

Amos

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Amos 4:1-13

Vss. 1-3

- ❖ On the one hand, it might sound a bit rude for Amos to refer to the women of Samaria as cows, but at least the cows of Bashan were the finest cows anyone knew of!
- ❖ And Amos was not the only one to go after the wealthy women with judgement and criticism. Isaiah did so as well in 3:16-4:1.
- ❖ Amos complaint against The Real Housewives of Samaria was not that they lived in wealth and comfort with plenty to eat, it was that their wealth was built on ill gotten gains, the stealing from the poor, and that these women goaded their husbands to steal even more.
- ❖ It does appear that alcohol abuse was a problem for the women as well.
- ❖ God swears by all of who He is that a terrible judgement will fall on them, that they will be carried away with meat hooks, as a butchered cow would be. Further the last of them will be so emaciated from starvation that fish hooks will do.
- ❖ "Harmon" may be Mt. Hermon, which is actually in Bashan, so the cows who survive will wind up where good cows belong.

Vss. 4-5

- ❖ With venomous sarcasm and irony, Amos chides these people for going through the motions of worship. They act like the children of God, but are in truth children of Satan (John 8:42-44).
- ❖ Bethel was the sanctuary of Samaria. Gilgal was the second most holy site of all the Jews, the place where Joshua and the people of Israel first camped in the Promised land after crossing Jordan.

- ❖ The offerings and sacrifices Amos points to are way above and beyond what would have been required. Evidently the wealthy of Samaria wanted everyone to see and marvel at their piety, even to the point of proclaiming their free will offerings. Jesus was dealing with the same misplaced attitudes in Matthew 6:2.

Vss. 6-12

- ❖ Here Amos is calling the Northern Kingdom to repent. He lists all that God has done, is doing, and as vs. 12 tells us, is going to do in order to bring His people to their knees and repent. I heard someone say recently that people never WANT to change and never will change under their pain is severe enough. Pain is what God is bringing.
- ❖ There were seven punishments that Amos offers here: famine (clean teeth), drought, scorching wind, locust, pestilence, war, and earthquake. And five times God says that even after all that, the pain was not enough for the people to repent.
- ❖ “Therefore” vs. 12 begins, means the people have had all the warnings and opportunities to make things right through repentance that they are going to get. “I’m going to do what I said I was going to do!” God tells them. “Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!” The terrible Day of the Lord is upon them.

Vss. 13

- ❖ God has sworn by His holiness. This by implication points to how there is no one like Him. He formed the mountains and creates the wind. He is the one who gives birth to the day and brings it to a close. And even though God walks on the high places of the earth, He still reveals His thoughts to us.
- ❖ As a title, as we saw in 3:13, “God of Hosts” brings forward God’s sovereignty, strength, and power. This is who brings judgement upon Israel, as if to erase any question of His right to do so.