

Prepare to Meet Your God

Amos 4:12 *“Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!”*

The book of Amos records some of the prophecies and teachings that the prophet Amos delivered to the kingdom of Israel during the reign of King Jeroboam II. Although we do not know precisely when the book of Amos was written, the book begins with the explanation that Amos preached during the reign of Uzziah in Judah and of Jeroboam II in Israel in the eighth century B.C. Amos may have been a fellow laborer with the prophet Hosea in the kingdom of Israel. Amos warned of the judgments that were about to come upon the people of Israel because they had rejected the prophets. Additionally, Amos emphasized the moral character of Jehovah, the righteous ruler of all nations and men. Amos showed that the offering the Lord most cares for is a righteous life—the sacrifices of animals lose their meaning if offered as substitutes for personal righteousness. The people rejected Amos’s warnings and teachings and wished he would take his forceful message elsewhere. Amos sees the need for Israel to prepare for God. We also have that need.

GOD IS.

We do not know this from empirical knowledge (knowledge coming from the 5 senses). However, there is adequate evidence is available to establish this fact, therefore it stands unless it can be refuted.

The only way to account for things is to begin with is either a self-existent being (God) or eternal dead matter spontaneously bringing forth life. Gen. 1:1 *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”* This is either truth or it is a lie. There is evidence enough to demonstrate that this statement is plausible to one with an open mind.

Psa. 90:2 *“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”*

Hab. 1:12 *“Are you not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof.”*

Psa. 19:1 *“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”*

Heb. 3:4 *“For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.”* **Blind chance cannot account for the earth.**

For an atheist to know that God does not exist, he must know everything. If there is just one thing he does not know, it might be that God exists.

MAN MUST MEET GOD—THE JUDGMENT.

1. Justice demands judgment.

It would be unjust for good and evil to be rewarded alike. Man has courts because he sees the need of judgment.

2. Everyone will meet God—no exceptions.

Mat. 25:32 *“Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”*

Acts 17:30-31 *“The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”*

Rom. 14:10-12 *“Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.”*

3. The Bible will be the standard of judgment.

John 12:48 *“The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.”*

Rom. 2:16 *“on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.”*

Rev. 20:12 *“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.”*

4. We will be judged on our own record.

Rom. 14:12 *“So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.”*

2 Cor. 5:10 *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil..”*

Gal. 6:7 *“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.”*

5. It will come at an hour when we think not.

Mat. 24:36 *“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”*

2 Pet. 3:10 *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.”*

Mat. 24:42-44 *“Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

MAN NEEDS TO PREPARE FOR THE OCCASION.

1. Too much is at stake not to prepare.

Mark 8:36-37 *“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?”*

Mat. 10:28 *“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”*

2. Life is too uncertain not to prepare now.

Jam. 4:13-14 *“Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit” yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes..”*

2 Cor. 6:2 *“For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”*

How do we prepare?

We start by searching the Scriptures; John 5:39 *“Search the scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”*

We obey the gospel. Rom. 1:16 *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”*

We become doers of the Word; Jam. 1:22 *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourself.”*

We start a life of adding the Christian graces; 2 Pet. 1:4-11 *“by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

And in all this we Persevere; Mat. 10:22 *“and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”*

THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING

Mat. 25:31-46

When Jesus comes again the great judgment will separate the sheep from the goats. Which side will we be on??

Ecc. 12:13-14 *“The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.”*

Our life on this earth is the time that we prepare for eternal life. If we fail here – we fail in our duty to God and of course to ourself.

Ask yourself this question – Am I prepared for that meeting?