

Amos 4

-Amos is in a state of shock over the sins of the nation; in *chapter 4*, he preaches against the women of the Northern Kingdom

Amos 4.1-3

V1 – How does he describe the women of the Northern Kingdom? Cows of Bashan (territory famous for cows – *Numbers 32*)

-**What had these women done?** Oppressed the poor, crushed the needy, ordered husbands to bring them drinks

V2 – What was the basis of God's oath? His holiness

-A very severe statement here

-**The oath?** The women will be taken away on meat (or fish) hooks

-Their dead bodies would be dragged through the cities with hooks

-Remember the photograph of Mussolini on a meat hook at the end of World War II

V3 – What is a breach? A hole in the wall

-The women would be dragged through breaches in the walls

-Harmon – Place where exiles were to be taken (an unknown location today)

Amos 4.4-5

V4 – Bethel = place of worship

-The people were very zealous for outward parts of the law

V5 – Thank offerings, free will offerings

-**Did they like doing this?** Yes, they loved ceremony

Amos 4.6-13

V6 – What had God sent to try to get them to repent? Famine, drought (cleanness of teeth)

-**Did it work?** No

V7 – What else did he try? No rain

-**Then?** Rain in selected areas

-**Why rain just in selected areas?** "The capricious nature of the weather"

V8 – What was the result of the drought? They would stagger from city to city trying to find water

-**Did they repent?** No

V9 – What did God send next? Hot wind, mildew, caterpillars (to destroy their crops)

-**Did they repent?** No

V10 – What did God send next? Disease and death by sword; the horses were killed
-A terrible smell all over the Northern Kingdom
-**Did it do any good?** No

V11 – What did God try next? He overthrew sections of the Northern Kingdom
-**Why was the Northern Kingdom not totally destroyed?** He pulled it "out of the fire" in time
-But still no repentance

V12 – The message of Amos: Get ready to meet God
-"Oh goody, we're going to meet God – this will be swell..." - Not exactly!
-**What kind of meeting would be it?** Punishment from God

V13 – Does God have the power to destroy a nation? Yes (today also)
-**Proof?** He made the mountains and the wind; he knows the thoughts and makes dawn into darkness. He walks on the mountains.

Lessons from *Amos 4*:

1. God gives his people plenty of time to repent.
2. God can destroy a sinful nation.

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