

“O PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD”

By Keith Greer

“Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel; Because I will do this to you, Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!” {Amos 4:12} Why did God send the prophets to His people? Every prophet tells the message a little different but that message is the same—repent or face the wrath of God! Over and over that message is presented to God’s people to save them from destruction that was coming. God’s longsuffering and love are clearly evident with the passionate pleas of these prophets. Alas, this plea fell on deaf ears and God’s longsuffering came to an end and they were destroyed as a nation and placed in captivity—first Israel into Assyria and then Judah into Babylon.

We read their story and feel amazed how many chances the people of God rejected. How could they do it? All of the evidence of His love, power, and wrath they had personally witnessed before and during the pleas of these prophets—why did they fail to act? One must reach the conclusion they did not believe God would destroy them. After all, Israel was His chosen people, He loved them and He cared for them. It was inconceivable to them He would really ever destroy them. Yet that is exactly what He did!

Now, before you feel so sorry about those folks of days gone by—what about people today? People today are still rejecting the pleas of God’s messengers to repent or accept the terrible consequences of being caught **UNPREPARED**. Please consider...

Death and judgment are certain. “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.” {Hebrews 9:27,28} All men will die and face the Lord in judgment. Uncertainty of death is evident around us. The graveyards are full of folks who never thought they would get there so soon. All who have left this life have one thing in common—they understand clearly the words of the Hebrew writer—death is coming! God had given judgment over to the Son and ordained a day He will judge all men, 2 Corinthians 5:10; Acts 17:31.

There will be only ONE standard. “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.” {John 12:48} Despite modern teaching and opinion, God’s word will be the only standard that our lives will be measured by. “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.” {Revelation 20:12} Please understand it won’t be any human wisdom or opinion that will be used as a standard—the pure word of truth—nothing else!

There will only be two sentences. “And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” {Matthew 25:46} Yes, the judgment will be very straight forward—Heaven or Hell are the only two eternal destinies awaiting all men. God loves all men and desires them to come to repentance, 2 Peter 3:9, but if one dies outside of Christ, God will pass the eternal

sentence of Hell down. No plea bargaining, no cutting a deal, no reprieve will be offered only **ENTER IN** or **DEPART FROM ME!**

Dear reader, we have the same opportunity that those of old had. We have time to get ourselves prepared for that final meeting with our Lord. Choices, decisions and priorities have to be made by each of us. Yet, please remember that each of those things have consequences attached to them. Amos' words of old keep ringing in our ears – what about you? ***