

Amos 4:12

NLT *“Therefore, I will bring upon you all the disasters I have announced. Prepare to meet your God in judgment, you people of Israel!”*

KJV *“Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.”*



Amos, according to many scholars, delivered his message around 750 or 749 B.C. It was at a time when the people of Israel had reached a low point in their devotion to God - the people had become greedy and had stopped following and adhering to their values.

Now that's pretty strong, isn't it? May I suggest we go back and read this book? It's not very long; only nine short chapters. In it God points out the many ways He's tried to get Israel's attention, but apparently they wouldn't listen. He then tells them in this verse that it's no more Mister-Nice-Guy, but God in His infinite love and mercy later adds that they will be restored when they turn back to Him.

Aren't we all a little like that? When life is easy, it's easy to forget our trust in God and we forget our concern for our fellow people. We get so busy making a living that we forget to make a life. Oh sure, we still go to church, we give our tithes and offerings, but it can become more ritual than reality. As one white-haired pastor used to say, "Be careful."

God also highlights His desire in at least three other verses; two in the Old Testament, and quoted again, by none other than Jesus, in the New. This tells me that what God wanted of us in the Old Testament times has not changed in the New.

1 Sam 15:22 *But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings."*

Hos 6:6 *"For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings."*

Mat 9:12-13 *...on hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*