

# FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

## The Cows of Bashan

Pat McIntosh

Amos was a prophet who, let's just say, was a little "rough around the edges." He was blunt, direct and, often, sarcastic in delivering his message to sin-plagued Israel. He was called to deliver God's message to a nation that would eventually be carried away into Assyrian captivity (722 B.C.). They were led into the sin of idolatry by their first king, Jeroboam, and that path continued in the reign of every king after him.

The section of Amos' book containing the passage under consideration here involved God's condemnation of their sin. In Amos 4:1-3, Amos specifically referred to these women as "the cows of Bashan." Bashan was a land known for its lush pastures and the cattle raised there (Deut. 32:14; Jer. 50:19; Ezek. 39:18). Thus, the cattle of Bashan were considered to be some of the best.

However, Amos was being anything but complimentary in his address of these women and their lifestyle. I can imagine hearing these words dripping with sarcasm, if not disdain. The women were singled out, in this context, and were accused in three primary areas. First, they were those who had oppressed the poor. Secondly, they crushed the needy. Both of these areas involved their living in ease and abundance at the expense of the poor people around them. All they were concerned about was their own gratification, no matter what it cost anyone else. Thirdly, they nagged their husbands to bring them their wine. Hence, they were oppressive, cruel and overbearing in their handling of others as it pertained to their entitlement mentality.

Their punishment was seen in the coming captivity, along with others guilty of the sins addressed by Amos. Eventually, Amos was dismissed by Israel, telling him to go home and eat his bread. In other words, he would not be paid to prophesy in such a manner.

History records that Amos' message went unheeded. God used the advancement and enlargement of Assyrian control to punish His people Israel. It was a self-inflicted problem that was met with divine justice.

What can we learn from such today? The philosophy of "eat, drink and be merry" has never been acceptable. The entitlement mentality of so many in our society today is not supported anywhere in Scripture. Allowing God to be Lord of our lives is clearly taught. Israel had been delivered from bondage, by God. They had been given land, by God. God had provided guidance and protection for them. In return He demanded their allegiance. They were not willing to submit their wills to His. May we learn that God demands such allegiance today. He has promised His love and provision. But, there are conditions to be met. May we truly enjoy the blessings of God by devoting our wills and lives to Him in service. He is willing. Are we?

### Shepherds

Sid Carruth  
Jeff Day  
Kenneth Helm  
Clark Lehtinen  
Tim Norman

### Deacons

Gary Barger  
Ryan Cowan  
Vince Grinnell  
Justin Hewlett  
Bill Hughes

### Minister

Kevin Rhodes

### Associate

Pat McIntosh

### Sunday

Bible Study  
9:00 am  
AM Worship  
10:00 am  
PM Worship  
5:00 pm

### Wednesday

Ladies Class  
10:00 am  
Bible Study  
7:00 pm

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Texas

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# The Focus of Worship

Kevin W. Rhodes

After a potentially long, arduous trek, Jews returning to Jerusalem to participate in a great feast would make their final ascent to Jerusalem, enter a gate of the city, and ultimately approach the temple in order to worship. Climbing the stone stairs to the temple mount, they would sing psalms and focus their minds on the purpose of their journey. The Songs of Ascent chronicled their pilgrimage and helped shape their perspective as they left their homes to appear before the LORD. Beginning with a desire to return to Jerusalem for the feast (Psalm 120), the Jews would request safety for their travels (Psalm 121), building their anticipation for the day that they would arrive (Psalm 122). The hazards of their journey reminded them of the challenging nature of the world (Psalm 123), but to this they would add the constant trust that God was with them (Psalm 124), protecting them from their enemies (Psalm 125). The thought alone that He would do so sparked yet another series of reflections. If God values His people enough to protect them, we should value what it is to be God's people (Psalm 126) and therefore prepare the next generation of God's people accordingly (Psalm 127). Indeed, to be God's people is to be a blessed people (Psalm 128), and the preservation of Israel through all their trials not only shows God's interest but implies a significant purpose (Psalm 129). That implied significance receives voice in the very next psalm as it reflects on the meaning and means of atonement (Psalm 130). Indeed, atonement provides the foundation for contentment while living in a world filled with moral challenges (Psalm 131), and that full atonement would ultimately come through David's Successor, promised by God and anointed by God (Psalm 132). This hope, this perspective, and this mindset brought Jews back from foreign lands to Jerusalem in the spirit of unity reflected in the growing chorus of voices singing as they arrived in their homeland's capital (Psalm 133).

Thus, Psalm 134 serves as the culmination of all their anticipation. Ascending the steps to the temple in the final stage of a passage

begun far away, the people take in the scene as they join the ranks of those present to worship the LORD and enter the temple to see God's servants, the Levites, standing ready in the temple even at night (1 Chr. 9:33) to perform their duty on behalf of the people (Psalm 134:1; cf. 1 Chr. 23:25-30). As the people therefore approached the sanctuary of the temple bringing their own gifts and sacrifices, they could then enjoin the priests to worship with outstretched arms—not in the meaningless waving so commonly assumed by some today, but in the manner prescribed for the wave offering as they came before God on behalf of the pilgrims (Psalm 134:2). Then the psalm closes, with the rhetorical response of the priests pronouncing God's blessing on those who came to worship in accordance with His will (Psalm 134:3).

From the moment the preparation for the journey began, worshipping God remained the focus, and so should it be for us today. Worshipping God provides the motivation to go, for He deserves our full attention. Worshipping God offers sufficient reason to show determination and dedication. Worshipping God focuses on following God's will and therefore on offering what God promises to receive instead of entertaining ourselves and our worldly sensibilities. Worshipping God focuses on what God has done for us—not on what we have done for Him—because He has proven Himself worthy as our Creator and Benefactor. As Jesus would later explain to the woman of Samaria, true worship requires true worshippers (John 4:23-24). The Jews of old correctly journeyed to Jerusalem to worship at the temple and sang this song as the final part of their sojourn. As such, it points to a principle worthy of imitation. The highlight of the journey was bowing before God. It provided the motivation for beginning and the culmination at the end. This remains true today—not only in assembling to worship together as God's people on the first day of the week, but also in ultimately bowing together before God in heaven.

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# News and Notes

## **Prayer request...**

- Dollye Collins fell again breaking her arm. She is home.
- Gary Day, Jeff's brother, is suffering with several health issues. He is staying with their sister in Hurst.
- Jason Hackler has been having problems with his back.
- Cheryl McIntosh has been diagnosed with shingles.
- Melinda Parrish is having tests on her heart. She has a heart murmur.
- Don Walker is waiting on a heart transplant.

## *Sympathy*

We extend our sympathy to Ernest and Janette Henderson & family in the passing of their daughter, Georgann Henderson. The funeral was Friday in Hillsboro.

## **Restored**

Kerista Cowan's mother, Bonalyn Bivin, was restored to the Lord's church last Sunday in San Antonio. We rejoice with her and the Cowan family.

## **Please note...**

- The Antioch Group—Sid Carruth and Kenneth Helm will meet Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, in the annex after the morning Worship. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer.
- The Youth Devotional will be Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, in the annex. Sid and Sherry will be hosting it. Guys bring drinks. Girls bring desserts.
- There will be a party for the 1<sup>st</sup>—5<sup>th</sup> grade at the building on November 10<sup>th</sup> from 2-4. See Deb Stidolph for any questions.
- The Ephesus Group—Jeff Day will meet Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, in the annex after the morning Worship. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer.
- Game Night will be Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, in the annex starting at 6:00 PM.

## **Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)**

### **John 15:10, 12**

<sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

<sup>12</sup> This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

## Those who Serve

### Lords' Supper: 11/4

#### Front South

Andrew Collins  
Don Crecelius  
Clint Owens

#### Front North

Jeff Day  
Logan Frasier  
Glenn Frasier

#### Back South

Royce Gorman  
Jason Hackler  
Conner Hackler

#### Back North

Vince Grinnell  
Cody Grinnell  
Wesley Hackler

### Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Ryan Cowan

Sunday PM

Larry McWilliams

Clark Lehtinen

Tim Norman

Wednesday PM

Logan Frasier

### Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Gavin McGilvray

Wednesday

Justin Hopkins

### Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff McPherson

Sunday PM

Jeff McPherson

Wednesday PM

Rob Stidolph

### Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

J. D. Allen

Colton Allen & Will Cammack

### Collection Counting

Andrew Collins / Joshua Haynes

**Beacon of Truth**, Pat McIntosh's internet radio program will be on Monday thru Friday at 7:00 AM.

**Expositions**, Kevin's television program, airs on GBN Monday nights at 7:30 pm, Thursday mornings at 10:30 am, Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm, and Saturday afternoons at 12:30 pm.



## Sermons for Sunday

AM

Transformed

Romans 12:1-2

PM

Lessons for Teachers

James 3:13-18

### Calendar of Events



11/17 Hispanic congregation will have a lectureship at the building all day.

11/20 Combined singing for Thanksgiving at Westhill congregation

12/09 Congregational Christmas Dinner following evening services



## Our Records

Bible Class.....118

AM Worship.....174

PM Worship.....111

Wednesday Bible Class.....100

Contribution.....\$5,988

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