

The Famine is Here

Amos 8:11-12- “Behold, the days come,” says the Lord GOD, “that I will send a *famine* in the land; not a *famine* of bread nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east; they shall run to and fro to seek the Word of the LORD, and shall not find *it*.”

As you all know, I was away last week in Pennsylvania for a reunion of friends I grew up with. While the cookout and reminiscing were relaxing, even with no alcohol, something seemed different than when we were kids. Granted, age, the mileage, wrinkles and so on were a given.

As my brother and his wife hosted the gathering, he asked everyone to join hands and he opened the event with a prayer of thanksgiving and followed it up with the Pledge of Allegiance. A good start.

When we were growing up, God was part of our lives, our culture and our nation. He was in our schools, our homes and our families. Most all of the kids I grew up with had some denomination or other and there was always an acknowledgment of God. Assemblies in schools, homeroom and sporting events had moments of prayer right after the Pledge of Allegiance. These were public schools! I’m sure

some of the older members here can relate to some of these things I'm mentioning. God is all but gone from our society these days, in our homes, in our schools and sadly in our churches.

We live in a time of *spiritual starvation*. And is it any wonder? Are there any truths being taught in churches these days? Negating the Sabbath and Holy Days pollutes any messages being given. Celebration of man-made holidays as opposed to God's Holy Days eliminates any hope for "churchgoers" to learn the Plan of God for mankind. Man cannot make holy what God has already set aside as such. It is sad times indeed when you can count the lies being taught in churches compared to how many truths are actually shared.

Many pastors and members of the clergy believe they are doing the "work" of the church by warning the world and gathering as many as they can to "say the sinners' prayer." Sharing the Word of God is critical indeed but we'd better make sure we are sharing exactly what He said and not some edited version for denominational support.

Galatians 1:6-11- "I am astonished that you are so quickly being turned away from Him Who called you into *the* grace of Christ, to a different gospel, Which *in reality* is not another *gospel*; but there are some who are troubling you and are desiring to pervert the gospel of Christ. But if we, or even an angel from heaven,

should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, LET HIM BE ACCURSED! As we have said before, I also now say again. If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED! Now then, am I striving to please men, or God? Or am I motivated to please men? For if I am yet pleasing men, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

Ezekiel 34:2- “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds, “Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?”’

God makes it perfectly clear there are and will be consequences for the “shepherds” of His flock, *if* we fail to feed His sheep as He intends.

What then, is a necessary work of the church? What happens when a famine occurs? What is critical during the time of a famine? The most important task is to feed those who are starving!

Free dictionary defines famine as: A drastic, wide-reaching *food shortage*.

A drastic shortage; a dearth (scarce supply). Severe hunger; starvation, a severe shortage of food, as through crop failure or overpopulation, acute shortage of anything, violent hunger. Fairly straight forward.

We've all seen images of the poor and needy throughout the world who are starving to death from hunger. Their emaciated frames resemble a skeleton with skin stretched over it. It's difficult for us to imagine the possibility of such things here in the U.S. God has certainly blessed our nation and we have definitely forgotten Him. The possibility definitely exists as we've seen empty shelves in supermarkets and supply "famines" of various sorts. Some suspiciously "man-made." It is no different for a spiritual famine. People are starving for the true Word of God. We are to feed the flock with truth. Not warm and fuzzy sermons.

1 Peter 5:1-3- "*The elders who are among you I exhort, even as a fellow elder, and an eyewitness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker of the glory that is about to be revealed: Feed the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight not by compulsion, but willingly; not in fondness of dishonest gain, but with an eager attitude; Not as exercising lordship over your possessions; but by being examples to the flock of God.*"

The Free Dictionary defines feed as, "To give food to; supply with nourishment." I know there have been numerous sermons and articles written on this topic but something has become crystal clear. It is our responsibility to nourish those among us with the Word of God. A healthy spiritual diet is as if not more important than a well-balanced food diet. Proper nutrition is critical for good health and growth in

both areas. It is vital for us to try to have the finest diet imaginable; prayer, fasting and daily Bible study. For only by consuming sound spiritual food will we be able to endure and please God in this end time. Ever get so hungry you become dizzy? If we fail to maintain a proper spiritual diet we will faint.

Isaiah 40:28-31- “Have you not known? Have you not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not grow weak nor weary? And His understanding no one can fathom. *He* gives power to the weary; and to him with no might, He increases strength. Even the young shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall; But those who wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up *with* wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

In this day and age, it is easy to succumb to the distractions and temptations of this world. We can find ourselves drifting from God, from regular prayer and Bible study. This will lead us into a condition of spiritual malnourishment. Once we recognize this is occurring, we can remedy the situation immediately. God will do His part to perfect and complete His work within us (**Philippians 1:6**).

Remaining in an environment of compromise can and will take its toll on our spiritual health if we do not remain steadfast in our faith.

2 Corinthians 6:14-17- “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and lawlessness *have* in common? And what fellowship *does* light *have* with darkness? And what union *does* Christ *have* with Belial? Or what part *does* a believer *have* with an unbeliever? And what agreement *is there between* a temple of God and idols? For you are a temple of *the* living God, exactly as God said: “I will dwell in them and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from the midst of them and be separate,” says *the* Lord, “and touch not *the* unclean, and I will receive you;” Being aware and cautious of what we are feeding on or take in will keep us in the right direction.

Don't think for a minute that God isn't aware of what's going on regarding the lack of His Word. He will use this deprivation of His truth to test and perfect us. It will force us to draw even closer to Him and get into His Word even more. We will prove all things. **(1 Thessalonians 5:21)**

James 1:2-4- “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you are beset by various trials,

Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. But let endurance have *its* perfect work, so that you may be perfect and complete, not lacking in anything.”

With the world spiraling out of control and our own present Government distorted into some form of “socialist oligarchy” we can bet on tough times ahead.

Hopefully, we can all see the need to be ready for what lies in the future. Now is that time for preparation. Christ forewarned us of occurrences toward the end times so none of today’s events should come as a complete shock.

Matthew 24:7- “For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in *different* places.”

God has given us ample direction and equipped us for His purpose, His chosen.

We will look forward toward our future roles in His Kingdom as kings and priests.

Maintaining a good spiritual diet by keeping and storing His Word in our hearts,

we will have the nourishment needed to keep us from the famine that is upon us.

No matter what may come, famine, war, pestilence, captivity or death, God’s

promises are sure and He will deliver and reward His chosen.

1 Peter 1:3-9- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who, according to His abundant mercy, has begotten us again unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; Unto an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, reserved in heaven for us, Who are being safeguarded by *the* power of God through faith, for salvation *that is* ready to be revealed in *the*

last time. In this you yourselves greatly rejoice; though for the present, if it is necessary, you are in distress for a little while by various trials; In order that the proving of your faith, which is much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is being tested by fire, may be found unto praise and honor and glory at *the* revelation of Jesus Christ; Whom, not having seen, you love; in Whom, *though* at the present time you do not see Him, you believe, and rejoice with unspeakable joy, and filled with glory; And are receiving the end of your faith—*even the* salvation of *your* souls;” Amen.

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