

# Return Unto Me

## A Firebrand Plucked Out of the Burning

### Amos 4:1-13

26 July 2024

**Introduction:** Consider the unlikelihood of your salvation. Many never hear the gospel message. Many more reject its truth. Yet, if you are saved, you have received a great blessing. You need to see yourself as a firebrand plucked out of the burning and be very thankful to God for making a way of salvation for you.

[Read Amos 4:1-14]

#### I. THE LORD HAS SWORN BY HIS HOLINESS (Amos 4:1-5)

##### A. Days of Judgment Shall Come (Amos 4:1-3; Ecclesiastes 8:11; Galatians 6:7-8)

- Rebellious, disobedient Christians will still go to heaven.
- Disobedient Christians will not experience joy, peace, and fulfillment in their life today.
- God still judges sin today.

##### B. Forms of Godliness are Rejected (Amos 4:4-5; Isaiah 1:10-18; 2Timothy 3:5)

- They continue wicked practices and doing things that are wrong even though they claim that God is their God.
- Worldly Christians will say, “*I love Jesus*” while they live like an unsaved person.
- God sarcastically tells the Jews, “***Come to Beth-el, and transgress... Offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving WITH leaven...***” (corruption).
  - In 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, leaven pictures moral corruption (malice and wickedness).
  - In Matthew 16:12, leaven represents corrupt doctrine.
- The sacrifice of Thanksgiving was instituted in Leviticus 7:12.
  - Unleavened bread: we are thankful for the peace that we have because of Jesus Christ (Eph 2:13-14).
  - Leavened bread: evil is still present in us, but we still give thanks to God.
- “***...proclaim and publish the free offerings...***” (Exod. 36:3). Tell everyone how religious and good you are while you continue to sin. This is a form of godliness that denies the power thereof (2 Tim 3:5).
  - Jesus instructs us not to boast about our service or our religious activities (**Mat 6:1-4**).

#### II. YET HAVE YE NOT RETURNED UNTO ME (Amos 4:6-11)

- God reaches out to us and tries to draw us near to Him. He does it through chastening.
  - Note that not every trial is chastening. Good, faithful Christians go through trials.

##### A. Despite Cleanness of Teeth (Amos 4:6-7)

- Cleanness of teeth is an indicator of a lack of food. God was trying to get their attention.

## **B. Despite No Satisfaction (Amos 4:8; Isaiah 55:1-2)**

- This pictures the Christian that gets bored with God and tries to go back into the world and finds out it doesn't satisfy. And yet, they still won't return to God.
- God wants you to find satisfaction in Him (Isaiah 55:2). If you're not, you're not giving your heart fully to Him.

## **C. Despite Loss of Goods (Amos 4:9)**

## **D. Despite Egyptian Pestilence (Amos 4:10; Exodus 15:26 with Deuteronomy 28:60)**

## **E. Despite Being As a Firebrand Plucked (Amos 4:11; Jude 23)**

### **III. PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD (Amos 4:12-13)**

#### **A. The Time Approaches (Amos 4:12; Luke 21:28; Romans 13:11-12)**

- Everyone will stand before God (2 Corinthians 5:10-11).
  - God can get angry with us.
  - We can grieve the Holy Spirit of God.
  - Soon, our time on Earth will be over. God wants us to do right now (Rom. 13:11-12).
    - There are things we can do today that we won't be able to do in heaven.
      - Suffer for Jesus.
      - Lead a lost soul to salvation.

#### **B. The Lord Approaches (Amos 4:13; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11)**

- The God who created all things is the God who reveals things to us. He "**declareth unto man what is his thought.**"

### **Conclusion**

Because God loves you, He puts you in situations in hopes that you might look to Him as He tries to draw you back under His wing.

- Allow the chastening of the Lord to bring you back into sweet fellowship with Him.
- You only hurt yourself when you rebel against the God who loves you (Acts 26:14, Prov 13:15, Prov 15:10, Rom 6:21).
- Don't let your iniquities separate between you and your God (Isaiah 59:1-2)
  - God says, "*Draw nigh unto me, and I will draw nigh unto you*" (James 4:8).