

A Famine is Coming

Amos 8:11-12 Behold, the days come, saith 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*.

Amos, a farmer called prophet sent to warn Isarel of the coming judgment.

As a result, Isarel was led captive into Assyria.

Prophecies have a three-fold application,

1. Historical
2. Practical
3. Prophetical

The Prophetical timing is of the last days. After having rejected God and His mercy the Bible tells us that the day of the LORD will come! “run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD,” (12)

Daniel 12:4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, *even to* **the time of the end: many shall run to and fro,** and knowledge shall be increased.

I. The REASON for the FAMINE

The Famine for God’s Word came in a time of:

1. Material Comfort (6:1-8)

Amos 6:4-5 That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall; 5 That chant to the sound of the viol, *and* invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David;

Even here in Romania we are living in material comfort!

i.e. electricity, radio, tv, internet, CELL PHONES. Any one of us can walk 50 meters and buy something from a store that came from China, America, Africa....

A WARNING!

Deu 8:11-14 Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: 12 Lest *when* thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt *therein*; 13 And *when* thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; 14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

2. Moral Corruptness (2:6-7)

Amos 2:6-7 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away *the punishment* thereof; because they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair

of shoes; 7 That pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek: and a man and his father will go in unto the *same* maid, to profane my holy name:

3. Mediocre Christianity (8:4-10)

Here is does not say that they had ceased to observe the holy days and sabbaths, but that they looked forward to their end so they could return to their buying and selling. Simply enduring them so they could say they did their part.

Mark 7:6-9 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from me. 7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men. 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, *as* the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. 9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

II. RESULTS of the FAMINE

Amos described a sad picture in **Am 8:13-14**

1. Fainting (13)

Proverbs 24:10 *If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. (in other words you were spiritually starved)*

2 Corinthians 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet **the inward man is renewed day by day.** (by the WORD OF GOD)

2. Falling (14)

Doesn't this describe the daily lives of many Christians today?

Suffering from a lack of "spiritual food"
Easily overcome by temptation!
Even the common trials of life overwhelm them!

III. The RESTORATION from the FAMINE

1. Find his Words (*re-discover the Bible*)

Kinda like that old corn flakes commercial "Taste it again for the first time"

Jeremiah 15:15-16 O LORD, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke. **16** Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

2. Feast on His Words

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Newborn babes need feeding every couple of hours.

Job 23:12 Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary *food*.

3. Fulfill His Words

Psalms 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?
by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word.