

# Amos 4

Jesus

- I am against you
- Future Punishment Described
  1. Israel Surrounded
  2. Strength Sapped
  3. Palaces Raided
  4. Pagan Alters Destroyed

Self-Deceived by their Prosperity...

## I. Judgment Cows of Bashan

1 Hear this word, you **cows of Bashan**, who are on the mountain of Samaria,  
Who oppress the poor, Who crush the needy

Cows of Bashan  
Prideful/Entitled/Domineering Women of Israel

- **Bashan:** Golan Heights of Northern Galilee
- **Mount of Samaria:** Cows ready for slaughter
  1. **Women Oppressing** the poor
  2. **Women Crushing** the needy
  3. **Women Ruling** their husbands...

**1b ...Who say to your husbands, "Bring wine, let us drink!"**

Role Reversal  
Consequence of Original Sin

**Genesis 3:16b ... Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.**

IOWs You will continuously attempt to usurp your husbands God-given authority  
He will respond to by overreacting/Eventually Giving up

Result: God's authority structure upside down  
Nations/Families/Churches crippled by Weak men/Rebellious women  
Depicted by Ahab/Jezebel

- **King Ahab:** 6<sup>th</sup> King before Jeroboam II was
- Ahab married **Jezebel who became queen of Israel...**

**1 Kings 16:31** And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for Ahab to walk in the sins of Jeroboam I the son of Nebat, that he took as wife **Jezebel** the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and **Ahab went and served Baal and worshiped him.**

- Ahab married Jezebel
- **Jezebel's father:** Priest of Astarte... Phoenician goddess of love sex, fertility and war

Ahab served Jezebels demon god

Lured away from the Living God to idols...

- Downfall of Solomon
- Downfall of Ahab

Jezebel massacred the True Prophets of God  
Elijah the Prophet Massacred her False Prophets

**1 Kings 19:1** And **Ahab told Jezebel** all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." 3 And when he saw that, **he arose and ran for his life...**

She got him...Elijah was frightened then discouraged then disqualified

Jezebel's Goal: Assert her will using demonic intimidation  
Her will? Take down/Emasculate men of God/Rebel against God ordained authority

As Jezebel threatened the Prophet of God  
Ahab sat on his couch coveting his neighbor's property

**1 Kings 21: 4** So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And **he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face**, and would eat no food. 5 But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?" ...**7** Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; **I will give you** the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

The Legacy of Queen Jezebel  
Both Northern/Southern Kingdoms infected

Athaliah, daughter of Jezebel, married Jehoram King of Judah who died of an incurable bowel disease. Athaliah proceeded to usurp the throne of Judah after her son, King Ahaziah of Judah was killed by Jehu. When Athaliah received word that her son Ahaziah was dead, she seized the opportunity to take the throne of Judah by murdering Ahaziah's sons—**her own grandsons**—thus eradicating the entire royal family so she could rule. A single grandchild escaped the massacre. The baby's aunt and wife of the high priest Jehoiada took the infant **Joash** and hid him and his nurse in a bedroom. Joash was later smuggled out of the castle and taken to the temple, where he remained hidden for six years while Queen **Athaliah** [Jezebel's daughter] **reigned over the land of Judah.**

1. Queen Athaliah reigned 6 years
2. The boy Joash is revealed/Crowned in the Temple...

**2 Kings 11:13** ...when Athaliah heard the noise of the escorts and the people, she came to the people in the temple of the Lord. 14 When she looked, there was the king [ 7 yr. old Joash] standing by a pillar according to custom; and the leaders and the trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. So **Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out, "Treason! Treason!"** 15 And Jehoiada the priest commanded

the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the army, and said to them, "Take her outside under guard, and slay with the sword whoever follows her." For the priest had said, "Do not let her be killed in the house of the Lord." 16 So they seized her; and she went by way of the horses' entrance into the king's house, and **there she was killed.**

### The Legacy of Jezebel Northern Kingdom/Southern Kingdom

Israel is rebuked for Weak men/Rebellious women  
50 yrs. later Judah in the south is rebuked of the same...both before judgment

**Isaiah 3:10** "Say to the righteous that *it shall be well with them*, For they shall eat the fruit of their doings. <sup>11</sup> Woe to the wicked! *It shall be ill with him*, For the reward of his hands shall be given him. <sup>12</sup> *As for* My people, children *are* their oppressors, And **women rule over them.** O My people! Those who lead you cause *you* to err, And destroy the way of your paths." <sup>13</sup> The Lord stands up to plead, And stands to judge the people. <sup>14</sup> The Lord will enter into judgment With the elders of His people And His princes: "For you have eaten up the vineyard; The plunder of the poor *is* in your houses. <sup>15</sup> **What do you mean by crushing My people And grinding the faces of the poor?"** Says the Lord God of hosts. <sup>16</sup> Moreover the Lord says: "Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, And walk with **outstretched necks** And **wanton eyes**, **Walking and mincing** as they go, **Making a jingling** with their feet, <sup>17</sup> Therefore the Lord will **strike with a scab** The crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, And the Lord will uncover their secret parts." <sup>18</sup> In that day the Lord will take away the finery: The jingling anklets, the scarves, and the crescents; <sup>19</sup> The pendants, the bracelets, and the veils; <sup>20</sup> The headdresses, the leg ornaments, and the headbands; The perfume boxes, the charms, <sup>21</sup> and the rings; The nose jewels, <sup>22</sup> the festal apparel, and the mantles; The outer garments, the purses, <sup>23</sup> and the mirrors; The fine linen, the turbans, and the robes. <sup>24</sup> And so it shall be: **Instead of a sweet smell there will be a stench; Instead of a sash, a rope; Instead of well-set hair, baldness; Instead of a rich robe, a girding of sackcloth; And branding instead of beauty.** <sup>25</sup> Your men shall fall by the sword, And your mighty in the war. <sup>26</sup> Her gates shall lament and mourn, And she *being* desolate shall sit on the ground.

Jezebel is long dead...The Spirit of Jezebel is alive/well in homes/churches today  
Presents herself in false doctrine/sexual sin/usurping authority

- **Jezebel:** Emasculator. Murderer. Intimidator. Godless. Haughty. Demonic. Humiliator, Rebellious, Power hungry, Despise authority, out of her lane

Are there cows of Bashan in churches today?  
**The Spirit of Jezebel is hard at work in homes and churches today**

**Revelation 2:20** [Thyatira] "...I have a few things against you, because you allow that **woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.** [Unappointed/Unanointed] <sup>21</sup> And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. <sup>22</sup> Indeed **I will cast her into a sickbed**, and those who commit adultery with her into **great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.** <sup>23</sup> I will **kill her children with death**, and all the churches shall know that I am He who **searches the minds and hearts.** And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

**Q.** How is the Spirit of Jezebel able to thrive? Men not being men leaving a vacuum

**A.** Intimidation leading to fear/discouragement/men giving up [curse]

**Q.** Why is this happening? Men not being men

**A.** Weak men/Rebellious Women not being called out as sin

**1 Corinthians 16:13** Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done with love.

**1 Corinthians 16:13** [NASB] Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, **act like men, be strong.** 14 All that you do must be **done in love.**

Protectors/Providers/Spiritual Leaders/Fortitude/Covering/Understanding/Loving

**1 Peter 3:3** Your adornment must not be merely the external—braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or putting on apparel; 4 but it should be the **hidden person of the heart**, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

Supportive/Faithful/Prayerful/Humble/Modest/Respectful

Exact opposite of spiritually ugly Cows/Bulls of Bashan  
Symbolic of godless unmerited arrogant superiority

Judgment against the Proudful/Entitled Women of Israel  
Oppressing/Crushing/Domineering...not a good look

2 The LORD God has **sworn by His holiness:** "Behold, the days shall come upon you When **He will take you away with fishhooks,** And your posterity with fishhooks.

They refused to humble themselves/Will be humiliated by the LORD  
They and their children will be taken to Assyria w/fish hooks

3 You will go out through broken walls, Each one **straight ahead of her,** And you will be cast into Harmon," Says the LORD.

- **Each on straight ahead:** Bound to one another with hooks/rope
- **Harmon:** Unknown but symbolic of exile

4 "**Come to Bethel and transgress,** At Gilgal multiply transgression; Bring your sacrifices every morning, Your tithes every three days. 5 Offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven, Proclaim and announce the freewill offerings

**Matthew 18:7** Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!

Jeroboam I of Israel enticed Judah to come up and worship his golden calves

- **Easy worship:** Come as you are?

1. Sacrifices w/leaven. Don't worry about it

## 2. Freewill offerings: However you like

- Hosea warned Judah not to go

**Hosea 4:15** Though you, Israel, play the harlot, **Let not Judah offend. Do not come up to Gilgal, Nor go up to Beth Aven...**

If you entice others to what you say is truth...  
You better be right

**Deuteronomy 13:1** "If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, (and he gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, '**Let us go after other gods**'—which you have not known—and let us serve them,' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for **the Lord your God is testing you** to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. 5 But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be **put to death**, because he has spoken in order to **turn you away from the Lord your God**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst ...**12** "If you hear someone in one of your cities, which the Lord your God gives you to dwell in, saying, 13 'Corrupt men have gone out from among you and **enticed the inhabitants of their city, saying, "Let us go and serve other gods"**'—which you have not known— 14 then you shall inquire, search out, and ask diligently. And if it is indeed true and certain that such an abomination was committed among you, 15 you shall surely strike the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying it, all that is in it and its livestock—with the edge of the sword. 16 And you shall gather all its plunder into the middle of the street, and completely burn with fire the city and all its plunder, for the Lord your God. It shall be a heap forever; it shall not be built again.

**Matthew 23:15** Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him **twice as much a son of hell** as yourselves.

**5b ...For this you love, You children of Israel!" Says the LORD God.**

You love Religiosity w/out Repentance.  
Sappy sentiment rather than submission to God and...

You love to entice others to do the same. Come to Laodicea it's fun.

**2 Timothy 3:1** ...know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 **having a form of godliness but denying its power.** And from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and **make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins**, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Why?

A form of godliness but denying its power

IOWs No fear of God...At all

No sin/No blood/No dying to self/No salvation

- **Judgement Coming 30 yrs.**

1. Proud women/Weak men
2. Enticing other to sin
3. Religion w/out God

## **II. ...yet you have not returned**

6 "Also I gave you **cleanness of teeth** in all your cities, And lack of bread in all your places; **Yet you have not returned to Me,**" Says the LORD. 7 "I also **withheld rain** from you, When there were still three months to the harvest. I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, And where it did not rain the part withered. 8 So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water, But they were not satisfied; Yet **you have not returned to Me,**" Says the LORD.

Prophetic Present Tense: God speaking as if it already happened  
IOWs This is what's coming. This is how you will react

- **Famine:** Cleanliness of teeth No food to get stuck
- **Drought:** Chasing rain city to city [Obvious judgement]

Israel's agricultural method: Dry farming.  
Scattering seed on dry dirt/Counted on rain at the right times

I will bring Famine and Drought  
But you won't turn to Me...

9 "**I blasted you with blight and mildew.** When your gardens increased, Your vineyards, Your fig trees, And your olive trees, The **locust devoured them; Yet you have not returned to Me,**" Says the LORD.

Blight is the work of the east wind that dries and scorches the grain prematurely so that it turns brown. Mildew is the product of parasitic worms which turn pale the tips of green grain." [Hubbard]

- Blasted with Blight/Mildew: Grapes/Figs/Olives

This was the greatest tragedy. Anyone can stumble into sin and feel the correcting hand of God, but we are in far greater trouble when we feel God's correction and still will not return to Him. [Guzik]

- Whatever is left swarms of locust will devour

I'm going to blast you w/blight/mildew. What is left will be eaten by locusts  
...But you still won't turn to Me

10 "I sent among you a **plague after the manner of Egypt**; Your young men **I killed with a sword**, Along with your captive horses; I made the **stench of your camps come up into your nostrils**; **Yet you have not returned to Me,**" Says the LORD.

As I did to the Egyptians I will send plague after plague on My own people  
... But you won't turn to Me

You will not be able to get away from the stench of death  
Even then you will not turn to Me

11 "**I overthrew some of you, As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah**, And you were **like a firebrand** plucked from the burning; Yet you have not returned to Me," Says the LORD.

God saw Israel as a glowing ember plucked from the fires of judgment, like the same judgment that consumed Sodom and Gomorrah. Even though God spared them, they did not respond in gratitude — they have not returned to God. [Guzik]

▪ **Plagues coming...**

1. Famine
2. Drought
3. Mildew
4. Locusts
5. Death. Stink of

Unbelievable how people can dig in when called out for sin

**Revelation 2:21** And I gave her **time to repent** of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. 22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, **unless they repent** of their deeds. 23 I will kill her children with death...

**Revelation 9:17** [6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet] And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses *were* like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. <sup>18</sup> By these three *plagues* a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. <sup>19</sup> For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails *are* like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm. <sup>20</sup> But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent of the works of their hands**, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. <sup>21</sup> And they **did not repent** of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

**Revelation 16:8** Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they **did not repent** and give Him glory ...**11** They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and **did not repent of their deeds.**

How much pain till we cry uncle?  
Until we turn from our sin and to God

12 "Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel; Because I will do this to you,  
**Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"**

The irony of challenging the proud rebels to meet in arms the God whom they have despised. IOWs Let them prepare to fight it out with him whom they have made to be their enemy, and against whose laws they have so continually revolted". [Spurgeon].

The greatest sin in "churches" today?  
No fear of God

**Jeremiah 5:22 Do you not fear Me?** says the LORD. **'Will you not tremble at My presence,** Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea, By a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it?

Prepare to meet the Creator. Your Creator

13 For behold, He who forms mountains, And creates the wind, Who declares to man what his thought is, And makes the morning darkness, Who treads the high places of the earth

Our Creator who is to be Feared

- The One who *forms mountains*
- The One who *creates the wind*
- The One who *declares our thoughts*

**Psalms 139:2** You know my sitting down and my rising up. You understand my thought afar off.

- The One who treads on mountains

**Micah 1:3** For behold, the LORD is coming out of His place; He will come down And **tread on the high places of the earth.**

**Q.** How do you know if you fear Him?  
**A.** Easy. If you obey Him? What is He telling you tonight?

**13b ... The LORD God of hosts is His name.**

We recognize that one day all will stand before God and give account. "Think awhile upon who it is that you have to meet! You must meet, your God — your God! That is, offended justice you must meet whose laws you have broken, whose penalties you have ridiculed; justice righteously indignant with its sword drawn you must confront. You must meet your God; that is, you must be examined, by unblinded omniscience. He who has seen your heart, and read your thoughts, and jotted down your affections, and remembered your idle words, you must meet him; and infinite discernment you must meet; those eyes that never yet were duped; the God who will see through the veils of hypocrisy and all the concealments of formality. There will be no making yourself out to be better than you are before him" [Spurgeon].



The LORD of Angel Armies is His Name  
Israel is about to meet Him