

## AMOS 4:4 – 13

<sup>4:4</sup> “Come to Bethel, and transgress;

to Gilgal, and multiply transgression;

bring your sacrifices every morning,

your tithes every three days;

<sup>5</sup> offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened,

and proclaim freewill offerings, publish them;

for so you love to do, O people of Israel!”

declares the Lord God.

<sup>6</sup> “I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities,

and lack of bread in all your places,

yet you did not return to me,”

declares the Lord.

<sup>7</sup> “I also withheld the rain from you

when there were yet three months to the harvest;

I would send rain on one city,

and send no rain on another city;

one field would have rain,

and the field on which it did not rain would wither;

<sup>8</sup> so two or three cities would wander to another city

to drink water, and would not be satisfied;

yet you did not return to me,”

declares the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> “I struck you with blight and mildew;

your many gardens and your vineyards,

your fig trees and your olive trees the locust devoured;

yet you did not return to me,”

declares the Lord.

<sup>10</sup> “I sent among you a pestilence after the manner of Egypt;

I killed your young men with the sword,

and carried away your horses,

and I made the stench of your camp go up into your nostrils;

yet you did not return to me,”

declares the Lord.

<sup>11</sup> “I overthrew some of you,  
as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah,  
and you were as a brand plucked out of the burning;  
yet you did not return to me,”  
declares the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> “Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel;  
because I will do this to you,  
prepare to meet your God, O Israel!”

<sup>13</sup> For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind,  
and declares to man what is his thought,  
who makes the morning darkness,  
and treads on the heights of the earth—  
the Lord, the God of hosts, is his name!

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## EXPLORING THE PASSAGE

- The passage begins surprisingly: “Come... and transgress!” What is Amos’ point in using this kind of ironic invitation? Looking back at the previous sections (esp. 3:10, 3:15, 4:1–3), what specific transgressions does he have in mind?
- What religious activities are the Israelites performing in verses 4–5? What might be modern-day equivalents of this kind of worship? Why do they continue these rituals so faithfully?

- What does God reveal about His view of their worship?
- Verses 6–11 describe a series of events that have already taken place in Israel.
  - How would you categorize or summarize these events?
  - Read Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. How do these covenant warnings help explain what God is doing in the days of Amos?
  - Five times God says: “Yet you did not return to me.” What was the purpose of these events? What does this reveal about God's intentions and desires for His people?
  - Why do you think they refused to respond?
- Read 1 Kings 8:33–51, especially verses 33–40. How does Solomon’s prayer help interpret what is happening in Amos? What does it say about how Israel should have responded? How does this passage reflect or contrast with their worship in verses 4–5?
- What is the meaning and weight of the phrase: “Prepare to meet your God”? What kind of “meeting” is this? Why is this so climactic? How does this future encounter compare or contrast with the ways God has met His people in the past?
- Amos ends this section with a poetic description of God in verse 13. What does this doxology reveal about God? Why might such a declaration of praise appear in the middle of a judgment oracle? What is the significance of the title “the Lord of Hosts”?
- Summary:
  - What do we learn about God in this passage?
  - Write a one or two-sentence summary of the main point of this text. What is God’s word for you from this passage? How will you respond?

## PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- Are there areas in your life where you are “performing” spiritually but resisting personal change?
- When disruptions or difficulties arise, do you pause to ask what God might be saying?
- What would it look like to cultivate a lifestyle of ongoing repentance?
- How might your life look different if you lived each day with the awareness that you will one day meet God?
- Does the sovereignty of God give you confidence to trust Him, even when life feels uncertain or painful?