

Prepare to Meet Your God

-- Amos 4:12

-- 3-16-08, Sun Valley
from outline by E.C.Coffman

Intro

A. Amos warns the Northern tribes of Israel, **Amos 4:12**, of God's judgment because of their ignoring all of God's warnings: **v. 10**, pestilence, death by the sword, **v. 11**, overthrew as Sodom as a firebrand plucked out of the burning

1. **5:2** fallen, no more to rise
2. **5:3** city that went out a thousand shall have a hundred left; went out a hundred shall have ten left to the house of Israel.

3. Picture of decimation, death, heavy hand of judgment: "prepare to meet your God" then means prepare to meet the judgment of God, the punishment of God.

B. **An interview between God and man is inevitable**, so we should prepare to meet Him.

1. Where is God? **Acts 17:27** actually not far from each one of us

2. Near us on the day of our death: **Eccl 12:7; 2 Cor. 5:8**

3. Near us on the day of judgment: **Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:10**

C. Thus we must prepare. We are well warned of the drama of that day.

1. **Matthew 7:21**

2. **Revelation 20:11-15**

I. Many Preparations don't help.

A. **Worldly education does not help.**

1. **Acts 17:16-21** worldly philosophy cannot see God without God's help by the Inspired Revelation.

2. **Romans 1:21-23, 28** worldly science makes a fool of itself denying the worship of their own Creator, preferring to worship the created things that they study, falling into degenerate behavior

3. **1 Corinthians 1:18-21** wisdom of God is foolishness to carnal minded men

B. **Abuse of the body does not help.**

1. **Colossians 2:20-23** no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh

2. Gospel demands not "penance" (pilgrimages, self-flagelation, etc.) but rather "repentance" (new mind, new direction, obedience to a New Lord Jesus Christ)

C. **Going it alone does not work.**

1. Israel understood through the words of **Isaiah 64:5-6 (v. 1-9)**

2. **Romans 3:23** For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

3. **Titus 3:5** We cannot be saved by our own righteousness works without being rescued by the washing of regeneration.

II. God tells us what Preparations to make.

A. **Preparations for the Alien Sinner**

1. God distinguishes between someone who has met the requirements and become a citizen of His Kingdom -- someone who is still outside, thus an alien legally.

2. Belief that moves one to respond to the teachings of Christ.

a. **Hebrews 11:6**, b. **John 8:24**, c. **John 20:30-31**

3. Repentance that puts off the old man and puts on the new man who serves a risen Lord.

a. **Acts 17:30**, b. **Ephesians 4:17-24**, c. Looks at the changes in Saul of Tarsus! **Acts 9:1, 20-22.**

4. Baptism that brings one to the cleansing blood of Jesus and the forgiveness of sins.

a. Acts 2:37-38, b. Romans 6:3-4, 17-18, c. When did the rejoicing begin? Acts 8:36-39; 16:33-34;

B. Preparations for the Christian

1. Be faithful, Acts 2:42
2. Worship with the church, Hebrews 10:24-25
3. Grow and mature, letting Christ dwell in you, Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1-6; 2 Peter

1:5-11

4. If you fall, confess your wrongs to Christ, 1 John 1:8-9.

III. Preparations are urgent.

A. **Judgment day will catch everyone by surprise**, Mark 13:32-37.

1. Thus stay awake!
2. Remember the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, Matthew 25:10.

B. **Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.** John 14:1-3;

C. **Tragic to be unprepared when Jesus comes again.**

1. Luke 12:4-5 Fear not him who kills the body, rather fear Him who has authority to cast into Hell!

2. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

D. **Wonderful to be able to love the coming of the Lord.**

1. Payday! 1 Peter 1:3-5
2. 2 Timothy 4:8 crown of righteousness for all who have loved his appearing.

E. **Too late to prepare when He comes again.**

1. Hebrews 9:27 die, then judgment; 2 Corinthians 5:10
2. Titus 2:11-13 we train now, in advance of that day

Conclusion

- A. Now is the time to prepare, my friend.
- B. Felix waited for a convenient season, Acts 24:24-25
- C. Youth is the best time to remember your Creator, Ecclesiastes 12:1
- D. Today is the day of salvation, Hebrews 3:7-8
- E. Grace of God is extended to you -- but in vain if you are not ready, 2 Corinthians 6:1-2