

- I) V1-5 INTRO: Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who *are* on the mountain of Samaria, Who oppress
- II) CH. 4: Is a word of judgment against the 10 northern tribes, called Israel
 - a) In the chapter Israel is judged for various reasons
 - 1) V1-3 Their oppression of the poor
 - 2) V4-5 Their idolatry
 - 3) V6-11 Their hardened hearts that resisted repenting and returning to God
- III) AS WE SHALL SEE V12-13: Will close with a call for them to prepare for the judgment that is prepared
- IV) GOD USES REMINDERS: Of past Judgments to reveal what will happen in the future
- V) V1-5 HE BEGINS: Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who *are* on the mountain of Samaria
- VI) AMOS DECLARES: That oppressors will be humbled and idolaters shall be hardened
 - a) The one that has done wrong will receive *according to the wrong* that he has done
- VII) IN THIS JUDGMENT: God's holiness is revealed and His justice is served
 - a) Ps 140:12 I know that the LORD will maintain The cause of the afflicted, *And* justice for the poor.
- VIII) ULTIMATELY: People will receive what they stored up for themselves
 - a) Of course, this is not God's fault
 - 1) Gal 6:7-8 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.
 - 2) Ro 2:6 (God) "will render to each one according to his deeds"
- IX) V1-3 AMOS BEGINS: Hear this word you cows of Bashan who are on the mountain of Samaria
 - a) He illustrates their greed and oppression by making reference *to cows of Bashan*
- X) FIRST: These cows were known for their size and their strength, *and were extremely valuable*
 - a) They fed on the lush pastures of Samaria, and grew huge
- XI) AMOS: Was a herdsman and was using the language of his occupation as he describes this
 - a) He was saying that the rich were living in luxury, and were callused and greedy
 - 1) These were people who had been given entirely over to meeting their sensual needs
- XII) THEY ARE: Squeezing everything they can get out of the poor to finance their luxury
 - a) They crushed the poor, taking advantage of them because they could not help themselves
- XIII) OBVIOUSLY: God is against this
 - a) Ps 10:2 The wicked in *his* pride persecutes the poor; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.

b) Ps 35:10 All my bones shall say, "LORD, who *is* like You, Delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him, Yes, the poor and the needy from him who plunders him?"

XIV) J. VERNON MCGEE: Says that *cows* is obviously in reference to what is *feminine*

a) This could speak of either women who live in luxury, or even refer to men who are feminine

I) HIS THOUGHT: Often a nation's values are revealed by the way its female population dresses

a) When the women dress well, it also reveals the nation's affluence

II) FACT: His other thought was that Amos was speaking of the rulers

a) He thought it possible that it was a reference to feminine men, perhaps homosexuals

III) V1 NOTICE: Who say to your *husbands* Bring wine, let us drink

a) HUSBANDS: Can also be a reference to masters, rulers, men, prince, or king

IV) IF IT IS A REFERENCE TO HUSBANDS: Then it would speak of wives influencing husbands to evil

a) If it refers to masters of the poor, it would speak of a confederacy that unites to hurt the poor

1) It would speak of banqueting at the expense of those who are least able to provide for themselves

V) V2 THE LORD GOD: Has sworn by His holiness Behold the days shall come upon you when He will

a) This speaks of how they will be taken, against their will, by an invading army

VI) V3 YOU WILL: Go out through broken walls each one straight ahead of her and you will be cast

a) If you think that your think your walled homes and palaces will protect you, you are wrong

VII) CAST INTO HARMON: Speaks of either casting children, possessions, or what is dear into a palace

a) It speaks of a fortified portion of a castle, used for protection: this will not protect you

1) There are many examples revealing Assyrian severity. A captured king was taken to the capital and compelled to pull the royal chariot of triumph. Rings were put through their lips or noses and sometimes hands, feet, noses and ears were cut off, they were blinded and their tongues were torn from their mouths. Prisoners were skinned alive and set on fire. Their skins were also hung near enemy city gates in order to collect tribute. The Lord allowed the ruthless Assyrians to capture the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 BC because of Israel's rebellion against Him. They were never seen again.

2) 2 Ch 33:11 Therefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze *fetters*, and carried him off to Babylon.

VIII) V4-5 COME TO BETHEL: And transgress at Gilgal multiply transgression Bring your sacrifice

a) He now speaks of judgment against their idolatry

- IX) **BETHEL AND GILGAL: Represent centers of idolatry**
- a) Bethel was the location of an altar used for sacrifice
 - b) Gilgal was the first place that Israel came to when crossing the Jordan, with Joshua
 - 1) In Israel's history, it was a very significant and sacred place for the nation
- X) **KEY: It eventually became a place associated with rebellion and idolatry**
- a) Hosea 9:15 All their wickedness *is* in Gilgal, For there I hated them. Because of the evil of their deeds I will drive them from My house; I will love them no more. All their princes *are* rebellious.
 - b) Hosea 12:11 Though Gilead *has* idols-- Surely they are vanity-- Though they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal, Indeed their altars *shall be* heaps in the furrows of the field.
- XI) **KEY: The invitation is to come to Bethel and transgress and to multiply transgressions at Gilgal**
- a) You are idolaters, and are bringing unacceptable offerings thinking they are received by God
 - 1) But your offerings are leavened: filled with sin and unacceptable to God
 - 2) TODAY: It would be like God inviting people to come to church to sin! It is sarcasm
 - I) **NOTICE: For this you love**
 - a) It is obvious that this is acceptable to you, and you are resolved to do what you desire to do
 - II) **V6-11 ALSO: I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities and lack of bread in all your places**
 - a) He now speaks of how their hardened hearts have provoked them to resist repenting and returning
 - 1) He reminds them of five judgments that He had brought upon them, but they did not learn
 - III) **HE SAYS: That He had dealt severely with them, but they refused to repent**
 - a) Their hearts were hardened in spite of His judgments He had brought on them
 - 1) His judgments were intended to bring them back, but they hardened their hearts against Him
 - IV) **V6 I GAVE YOU: Cleanness of teeth**
 - a) Not because they had toothpaste and mouthwash, but because they had *nothing to eat*
 - 1) You have had emptiness of teeth: nothing to eat, and to fill your mouth with
 - 2) This may speak of the famine they experienced during the time of Elijah, or of the seven years of famine during the time of Elisha (1 Ki 17; 2 Ki 8:1) 850BC or so
 - V) **FOOD: Reminds the people that man does not live by bread lone**
 - a) Spiritual food is revealed to be Jesus, the Bread of Life
 - VI) **V7-8 I ALSO: Withheld rain from you when there were still three months to the harvest**
 - a) God sent drought for three months, prior to harvest which was disastrous

1) Dt 28:23 And your heavens which *are* over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you *shall be* iron.

VII) RAIN: Was a symbol of the promise of God to provide water for their crops

a) Israel was not supported by a huge river, but by rainfall

1) Dt 11:11-15 For the land which you go to possess *is* not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and watered *it* by foot, as a vegetable garden; but the land which you cross over to possess *is* a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven, a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God *are* always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year. And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then I will give *you* the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil. And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.'

VIII) THE FACT: That one city had rain and another did not should have revealed God was behind this

a) This should have caused them to return to Him

IX) OBVIOUSLY: Water was a symbol of God's grace

a) It is also the symbol for the Water of the Holy Spirit that Jesus gives us

X) V9 I BLASTED YOU: With blight and mildew when your gardens increased Your vineyards your fig

a) The scorching east wind from the desert and mildew and locusts destroyed your crops

1) Dt 23:42 Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land.

2) This should have caused you to return to Me, but it did not

I) V10 I SENT AMONG YOU: A plague after the manner of Egypt your young men I killed with a sword

a) Dt 23:27 The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed.

II) YOUR YOUNG MEN: I killed with a sword along with your captive horses

a) Dt 28:25 The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth.

b) Dt 28:33 A nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually.

III) SADLY: The stench of the dead bodies should have awakened you to return, but you did not

IV) V11 I OVERTHREW: Some of you as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and you were like a

a) The Assyrians were conducting forays into Israeli communities, but not engaging in full scale war

1) This should have awakened them to call upon the Lord for help in repentance but they refused

- V) V12-13 THEREFORE: Thus will I do to you O Israel and because I will do this to you Prepare to meet
- a) Assyria would soon come fully against them, and would kill many of them
 - 1) Some were taken captive, but many were killed thus they should prepare to meet God
- VI) THE ALL POWERFUL: And all-knowing God is the Judge of the whole earth
- a) We all will meet our God one day, thus we all should be prepared to do so
- VII) OUR GOD: Knows all things and thus we all must be prepared to meet Him
- a) Ps 90:8 You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret *sins* in the light of Your countenance.
- VIII) THIS IS WHY: We must be prepared to meet Him
- a) Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
 - 1) This is why we must be clothed in the righteousness of Jesus