

## Amos 3:12-4:24 (The Message)

<sup>12</sup>God's Message:

"In the same way that a shepherd  
trying to save a lamb from a lion  
Manages to recover  
just a pair of legs or the scrap of an ear,  
So will little be saved of the Israelites  
who live in Samaria—  
A couple of old chairs at most,  
the broken leg of a table.

<sup>13-15</sup>"Listen and bring witness against Jacob's family"—  
this is God's Word, God-of-the-Angel-Armies!  
"Note well! The day I make Israel pay for its sins,  
pay for the sin-altars of worship at Bethel,  
The horned altars will all be dehorned  
and scattered around.  
I'll tear down the winter palace,  
smash the summer palace—all your fancy buildings.  
The luxury homes will be demolished,  
all those pretentious houses."  
God's Decree.

### Amos 4

#### You Never Got Hungry for God

<sup>1</sup> "Listen to this, you cows of Bashan  
grazing on the slopes of Samaria.  
You women! Mean to the poor,  
cruel to the down-and-out!  
Indolent and pampered, you demand of your husbands,  
'Bring us a tall, cool drink!'

<sup>2-3</sup>"This is serious—I, God, have sworn by my holiness!  
Be well warned: Judgment Day is coming!  
They're going to rope you up and haul you off,  
keep the stragglers in line with cattle prods.  
They'll drag you through the ruined city walls,  
forcing you out single file,  
And kick you to kingdom come."  
God's Decree.

<sup>4-5</sup>"Come along to Bethel and sin!  
And then to Gilgal and sin some more!  
Bring your sacrifices for morning worship.  
Every third day bring your tithe.  
Burn pure sacrifices—thank offerings.  
Speak up—announce freewill offerings!  
That's the sort of religious show  
you Israelites just love."  
God's Decree.

<sup>6</sup>"You know, don't you, that I'm the One  
who emptied your pantries and cleaned out your cupboards,  
Who left you hungry and standing in bread lines?  
But you never got hungry for me. You continued to ignore me."  
God's Decree.

<sup>7-8</sup>"Yes, and I'm the One who stopped the rains  
three months short of harvest.  
I'd make it rain on one village  
but not on another.  
I'd make it rain on one field  
but not on another—and that one would dry up.  
People would stagger from village to village  
crazed for water and never quenching their thirst.  
But you never got thirsty for me.  
You ignored me."  
God's Decree.

<sup>9</sup>"I hit your crops with disease  
and withered your orchards and gardens.  
Locusts devoured your olive and fig trees,  
but you continued to ignore me."  
God's Decree.

<sup>10</sup>"I revisited you with the old Egyptian plagues,  
killed your choice young men and prize horses.  
The stink of rot in your camps was so strong  
that you held your noses—  
But you didn't notice me.  
You continued to ignore me."  
God's Decree.

<sup>11</sup>"I hit you with earthquake and fire,  
left you devastated like Sodom and Gomorrah.  
You were like a burning stick  
snatched from the flames.

But you never looked my way.  
You continued to ignore me."  
God's Decree.

<sup>12</sup>"All this I have done to you, Israel,  
and this is why I have done it.  
Time's up, O Israel!  
Prepare to meet your God!"

<sup>13</sup>Look who's here: Mountain-Shaper! Wind-Maker!  
He laid out the whole plot before Adam.  
He brings everything out of nothing,  
like dawn out of darkness.  
He strides across the alpine ridges.  
His name is God, God-of-the-Angel-Armies.