



Prepare

*Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you,
prepare to meet your God, O Israel.*

Amos 4:12

Perhaps one of the most fear-inducing phrases I've read to date in the Word of God, including Revelation, is the last part of the feature verse above: prepare to meet your God. It stopped me in my tracks this morning with an almost visceral blow. Even now, as I'm writing this some 16 hours later, it has the same startling force. We say sometimes, almost jokingly, that so-and-so should prepare to meet their Maker, but rarely do we actually pause and think about that eventuality.

Depending on where you stand with Jesus, this inevitable meeting will either be the first in a glorious eternity or the last before a miserable, tormented one. We *all* will meet Him one day. We all will stand exposed, the very essence of our souls laid bare. No excuses, no reasonings, no justifications, qualifications, exceptions, or exemptions. No subterfuge. No deception, those little lies we like to tell ourselves to feel better about our actions. He sees and knows the truth anyway, but on that day we will have no ability to deceive even ourselves. We will also see the truth of who we are and will have no choice but to acknowledge it.

I am thankful that my soul is covered by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. It is only that covering that makes me acceptable to a Holy God. I do not have to dread the meeting of my God, though I, like everyone else who meets Him, will fall on my face before Him in awe and reverence. The phrase in the feature verse is not threatening to my immortal soul, for it is safe in the nail-scarred hands of my Redeemer.

But I still find myself wanting to prepare. The same as one would prepare to meet some great dignitary here on earth, I want to be ready to meet Him. What can I do as a believer to prepare for that day?

I can fear God, seeing Him for who He is and not who I interpret Him to be, the truth according to His revealed Word. I can allow the Spirit to perform His transforming work in my heart, submitting my will to His. I can measure every thought, word, and deed against the Word of God. I can draw near to Him. I can die to self daily, putting Him first in every aspect of my being. I can live with an eternal perspective. I can practice His presence here on earth, truly preparing my heart for that day.

Prepare to meet your God. It is either a challenge or an invitation, but all will receive this summons. I want to do my best for Him, prepare as best I can. He deserves it. He is God.

Father, we thank You for Your word, for the power that it has to transform hearts. We thank You for leaving it for us to help us prepare for the day when we meet You. We thank You for Your Son, who paid the price for our sins, so that we do not have to fear that day.