

Amos 4**7-25-02*****“Prepare to Meet Your Maker!”*****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. **Ferdinand & Imelda Marcos**(P.I. in 80's) used their power to amass private wealth, siphoning foreign aid, loans, and the profits of domestic companies into secret Swiss bank accounts(suspected \$20 billion).
 - 1.1.1. Imelda Marcos liked shoes. She had a special section of the presidential palace, comprising **five separate rooms**, which housed over 1,220 pairs of shoes.
 - 1.1.2. Imelda also left behind **500 gowns** and **300 bras**...1 was even bullet-proof.
 - 1.1.3. Imelda Marcos put the “enjoyment of her **feet**” above the “**empty bellies** of the children of the country” that looked to her for leadership.
 - 1.1.4. **And so we have the rebuke of the women of Israel.**

2. LIVING IN LUXURY! (1-3)

- 2.1. (1) These overindulged women of Israel, whom he sarcastically links to a “pampered, sleek, well-fed, & obviously ‘well-watered’ cows!” (“**let us drink**” or, “Bring me another drink!”)
 - 2.1.1. They grazed in the rich uplands of Bashan. (In TransJordan, near Galilee)
 - 2.1.2. And so these women had constant demand for comfort & luxury...had kept food & clothing from the poor.
 - 2.1.2.1. It took courage for Amos to call the wealthy women of Israel “cows”!
 - 2.1.3. This was also a breed known for strength & stubbornness(Meyer).
 - 2.1.4. Usually women are the final guardians of morals & standards.
- 2.2. **Husbands** – A rare word for husbands, meaning lord/master.
 - 2.2.1. Amos scorned those husbands who were supposed to be “masters” but who in reality meekly obeyed like servants.
- 2.3. **Opress & crush** – Describe threats & physical harassments used to squeeze \$ from the helpless.

2.4. **The Lord has sworn by His holiness!** – adds tremendous weight to the message that follows.

2.4.1. If Israel continues in sin, certain consequences are inevitable.

3. **DEVOTED TO DUTY! (4,5)**

3.1. It wasn't just the **women**, but the **whole nation** was involved w/religiosity!

3.2. Here was their “**token nod**” to God for delivering them from Egypt.

3.2.1. I wonder what part of our “devotion” to God is only a **token nod**?

3.3. “**Come**” – This was a spoof of a priest's summons to pilgrims.

3.3.1. “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the **LORD our Maker.**” (Ps.94:6)

3.4. **Bethel & Gilgal** – Gilgal was Israel's 1st campground after entering the promise land.

3.4.1. They crossed over, **now what? Conquer the land?** No, build a monument!

3.4.1.1. To celebrate the **end** of the wanderings & the **beginning** of a new life!

3.4.2. So, Joshua set up the 12 stones from the river Jordan, in Gilgal.

3.4.2.1. Don't forget God's provisions & guidance!

3.4.2.2. BUT...don't make that **stone of remembrance** a place of idolatry/worship!

3.5. **Q:** How can we keep our **worship** from becoming **empty ritual**?

3.5.1. Fresh prayer, spiritual awareness, free from distractions, heart right, focus mentally, choose to worship!

4. **DEAF TO DISCIPLINE! (6-11)**

4.1. **Q:** Recall a time when you wandered from God. What brought you back? (**ask**)

4.2. God sent his warnings but they would not listen!

- 4.3. “Yet you have not returned to me” is the sad refrain of this chapter.
- 4.3.1. God’s disciplines are to bring about restoration & true repentance.
- 4.3.2. **Q:** If God uses the method of “repetition” in regards to discipline, how can we do the same as parents?
- 4.3.2.1. Discipline consistently for the goal of restoration!
- 4.3.2.2. Do whatever we can to help them turn from their errant ways
- 4.3.3. **Q:** Have **you** ever had to have been disciplined repeatedly?
- 4.4. God used several means of discipline: **famine, drought, crop disease, locusts, plagues, war, & local catastrophes**...& the people still didn’t get it.
- 4.5. **(6) Famine!**
- 4.5.1. “**Cleanness of teeth**” – i.e. Nothing to chew on.
- 4.5.2. **But even in this, they would not repent!**
- 4.6. **(7,8) Drought!**
- 4.6.1. **But even in this, they would not repent!**
- 4.7. **(9) Crop Disease, Mildew & Locusts!** (re: their crops)
- 4.7.1. The hot blasting wind of the Arabian desert blew relentlessly causing **blight/disease**.
- 4.7.2. Parasitic worms brought **mildew**, a yellowing of the tips of green grain.
- 4.7.3. **But even in this, they would not repent!**
- 4.8. **(10) Plagues & War!**
- 4.8.1. God took their best young men to die in war.
- 4.8.2. As populations were crowded into walled cities or assembled into camps, contagious disease broke out & spread.
- 4.8.3. **But even in this, they would not repent!**
- 4.9. **(11) Local Catastrophes!**
- 4.9.1. Finally God totally overthrew some of their cities w/fire.
- 4.9.2. **American Indian story** – Picked up a **brown leaf** & placed a **worm** in it & said, “I am that worm”.
- 4.9.3. **But even in this, they would not repent!**

- 4.10. **Q:** What words would you use to describe each of the judgments the Lord brought on Israel? (**Gracious, purposeful**)
- 4.10.1. **Also note:** In Deut. 28 you'll notice similarities between the judgments here & there.
- 4.10.2. **Point being God's judgments aren't arbitrary, but He has spelled out the curses for disobedience & the blessings for obedience.**
- 4.10.3. Thus Amos wasn't announcing something **new**, but simply **enforcing** God's existing covenant.
- 4.11. They had met w/God's **disciplines**...but now they were going to meet God **Himself!**
- 4.11.1. No more natural calamities, now he would come Himself.

5. **MEET YOUR MAKER! (12-13)**

- 5.1. (12) There are no more **joyous** words; nor more **awful** words than this in scripture "**Prepare to meet your maker**"!
- 5.1.1. **Joyous** – to those who long for the day! **Awful** – to those who dread it.
- 5.1.2. **Q:** In light of this chapter, what kind of meeting could Israel expect?
- 5.1.3. In 1741 Jonathon Edwards preached his famous sermon: "**Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.**"
- 5.1.3.1. With the use of vivid imagery he concluded his message with "**Therefore, let every one that is out of Christ now **awake & fly from the wrath to come!****"
- 5.1.3.2. God used that sermon to bring a powerful awakening to the town of Enfield, in New England.
- 5.1.4. **Q:** Are **you** prepared to meet your maker?
- 5.1.4.1. (LXX) "**call upon your God**"
- 5.2. (13) This chapter closes with a **hymn** describing the God Israel would meet.
- 5.2.1. **Q:** What do we learn about God in this verse?
- 5.2.1.1. He is creator, communicator, hater of idolatry, & "commander of all forces in heaven".