

## WHY PREPARE TO MEET GOD?

Amos 4:12

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### I. INTRODUCTION

1. Almost eight hundred years B.C., the Lord spake through Amos the prophet to the children of Israel who obviously were steeped in sin at the time, saying: "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel," Amos 4:12.
  - a. Even though the Israelites were a chosen nation, the children of God; even though they had been richly blessed for so many years in so many different way; they were in rebellion unto God in their sins refusing to repent and return to God. See Amos 4:4-12.
  - b. Since this was the case they were in a "lost" condition, alienated from God; it was imperative that they make *preparation* to meet God!
2. But what does that have to do with men today in this the N.T. dispensation of time? That is, with you and me?
3. Note with me several reason **WHY** we should make preparation to meet God as we answer the question, Why Prepare To Meet God?

### II. DISCUSSION

#### A. IN THE FIRST PLACE, BECAUSE THE SCRIPTURES HAVE "CONCLUDED ALL UNDER SIN," THUS LOST, ALIENATED FROM GOD, AS WAS ISRAEL OF OLD.

1. Gal.3:22; Rom.3:10-19,23; Col.1:21; Eph.2:1; Rom.1:32.
2. Therefore, we, every responsible person, like Israel of old, should *prepare to meet God!*

#### B. SECONDLY, WE NEED TO PREPARE AND CONTINUE TO BE PREPARED TO MEET GOD BECAUSE LIFE IS VERY BRIEF AT THE LONGEST.

Various passages should impress upon us life's brevity

1. Job 14:12
2. Job 7:6
3. Psa.39:5

4. Psa.90:10
5. Jas.4:14
6. 1Pet.1:24
7. Not only do we learn from the inspired scriptures but also from observation that man's life upon the earth is short in duration!
8. Since this is the case, now is the time to make preparation to meet God.
9. We must prepare in this life to meet God because in death no preparation can be made! It's now in this life – now or never!  
Lk.16:19-31.

**C. THIRDLY, WHETHER PREPARED OR NOT, DEATH IS INEVITABLE. THEREFORE, WE NEED TO ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO MEET GOD.**

1. Death follows life! It is a natural process or event to be expected.
2. According to Eccl.3:2 there is “a time to be born, and a time to die...”
3. According to Eccl.9:5 “...the living know that they shall die...”
4. Moses was told by the Lord, “Behold, thy days approach that thou must die...,” Deut.31:4.
5. Death is, indeed, a divine appointment, Heb.9:27. Cf. 1Cor.15:21,22; Rom.5:12,18,19.
6. The state or condition in which we die – prepared or unprepared -- is the one in which we shall meet the Lord in judgment. If unprepared at death, all is lost at the judgment! See Jno.5:22,27-29.

**D. FOURTHLY, WE SHOULD PREPARE TO MEET GOD BECAUSE THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD IS SURE AND THE JUDGMENT IS CERTAIN AT WHICH TIME ALL SHALL MEET THE LORD TO GIVE ACCOUNT.**

1. The resurrection of all the dead is sure.
  - a. Physical death is not the end of man nor the end of the story of man's existence.
  - b. There will be a resurrection of all the dead, both the righteous and the unrighteous, Ac.4:1,2; 24:15; 1Cor.15:20-26.
2. The final judgment of all is certain, Eccl.12:13,14; Jno.5:22,27-29; Mt.25:31-46; Ac.17:30,31; Rom.2:1-16; 14:11,12; 2Cor.5:10; 2Tim.4:1; Heb.9:27,28. See 2Th.1:6-10.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

1. When one stops to think about all the reasons why we need to prepare and continue to be prepared to meet God, and then considers the warning we have about our “adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour,” it is quiet sobering and very thought provoking!
2. All of this should cause us to think seriously about our lives and whether or not we are prepared to meet God since we are facing the certainty of death, the resurrection and the judgment!
3. If this will not cause you to prepare to meet God, we have nothing to offer you or use in our efforts to persuade you to do it!
4. Remember the following two things:
  - a. Only you can do it! And only in this life can you do it! In death and after death there will be no opportunity to do it! It’s now in this life, or never!
  - b. The longer you put it off, the greater the danger of your conscience being seared to the point that you can not be touched by the word of God’s grace and saved by the blood of his dear Son, Jesus Christ!
5. Why do you wait? You have nothing to gain by waiting, but everything to lose!