

A FAMINE IN AMERICA?

Amos 8:11

INTRODUCTION

- A. Background of our text.
1. Political background: The king of Syria had kept Israel in subjection for awhile. Then Assyria had conquered Syria, thus giving Israel a degree of freedom which lasted until Tiglath-Pileser began his rule of Assyria. Israel had peace from 805-740 BC. Jeroboam began to reign 783 BC. He restored the borders to what they were in the days of David and Solomon. Uzziah did likewise in the land of Judah.
 2. Social background: Prosperity, Injustice, Ease and luxury, and Greed.
 3. Religious background: Abundant religious rites but little righteousness. Idolatry at Dan, Beersheba, Gilgal, and Bethel. Feasting and revelry. Bribery and contempt for holy things. Moral decay.
 4. The theme of this book: DOOM!
- B. Famine in America is almost unknown.
1. We are blessed beyond description.
 2. We have been the envy of the world.
 3. Conditions can change.
 - a. Consider the 7 years of famine in Egypt. GE 41:1-57.
 - b. Only Joseph – a man of God – saved that nation.
- C. Amos 8:11 – the famine here is different.
1. This is a famine for the Word of God. They would look for the nourishment of God's Word and it shall not be found. Those who depend upon the false gods who do not live shall fall and never rise again.
 2. We are accustomed to abundance here also.
 3. Still, famine could come through indifference.
 - a. There are signs of such indifference.
 - b. Are we growing spiritually?
 - c. Are we growing numerically?
 - d. Are we taking the Word of God into OUR world?
- D. What would it mean to have a famine for the Word of God?

DISCUSSION

- I. A NATION WITHOUT THE BIBLE IS WITHOUT FREEDOM! JN 8:32.
- A. Did you know that it is impossible to enslave a Bible reading people?
 - B. Tyrants hate the Bible.
 - C. History reveals the Bible brings freedom. The history of the founding of America. The development of a nation based on the Bible. God's preservation of a nation even in war.
 - D. Bible preaching keeps us alert to freedom's value.
 - E. Bible reading people keep freedom alive in their daily life.
- II. A NATION WITHOUT THE BIBLE IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION. LK 6:46-49.
- A. The life or "land" built on the Bible stands. PR 14:34; PS 119:172
 1. God's Word provides a solid foundation. PS 11:3; 1CO 3:10-12; EP 2:18-22.
 2. Building on the Bible we withstand life's storms. PS 119 – 39 times "thy Word."
 - B. Apart from the Bible there are no absolutes.
 1. Everything becomes relative.
 2. No one would know what's right and wrong. PS 119:11, 89, 101, 105, 130, 140.
 - C. We must go back to the Bible!

1. Neglect starves the soul. PS 119:28, 50, 74, 76, 81
 2. Results are the same as being in a famine.
- III. A NATION WITHOUT THE BIBLE IS WITHOUT FAITH. RO 10:17.
- A. Paul describes this problem in the Jewish nation. RO 10:1-4; Cf. HE 5:12ff.
 - B. Faith comes by hearing and we must hear the Bible.
 - C. 1 PE 1:23.
 - D. Neglecting the Bible is like having a famine for God's Word.

CONCLUSION

- A. Are you hungry for the Word of God?
- B. Devour it while it is available!
- C. Share the Scriptures and prevent a national famine.
- D. The task AHEAD of you, is never as great as the POWER behind you. EP 6:10.