

The Great Famine

“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” (Amos 8:11).

Amos prophesied of a coming time when people will be unable to find spiritual food even though they search broadly for it, *“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 8:12).* A widespread rejection of God’s Word is the reason for this famine, *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears” (2 Tim 4:3),* while an innate desire of knowledge is its genesis, *“... then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods” (Genesis 3:5).* The Word of the Lord is sufficient evidence for man to place his trust in, but he stubbornly continues to listen to Satan while searching for more and more knowledge. Daniel speaks to this lust for knowledge and of how it magnifies itself at the end of time, *“... and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation ... many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased” (Dan 12:1, 4).* Although the Lord instructs us to study, *“... to shew thyself approved unto God...” (2 Tim 2:15),* this study comes at a cost when it is not centered on the Bible, *“And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh” (Ecc 12:12).* This famine comes about because man will not take personal responsibility to study the Bible.

For our instruction and forewarning God has already allowed a famine of the Word to manifest itself in the Old Testament times. In those days God commanded the Israelites to destroy the groves and the high places used by pagan religions so as not to become influenced by them in their worship of the one true God. Jesus has given us similar commands today, *“And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire” (Matt 18:9).* However, because the Israelites did not completely rid

themselves of these bad influences, their worship of God eventually became intertwined with false teachings. For example, Solomon compromised his worship of God by sacrificing in high places rather than in the tabernacle commanded by God, *“And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places” (1 Kings 3:3).* It probably was argued that Solomon truly worshipped God so what did it matter where he did it? Modern worship has similarly become compromised; case in point, the Word has been minimized or altered in the guise of clarity with seemingly little concern of eternal consequence. In Solomon’s situation, others noticed his change of venue and were emboldened to commit other more grievous compromises; changing even one aspect of God’s command can be serious. Jeroboam, first king of the northern kingdom, increased this compromise of faith by constructing places of worship in both Bethel and Dan to replace the need for temple worship in Jerusalem altogether, *“And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi” (1 Kings 12:31).* He not only moved the worship of God to new locations, he went so far as to appoint priests not sanctioned by God. It seems that as long as someone conducted outwardly recognizable worship services all was right. Eventually things became so bad that Ahaz, twelfth king of the southern kingdom, locked the doors of the temple which caused the people to worship other gods at the high places he built, *“And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God, and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and he made him altars in every corner of Jerusalem. And in every several city of Judah he made high places to burn incense unto other gods, and provoked to anger the LORD God of his fathers” (2 Chr 28:24-25).* The final straw came when the Bible was no longer used in worship—it was rediscovered during king Josiah’s reign. Without the Word of God to stand on the people became so ignorant of God’s will that they could not recognize the difference, much less care about the truth. Worship had devolved into something that pleased the ears of men as preached by self-appointed priests

that had little connection to God.

Today we are headed into that great famine if we are not there already. The Bible has been printed in so many versions that it is practically impossible to keep up with the changes, which by the way are looked upon as being minor by many church-goers. There are many winds of doctrine blowing through our pulpits so that most people have lost track of the truth. Yet, as in the Old Testament, there are many who confidently go to church today without fully knowing what the Bible says, feeling that all is well. Are you one of them?

God's peace,
Charles Korhonen

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Nov 1	Ken Storm	Holy Communion
Nov 8	Charles Korhonen	
Nov 15	Ken Storm	
Nov 22	Chad Kuivanen	
Nov 29	TBD	

Sunday School Christmas Program December 13th

Online Broadcasts

From our webpage: <http://www.tapiolachurch.org/> you will see the mixlr live audio – we will be 'on the air' during our church services.

Winter Schedule

Sunday Service 11:00am. Sunday School 9:45am
Wednesday night Bible Study 7pm