

A famine for the word - Amos 8:11-14

Introduction

- In about 750 B.C., an obscure farmer and shepherd was called by God to be a prophet...
- His mission: to warn Israel of God's coming judgment if they did not repent!
- Part of Amos's prophecy that was fulfilled concerned an unusual famine that would come upon the people: A famine for the word of God
- Today, there is also a famine for the word of God...
- Today's study will compare the present-day famine with the one foretold by Amos...

the present-day famine

- How it is different...
 - God did not send the present famine for the word of God
 - Mat 28:19, Mar 16:15, Luk 24:47, Act 1:8
- How it is "similar"...Causes
 - Material luxury Amos 6:1 – 8
 - God had warned Israel that it might cause some to forget God Deuteronomy 8:11 – 14, 17
 - Jesus warned that riches could choke those who have received the word--Lk 8:14
 - Moral corruption Am 2:6-7
 - Who can deny that immorality is having its effect on the church today? Heb. 4:12-13, 2Ti 4:3
 - Religious corruption Am 8:4-10
 - Results - Am 8:13-14
- Two things are necessary to resist trials and temptations...
 - Faith in God: believing that he will provide a way for escape -1 Cor. 10:13, 2Th 3:3 , Heb 10:23
 - Fear of God: that awesome reverence that motivates us to turn from evil - Pr. 16:6, Rom 11:22
 - The word of God is designed to impart both! - Rom. 10:17, Duet. 17:18-19; 31:10-13

ending the famine

- First, we must appreciate the "POWER" of God's word...[2Pe 1:2-4 NKJV]
 - God's Word Has The Power To Bring Faith[Rom 10:17 NKJV] [Mat 11:15 NKJV]
 - God's Word Gives Us Power To Fight The Enemy[Eph 6:17 NKJV]
 - Look how Jesus defeated the enemy: (Mat 8:16) In Matt 4,
- But then, we must "FEED" upon it...1Pe 2:
- Praying for wisdom and help to obey God's words Ps 119:18; 33-37

conclusion

- It must have been terrible for the Israelites...
- How tragic for those who impose a famine for the word of God upon themselves today!
- Make the commitment not to neglect the all powerful word of God!
- As Paul told the Ephesian elders as he bid them farewell: (Act 20:32)