

Prepare to Meet Your God

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 24 July 2016

[0 : 00] This message was recorded at Vision Baptist Church in Alfred, Georgia. It is our prayer that you will be blessed by the preaching of God's Word.

Turn with me to Amos chapter 4, and we're going to read the entire chapter, Amos chapter 4, and read the Bible with me. Have your Bible out so you can mark it. I think you're going to enjoy this chapter.

The Bible says, hear this word, ye kind of bashan. That's another old-fashioned word for cow. So just imagine the prophets calling these rich women cows, not because of their size, but because he's a little angry with them for the way they've been acting.

So, I mean, this guy must have been an independent Baptist preacher. That's all I can say. Hear this, you cows of bashan that are in the mountain of Samaria, which oppress the poor, which curse the needy, which say to their masters, their husbands, bring and let us drink.

The Lord God has sworn by his holiness that, lo, the day shall come upon you, that he will take you away with hooks and your posterity with fish hooks, and you shall go out at the breaches every cow at that which is before her, and you shall cast him into the palace, saith the Lord.

[1 : 19] Come to Bethel and transgress, at Gilgal, multiply transgression, and bring your sacrifices every morning, and your tithes after three years, and offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven, and proclaim and publish the free offerings for this liketh you, O you children of Israel, says the Lord God.

And I also will give you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places. You have not yet returned unto me, saith the Lord.

Verse 6 is the dental hygienist's verse. It is cleanness of teeth, but this time it's cleanness of teeth because you don't get anything to eat. Verse 7, And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest.

I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city. One piece was rained upon, and the feast whereupon it rained not withered. So two or three cities wandered into one city to drink water, but they were not satisfied.

Yet have you not returned unto me, saith the Lord. I have smitten you with blasting and mildew. When your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palm of water devoured them.

[2 : 35] Yet have you not returned unto me, saith the Lord. I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt. Your young men have I slain with a sword and have taken away your horses.

I have made the stink of your camps come up into your nostrils. Yet have you not returned unto me, saith the Lord. I have overthrown some of you as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were as a fire plant plucked out of the burning.

Yet have you not returned unto me, saith the Lord. Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel, because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.

For lo, he that formeth the mountains and creetheth the wind and declares 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.

Father, I pray today that this passage of Scripture will come alive. I pray that your people will learn what you're saying here. We'll apply it to our lives, and we will go out of here living out who we are.

[3 : 39] Help us as we prepare to meet you. And I pray that your name will be glorified and honored, and I will give you great glory for all that you do. In Jesus' name, amen. Take your Bibles, if you would, and turn with me to the book of Amos chapter 4.

I would like to thank the Whiff family for being the Yoke Fellows to the Snodes, and the Johnson family for being Yoke Fellows to the Masters, and a blessing that you are to them. And if you're not a Yoke Fellow and you're in our church, you can talk to Ty Pepperdine and learn how to be one, and you'll find out it's a blessing.

So thank you for what you guys do. Open your Bibles to Amos chapter 4 and verse 12. The title of the message is Prepare to Meet the Lord Thy God. Prepare to Meet Your God.

Amos chapter 4 and verse 12. The Bible said, There's a couple things I want you to notice.

You need to circle the word Israel. You need to keep your Bible open there. But this is a message from the prophet, and he's talking to the nation of Israel. And so as we study it, we're going to study what he says to Israel, but you'll see there's direct application to us.

[4 : 46] He's not speaking to you as an individual. He's speaking to a country, but there are direct applications to all of us. Father, I pray that you'd use this time. I pray you'd magnify yourself.

I thank you for every visitor here today. I thank you for your word, and I pray, God, that you'd help it to deal with our hearts, save the one who's not saved, and help those that are not right with you to be right.

And, God, we want everyone to be ready to meet you. We give you praise for all in Jesus' name. Amen. Look, if you would, in Amos chapter 4, you can't play with God and eternity and think that somehow it's okay.

Hypocritical worship does not please Him. Too many things get our hearts and minds off the God of eternity, the Creator. Money has a numbing, deadening effect.

Refusing to pay attention to God only causes more things to happen to get you to listen. Listen, this chapter is about Israel's refusal to pay attention no matter what God did.

[5 : 50] He's speaking to a nation here, not just as individuals, but the applications are clear. I just summed up the chapter for you, but walk with me through the chapter, and I think you'll see that pretty clearly.

Number one, there's a warning to the rich cows. There's a warning to the rich cows. Verse one. I don't think this is funny. If I was an 18-year-old preacher and I found this verse, I know I'd have preached it a bunch.

Say amen. Look at what it says. Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, you kind of Bashan, that are in the mountain of Samaria, which oppress the poor, which crush the needy, which say to their masters, that's husbands.

Can you see these cows laid back on their easy chair going, husband, bring me something in here and let us drink. The Lord God has sworn by his holiness that lo, the day shall come upon you, that he will take away you with hooks and your posterity with fish hooks, and you shall go out at the breaches, every cow at that which is before her, and you shall cast them into the palace, says the Lord.

So Amos is calling on the rich cows, the rich wives of the people of Bashan. He uses that word cows as he speaks of the wives of the wealthy leaders of the land.

[7 : 05] They had pushed and motivated their husbands to abuse the people financially. In chapter 4, verse 1, they're oppressing the poor, they're crushing the needy.

You got to understand that unlike America, Israel was a nation under God's leadership and they had been set up to take care of the poor. When they gleaned their fields, if something that they were gleaned, if they were picking up the fruit and something fell to the ground, they were to leave it so the poor people could come along behind them and pick it up.

When they reaped up their fields, they were to leave the corners so the poor people could come and get it. When they shook their trees to get the fruit off of it, they ought to shake it good and hard one time, and then whatever fruit didn't fall, the poor people could come and get it.

If they had taken a loan and they'd given a loan out to somebody and said, give me your coat as a guarantee for the loan, when it got cold at night, they had to give them the coat back.

It was a nation built on taking care of the poor, and now Emma says, you fat cows, you're not doing that. You're oppressing them, you're crushing them, you're abusing them, and you're bossing your husbands around.

[8 : 15] Can you husbands say amen right there? You're scared too, I know. They are warned that they will be punished sooner or later. Amos chapter 4 and verse 2, the Lord God has sworn by His holiness that lo, the day shall come upon you that He will take you away with hooks and your posterity with fish hooks.

The idea was that they were going to stick a hook in their nose and lead them out of the city. These ladies who would have only been posh and proper and out in front of everybody would be drug out of the city.

They're going to end up leaving through the holes in the walls. They're going to be treated like that, and their children, their posterity, is going to suffer the consequences of their sin.

Boy, that ought to get a hold of you. If you got your Bible open, you should underline in verse 2, it says, and your posterity, the punishment God brings on you, hurts your children.

The man who's got a porn problem ends up affecting his kids. The drunkard ends up affecting his kids. You need to understand, sin in your life doesn't just affect you, it affects your posterity.

[9 : 24] If you can hear that, say amen. If that's what the verse says, say amen. Then that means stop it. Amen. Oh me? If you don't want to say amen.

So look at the verse that says, they'll be led out like criminals. Their children will suffer the consequences. They'll go out through the holes in the wall. Amos chapter 4 and verse 3, you shall go out at the breaches, every cow, at that which is before her, and you shall cast him into the palace, says the Lord.

The first section's about how money had started dominating their lives. How they allowed that money to be the thing. They were bossing their husbands around.

They were living in luxury. They were oppressing the poor. They were crushing other people. They had just become money hungry. Now that wouldn't apply to Alpharetta, and that wouldn't apply to 2016.

Money would never have that kind of influence on us. Amen. Sure it would. And if you'll turn with me to the Bible in the New Testament, in 1 Timothy chapter 6, in the New Testament, the Apostle Paul reminds Timothy, you better teach the people to be real careful about their relationship with money.

[10 : 33] You need to learn to be very careful about your relationship with money. The Bible says in 1 Timothy 6, 9, they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare and into many foolish and hurtful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Now if you got your Bible open, which you should have your Bible open to make sure what I'm saying is in the Bible, I want you to underline something. It doesn't say they that are rich fall into temptation. You need to underline they that will be rich.

And will be's is all of us. Because if you're poor, you will be. When you're poor, you know what you're thinking? I got the American dream. I got to get rich like everybody else. And when you're rich, you know what you're thinking?

I think I can be richer. The problem's not the rich. The problem's the will be. You understand that one? Say amen. So the problem is the will be. And it says they that will be rich. You want money.

You want money. You want prosperity. You want popularity. You want power. You want comfort. You want to take care of your family. And what ends up happening is you fail to understand there's a Bible principle.

[11 : 37] Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and I'll add all those things to you. But humans don't live that way. Humans live like this. I live like this often. I have to work on me and that is I want the money.

I go for the money. And when you go for the money you're going to fall into look what the Bible says. Temptation. Temptation. Snare. A trap. A snare.

Into foolish and hurtful lust. Desires. Foolish and hurtful lust. Desires. Now we live you know what foolish and hurtful lust is in that verse? Advertising.

All you can do is turn on the television open the newspaper or drive down the road and everything screams if you just had this car all the girls would come your way. If you just popped a cap on this beer you'll be a popular guy.

Everything screams rich and hurtful lust or foolish and hurtful lust. And look what it does. It drowns men in destruction and perdition.

[12 : 35] It destroys people. The lottery destroys people. Almost everybody it's one that's been destroyed. If you just go study it a little bit. It's not the lottery that's destroying it.

It's money. The will be. It's the wanting to have the money. Perdition. Being lost and going to hell. So many of us it's a choice God or money. You say no it's not a choice of God or money.

Jesus said it was in Matthew 6 24. He said you gotta hate one or love the other. Go look at Matthew 6 24 and you'll see that's what he said. So Paul said to Timothy they that will be rich fall into temptation.

Look at verse 10. For the love of money is the root of all evil. Not money but the love of money. Which while some coveted after while some desired and hungered for it and sought it and looked for it and tried to get it they erred from the faith.

They got up in the morning they thought I gotta make money. I gotta have more money. I gotta win more business. I gotta, I gotta, I gotta, I gotta and instead of being hungry for God they became hungry for the stuff and they're gonna turn into the cows of Bashan.

[13 : 41] And they coveted after and they erred from the faith. They got off the track of the faith. All of a sudden there was no time for serving God. There's no time for reading the Bible. No time for praying. No time for God because I'm after money.

I'm after money. They erred from the faith and they pierced themselves through with many sorrows. They thought money would make them happy. His name was Jack and he came to me and the first church that I started he came to me and he said I don't know what happened.

My boys don't love me but I have worked all my life to help them. I've done everything I can to make them happy. I bought them every toy they could ever want but they aren't happy and they don't love me because things aren't what people need.

People need Jesus. Thank you Ty for coming to church today. Amen. Verse 11 But thou but you oh man of God you people sitting at Vision Baptist Church look what it says flee flee these things and follow flee these things and follow.

If you was one of them alliterating preachers you know the ones that's got to have all them things the letters starting the same we look at verse 9 it said if you want to be rich you fall but men of God flee and then men of God follow after righteousness.

[14 : 58] So you know what you and I do? We run from the money. The word flee that's used there is the Bible word means run like you're scared. You've never been to a race yet where they said on your mark get set flee you only say that when you're running from something.

That's what you heard the last time you was robbing a store and the cops came. That's when you fled say amen. He has fled the scene. So he said flee run from this don't you love money don't you follow after money it's going to destroy you.

Follow after righteousness godliness faith love patience and meekness. Now skip down to verse 17 1 Timothy chapter 6 and verse 17 charge them that are rich in this world by the way that will be everybody in this room everybody in this room can I just let me explain to you I am speaking to some of the most wealthy people in the world.

You're all thinking whoa whoa you got me confused I see a few rich guys in here I saw some nice cars out there but I came in here in a jalopy you got a jalopy you're ahead of most people in the world.

So this is a rich group of people here and he said so charge them that be rich in this world look at it that they be not high minded proud haughty arrogant teach them not to trust in uncertain riches money is uncertain riches are uncertain there was a day there was a day in Peru when people had money and the bank and the president walked out and froze the accounts and stole all their money same thing happened in Argentina it'd be just like the president to walk out and say I know y'all got accounts on stock market in the stock market but we just stole them and if you don't think that ever happens have you ever heard of a Ponzi scheme or have you ever heard of a stock market crash have you ever heard their uncertain riches he said don't you trust uncertain riches learn to trust the God of heaven look what he said charge them that are rich in this world that they be not high minded nor trust in uncertain riches but in the living God who gives us richly all things to enjoy don't trust money trust in the living God do you know him do you know if you died you'd go to heaven do you trust the living God verse 18 you got some money here's instructions for you do good verse 18 do good be rich in good works you want to be rich be rich in good works give to missions give to the church give to missionaries give to poor people be rich in giving be rich in good work ready to distribute distribute what you got willing to communicate let's give it away verse 19 laying up in store let's not be like the cows of Bashan let's use what God gives us for his causes let's give good examples to our families

[17 : 44] I can only say to you this morning all through the scriptures you're going to read this what I do affects my children what I do affects my grandchildren I don't just live all by myself it's not like it's not hurting anybody but me that's simply not true you have an example do you give do you use your money your time and your talents for his kingdom and his glory if not you should become a giver second thing in the chapter go to chapter 4 verse 4 Amos 4 4 cultural Christianity hypocritical worship fake showy external worship is wrong and God hates it let the hearer beware that what I'm about to read is going to sound like it was taken from the religious times of 2016 and all the fancy churches and all the people doing all the fine music shows and all the people living and acting like religion is a big thing we fill coliseums we have mute

Christian music everywhere we turn but as you read these two verses be aware it sounds like it was written yesterday the Bible says listen to me the prophet is going to be this is sarcasm at its finest the prophet is going to be saying stuff like I mean just listen to him come to Bethel and transgress now Bethel that's the worship place Bethel means house of God come to the house of God and sin at Gilgal and multiply transgression go to the place where you offer sacrifices and just send some more and bring your sacrifices every morning y'all come on bring your sacrifices and your tithes after three years all for a thanks sacrifice thanksgiving with leaven and proclaim and publish be sure and write it in the bulletin about who gave put up a stained glass one and put their name on it make sure everybody knows who did it proclaim and publish the free will offerings for this like of you oh you children of

Israel says the Lord God you're over here rich and crushing people and you're still going to church you're over here doing what you know I hate but you're still going down there and singing your songs wait till check next chapter come back next Sunday it's gonna be really wild he's on a roll he's on a roll so look at what he says everything he says here means just the opposite he's making fun of their worship their worship was just sin really because it wasn't sincere they weren't loving and serving God they were just doing what was fashionable and popular this was superficial worship at best the worship centers were full the church coffers were overflowing the music was ringing out but nothing there was for God they brought offerings but they weren't pleasing to God they brought money but not their hearts they did externally what they were supposed to do but inwardly they were never moved their hearts were full of self and sin they were proud of their worship and proud of their generosity they boasted about serving

God they proclaimed it and they published it they loved to go to meeting they loved the fellowship but there was no confession of sin there was no brokenness over sin they lived based on emotion they looked at the external results instead of God changing their lives in the next chapter God says your music is just noise to me I'd be good if I'd said it but I'm just telling you what he said your music is just noise it's not about the music but who the music is for is there a confession of sin is there a heart lifted up in worship what are our motives when we come here together today are we just doing what's culturally correct are we cultural Christianity Christians you know we're in the southeast where everybody is a Christian where everybody goes to church and there are churches full all over this area is that what we're here for or did we come because he is God did we come because we believe this book is true did we become because we know Jesus is God who died on a cross and paid our sin debt and rescued us rose from the grave saved us and gives us eternal life why did we come

Jesus said the same thing in Matthew 15 by the way verse 8 this people draw nigh to me with their mouth they honor me with their lips but their heart is far from me in vain they do worship me it's a waste when they worship me they teach for doctrines the commandments of men the majority of their preachings on things men like to hear not what I got to say their mouth talks about me but their heart doesn't they sing songs about me but their heart doesn't they carry bibles about me but it's not in their heart it's all fake you rich cows of bashing then you come down here and you go to your worship just go ahead and come to the church and keep on sinning I cannot imagine a preacher standing up and saying that but the prophet Amos did maybe it's because he hadn't been to preacher school in the prosperity pastoring class you know he was just a herdman and so maybe he didn't know you ought to say positive things he said the truth instead go with me to Amos chapter 4 and verse 6 you should have your bible open and realize that in this next set of scriptures no matter what God did they refused to get right with him and if you got your bible open go ahead in Amos chapter 4 verse 6 and underline you have not returned unto me

[23 : 36] I did all this and you have not returned unto me said the Lord then underline it four more times can you hear Amos thundering when Trent outlined what the book put the graphic up about the book he said the lion roars can you hear the prophet as he says God did this and you still haven't come back God did this and you still haven't come back God did this and you still haven't come back that's what's going on in Amos chapter 4 no matter what God did they refused to come back in Amos chapter 4 verse 6 he sent recession and financial hardship that took away their food but they didn't come back Amos 4 6 the Bible says and I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities and one of bread in all your places yet have you not returned unto me said the Lord I ran you through hard financial times starting in about 2008 and you still won't come back to me you got clean teeth meaning you don't even have anything to eat you don't need to brush your teeth because you ain't chewing anything

I took it away but you didn't come back look at chapter 4 verse 7 he said I sent drought this could sound like something being going on in the United States maybe in California than maybe on the East Coast he sent drought he even caused it to rain in one place and not rain in another place so they know this ain't a coincidence according to the word of God if you believe the Bible says in verse 7 also I have withholding I've held back the rain from you and when there was still four months to the harvest three months to the harvest I stopped it from raining but I caused it to rain on one city and not to rain on another city one piece was rained on and the other to drink water but they still didn't get enough water yet have you not returned unto me said the Lord I sent recession and financial hardship but you wouldn't get right so I sent drought and I made you suffer financially again but you didn't return to me chapter 4 and verse 9

I've destroyed your income your crops and your jobs and you still don't come back to me he said I have smitten you I've hit you with blasting and mildew when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased upon my worm devoured them everything was going good and I let something happen that destroyed what good was happening yet have you not returned unto me says the Lord that's three isn't it done this you won't come back done this you won't come back done this you won't it sure sounds like it could be me it sure sounds like it could be my country in Amos chapter 4 and verse 10 he sent diseases to get them to repent in Amos 4 10 it says I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt you remember the ten plagues your young men have I slain wars with the sword and have taken away your horses your power machines

I made have you not returned unto me said the Lord then he sent catastrophes verse 11 I have overthrown some of you as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and yet and you were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning around you there has already been destruction and other people have lost it maybe your friends committed suicide in the great recession that we just went through maybe their families broke up maybe their businesses dissolved and you are like a brand plucked out of the fire you escaped and you are still in one piece and God has been that good to you and you still will not return unto me says the Lord I am not saying any of this do you realize I am a very poor preacher all I do is read the Bible and yell a little bit exactly what it saying I am just reading this if

I showed you my notes now it just says this verse says and then I read the verse he said you won't come back you won't come back you won't come back you won't come back you won't come back he's talking to Israel things to notice in these verses God was directly working in their lives all these things that have been happening they weren't coincidences he's in world he's the almighty king and God all these things were meant to call his people back to him yet they refused to come do you see that God is at work in your life do you realize they're more than coincidences maybe you're like well everybody went through the recession well it doesn't rain but I get water out of the lake so it's okay people get sick but

[28 : 56] I just wonder if you've waked up to realize God's dealing with you we're headed towards a verse where he's going to say prepare to meet thy God I have done everything I can to get things in your life straightened out and you ignore me basically he's going to end up saying and I will not be ignored do you realize that God is working on calling you back to him do you pay attention to what he's doing or are you just focused on yourself go with me now to Amos chapter 4 verse 12 real judgments coming now we're to the end of the chapter first part of the chapter he talked to these rich cows bashing they had the money they crushed the poor they ignored what God wanted to do but they still went to worship and they sinned while they were worshipping they came in wicked went out wicked they came in mistreating people and went out mistreating people they came in not loving

God went out not loving God they sang the songs of loving God but didn't love God they even gave big buildings like Christianity in America flourishing but nothing for God all show tons of music tons of music tons of sacrifices tons of buildings and tons of good works but God is far from it and then God said I've done this to get you back I've done this to get you back five times he said that and now he's had it up to here which is what he said in the last I feel like an ox cart with too much weight on it because I will do this unto thee prepare to meet thy God O Israel they have ignored every move of God in their lives he promises judgment like nothing before and is coming now he will come and move in person and there will be no doubt he is there he really is

God there's a certain way I think living in America and especially in an Alpharetta coming Roswell Swanee Duluth Milton Johns Creek area where you can begin to think well we must be in heaven on earth we got money we got comfort we got everything we got health we got the best doctors we got the best of everything here so life is great and so you could easily get to thinking that and so when God's in your heart you just ignore it change channels but God said 413 look at it for lo he that forms the mountains and creates the wind and tells you what you're thinking and declares unto man what is his thought makes the morning darkness and treads upon the high places of the earth the Lord the God of hosts is his name he really is

God he is the creator God he formed the mountains he made the wind he knows what a man is thinking and can tell him his thoughts at this very moment no matter what you're thinking he already knows it he knows and declares to men their thoughts there's nothing hidden about you you bear and naked before him he sees your most inward thoughts he sees you like you are he is God and he has a name I'm not saying that that's what the verse says the God of hosts is his name the Lord the Lord the God of hosts is his name you need to know there really is a God and he is all powerful you can only get away with sin for so long God is at work in your life he is dealing with you but you must recognize and respond to that he is

God and he will not be mocked are you prepared to meet God in all honesty our church is a pretty simple church we just read the next chapter and the next verse you know I didn't prepare this message special for you I mean we just been working verse by verse you came and you like my goodness he mean today not me I'm just reading the chapter I think it was God amen you have to admit I was in the last chapter of the week before and we were in the chapter before that we just been working our way through it if you're born again then you're ready but if you're a cultural Christian that means you know you claim to be saved your mama told you you got saved you got christened baptized signed a church card went through catechism class

[34 : 36] I don't care what you did if you haven't come to a place in your life where you realize you sinned against the holy God and you saw your sin you saw your filthiness and you saw that you deserved hell and you were willing to trust God as your savior you're not saved you saw I'm a Baptist well there's going to be a whole section in hell for you lots of Baptists will be there and go to heaven when you realize you sinned and you turn to a living holy God for salvation if you're not saved then today you can get ready today if you're sitting there and God knows your thoughts he said he declares to you your thoughts he knows it in your heart running you're like man I man I didn't get my number I didn't get your number I'm just reading the chapter and saying what it says God got your number and that conviction you feel is the Holy Spirit dealing with you today is the day you need to trust

God turn from yourself turn from your sin and turn to Christ and I just like to say I know the chapter was written to Jews I fully realize that but doesn't it sound like it could have been written to us doesn't it sound almost like the United States and some of you are born again believers but you've been living like stinking worldly people God's not really real to you and you rich cow bashing you come in here and you bring your money and you play the religious game and think God likes it I didn't write the chapter I'm just delivering the mail get right as a Christian you can live in sin and think you can get away with it but you won't you are not going to hell and you're not going to baptist purgatory but God's going to wake you up because he that began a good work in you will fulfill it and he has predestined you to be conformed to the image of his son and

I'd far rather get Father in heaven I pray you take these moments and work in our lives I pray you'd magnify yourself I pray you'd save the one that's not saved in this room and I pray that you'd help the Christian that's not right with you to get right today I pray God that you do a work here I pray you'd show your power save somebody please save somebody please help some Christians that have been not living up to who they are to mean business with you today and leave that sin leave that wickedness leave that depravity that's in their lives that they keep on going back to and serve you and honor you to vision baptist dot com where you can find our service times location contact information and more audio and video recordings