues is our salvation and shining light on what needs repentance. The prayer of dedication to the Solomon's Temple shows us the Lord's purposes in bringing the plagues upon us which is to move us on to maturity and overcoming, being doers!

1Ki 8:37 NKJV "When there is famine in the land, pestilence or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers; when their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities; whatever plague or whatever sickness there is;

1Ki 8:38 whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, **when each one knows the plague of his own heart**, and spreads out his hands toward this temple:

1Ki 8:39 then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, **and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways**, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men),

1Ki 8:40 that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.

1Ki 8:48 And so **return unto thee with all their heart**, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name:

Amo 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.

The Lord sends pestilence upon Egypt (the world) and the man of sin/beast initially ruling the land (Pharaoh). He does the same again (is, was and will be) against the religious beast we have become (Rev 13:11) with the knowledge of Truth but not yet being able to perform the Word. Seeking occasion for judgment (Jdg 14:4), our stubbornness in refusing to repent is used of the Lord to further bring judgment and to multiply the signs and wonders in our heavens and earth.

Exo 11:9 And the LORD said unto Moses, Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you; that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.

As we strife with the best flesh can offer we are overcome and powerless (no horses) to being snared in besetting sins. We begin to see our spiritual stink but are helpless as we are being brought low by design. These plagues are the hand of God humbling us.

1Ti 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came

into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

1Pe 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Living by every word includes us having a Sodom and Gomorrah experience as the Lord delivers His people in the fire of His judgment.

Amo 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.

Only those chosen to overcome in this age will overcome and are overcoming. These Scriptures are not here to warn us of eternal hellfire but tell those that hear that salvation is all His Work. It is only the exaltation of Jesus Christ within our hearts and minds, via the process of judgment; by which repentance is granted to Israel (the elect of God).

Act 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to **give repentance to Israel**, and forgiveness of sins.

Salvation comes little by little, city by city, as the prophets of the Lord are sent to preach the gospel to the heathen within ourselves. All the cities within are given over to fornication and worship of strange gods and require the suffering of AGE ABIDING (not eternal) fire to be turned back to the Lord.

Jud 1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Luk 17:29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

Luk 17:30 Even **thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.**

A firebrand [H181] plucked from the burning is a POKER delivered from fire. A fire poker is an instrument used to turn embers and hot coals in a physical fire. And this is exactly what the elect, who are being judged first are being prepared to be. We are the *spiritual fire pokers* for the Lord that are the instruments of judgment.

Jer 5:14 Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.

1Co 6:2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

The house of God is the Body of Christ, and we are the instruments of judgment that speak the Words of fire. We are a fire poker because we will be the ones tending the fire in the lake of fire (Isa 33:14-15, Rev 20:5). That is why we are being judged now to be prepared to be the fire and the fire managers at the Great White Throne Judgement. We are the Lord's witnesses who will bring salvation to all the Gentile nations within and without ourselves in the times appointed.

Mic 4:2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Rom 11:31 Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also

may obtain mercy.

As we saw a few studies back (Amos Part 9), we are not able to walk with the Lord unless we meet with Him. That is how we come into agreement and have the same mind via the process.

Amo 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.

So this is the reason the Lord pours out chastening grace (five times) and that is to turn us back to Him and grant repentance to the Israel of God. Finding repentance and coming to know Jesus Christ only happens in Zion which is in The Christ.

Isa 59:20 And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto **them that turn** (repent) from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.

Joh 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

The Lord is working all things for His Will and that includes our every step, thought and deed; even our very sins (Isa 63:17, Amo 3:5). All the signs and wonders, the plagues, the scouring are “the miracles” working righteousness in us. In the heat of our plagues, we don’t see it that way but looking behind us, we rejoice being set free.

Psa 107:30 Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.

Psa 107:31 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

We know from the sum of the Word that we meet and get to know the Lord in the whirlwind, in the fire of judgment. That is what abiding in AIONIOUS (eternal) life requires. Like Job, we meet the Lord in the whirlwind (Job 38:1, 40:6). It is there that He is speaking with us and teaching us righteousness. These judgments are teaching us the Lord’s ways and expanding our understanding of what being “Lord in heaven and earth” truly means.

Deu 4:39 Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.

Exo 7:5 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.

Next week Lord willing, we will start with the last verse of Chapter 4 which is an amazing verse and then move forward in meeting the Lord in the whirlwind of our judgment in our day of the Lord.

Amo 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.

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