



THE GREAT FAMINE

Our Nation and the world are all abuzz with the end-of-day scenarios they are seeing happening around them. The plague of COVID19, earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, unemployment, economic chaos, and threat of wars have people looking to God's Word for answers to today's headlines. In Matthew 24, Jesus goes into great detail about the world in the last days; and many of those signs are present in today's news headlines. These are the things that bring fear and distress to people who have no hope! But the greatest judgment from God is not any of these things. The great judgment of God on His people has always been the FAMINE OF THE WORD.

In the Old Testament, Israel (God's people) would rebel against God and His word (the Torah) and God would send His servants (the prophets) to call them back to Himself. The prophets were not there to be fortune tellers. They were there to shock God's people back into relationship with their God and Creator by showing them the holiness, the justice and the judgments of God! The very presence of the prophets was evidence that God's mercy and compassion was still towards them. However, there would be times that their rebellion was so great that God would remove His true prophets and allow the false prophets to take center stage. This would be a FAMINE OF THE WORD.

A great example of this was during the time of the Kings when a very wicked king – the most wicked king of all the kings – Manasseh king of Judah (2 Kings 21, 2 Chronicles 33), son of Hezekiah came to power. He reigned in Jerusalem for 55 years – which was the longest of any of the kings. *"Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. He did evil in the sight of the LORD according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel. For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he also erected altars for the Baals and made Asherim, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. He built altars in the house of the LORD of which the LORD had said, "My name shall be in Jerusalem forever." For he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. He made his sons pass through the fire in the valley of Ben-hinnom; and he practiced witchcraft, used divination, practiced sorcery and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him to anger." (2 Chronicles 33:1-6)* Tradition states that Manasseh murdered Isaiah the prophet by sawing him in two! The FAMINE OF THE WORD was so great that *wickedness was actually brought in to God's house, and they combined the worship of God with the worship of demons.* God allowed them to die in their wickedness and sin! There was no voice crying in the wilderness! God was silent! It is said in the Scriptures that Manasseh spilt much innocent blood in Jerusalem. He led all of Jerusalem and Judah in rebellion – including the priests. 55 YEARS OF THE FAMINE OF THE WORD!

The FAMINE was not broken until his grandson Josiah was king and the High Priest Hilkiah found the Book of the Law in the Temple. *"Moreover, Shaphan the scribe told the king saying, 'Hilkiah the priest gave me a book.' And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king. When the king heard the words of the law, he tore his clothes." (2 Chronicles 34:18-19)* Hearing the *true Word* of God brought King Josiah to repentance and a great revival broke out in Judah! Josiah removed all the wickedness that his grandfather Manasseh had brought upon the land. The power of God's Word was again in the land! The famine had ended. God's people need God's Word just like we need air to live. The true Word always brings repentance and faith.

The longest FAMINE OF THE WORD was from the prophet Malachi (the last book of the Old Testament) until the prophet John the Baptist in the New Testament. A total of 450 years without a word from God to His people, Israel! God's people were in despair. They had been conquered by multiple nations and were now under the iron rule of Pagan Rome. *They had a form of religion but were without any hope.* This was worse than all the plagues, wars, and disasters that had destroyed them since leaving Egypt! God in His mercy then breaks the famine with John the Baptist and then His Son Jesus!

Jesus – the actual WORD of God – breaks the famine! Faith Comes by hearing the Word. *Romans 10:14-17* *"How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, 'HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!' However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, 'LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?' So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ. So the famine was broken by the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ.* *Hebrews 1:1-2* *"God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world."*

We are now in these last days and THE GREAT FAMINE OF THE WORD has come as Jesus said it would. *"Matthew 24:10,11, 24* *¹⁰At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many astray... ²⁴for false christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect."* In the evangelical church today, we have in our midst *many* false prophets, teachers, and preachers who are like in the days of wicked king Manasseh who bring a false gospel and a different Jesus into the very house of God. *1 Timothy 4:1-2* *"But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron."* *2 Timothy 3:1-5* *"But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these."* These are in the church today bewitching *many* (Galatians 3:1) and leading *many* astray with the name-it-and-claim-it gospel, the prosperity gospel, the entitlement gospel, the faith-in-faith gospel, the New Apostolic Reformation, Bethel Church, Jesus Culture, Hillsong and countless others...

We are in desperate need of holy, Spirit-filled men of God who will prophetically preach and teach the true Word, the true Gospel and the true Jesus in the fear of the LORD – free of the fear of man – and shepherd the sheep in the way of the Lord. May God raise up men like this, break this horrible FAMINE OF THE WORD, remove His judgment from *many* of the evangelical churches in America, and bring in a TRUE Word-based REVIVAL in 2020!

