

Preparing for a Famine!

KJV Matthew 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you.**

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and **there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.**

8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

As we are experiencing **pestilence or plagues** of the Last Days Jesus tells us we must also prepare for **famines**.

Famine is a prolonged period of an extreme lack of food due to the scarcity of harvest!

There are many reasons **harvests** become scarce plagues (which we're experiencing now) wars, natural disasters and the lack of seed and rain!

God promises we will reap what we sow!

ESV Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

NIV 2 Corinthians 9:6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

People who sow, plant give sparingly (**infrequently, small quantities**) will **harvest** small quantities and infrequently!

Scarcity of Harvest is NOT God's will for the saints!

Prov 22:9 He that hath a bountiful (**generous**) eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

KJV Proverbs 11:25 The liberal (**blessed**) soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

Proverbs 3:9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

As we honor God with our **seed**, He makes sure our barns are always full and we don't experience **scarcity of harvest**.

Mal 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Tithing is sowing our seed into The Kingdom which causes God to open the windows of heaven and ensure we have more than enough to survive any famine!

Luk 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

God used famine to **move** His people!

Genesis 12:10 Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land.

This was the first recorded famine and it prevailed in The land of Canaan, the land God promised Abraham.

It was in Egypt that God **greatly prospered** Abraham causing Pharaoh to give him **sheep, oxen, donkeys, menservants, maidservants, and camels**.

God used a famine to move Abraham to a place where he would prosper

Not everyone prospers during a famine, but those who follow God's instructions (like Abraham) will be blessed.

The second recorded famine happens to **Isaac** Abraham's son of promise.

How strange Isaac would go through the same as his father Abraham.

ESV Genesis 26:1 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines.

Notice the famine came to the place of obedience, the place Isaac was supposed to be, The Promised Land.

It was **common** for people to go to Egypt during a famine!

Egypt was a big city, when the land dried up in the country people went to the cities to find work and food.

But unlike his father Abraham and everyone else God told Isaac **not** to go to Egypt but go to **Gerar** a town near the Philistines.

God told Isaac **not** to do what everyone else is doing!

Genesis 26:2 And the LORD appeared to him and said, "**Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you.**

3 Live here in this land for a while, and I will be with you and bless you. I will give all these lands to you and your descendants. I will keep the oath that I swore to your father Abraham.

4 I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and give all these lands to your descendants. Through your descendant all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

5 I will bless you because Abraham obeyed me and completed the duties, commands, laws, and instructions I gave him."

6 So Isaac settled in Gerar.

Gerar means "a lodging place"! It was just a temporary place to stay!

KJV Genesis 26:8 And it came to pass, when he had been there a long time...!

Isaac's stay in Gerar was to be temporary, he wasn't supposed to be there very long!

Sometimes we find ourselves in places longer than we expected, but they key is **maintaining our hope in God!**

We must keep expecting God to fulfill His promise to us!

Like with Abraham, it's Isaac's wife that causes the king to make a decree that no one touch Isaac, or they'll be put to death.

- **Once Isaac knows he's safe, notice what he does!**

KJV Genesis 26:12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.

Isaac knows no one can touch his **harvest** so he sows **seed!**

KJV Psalm 33:18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;
19 To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

The **Eye of The LORD** is terminology that expresses the **watchful caring** attitude of God!

The song writer is saying **God is paying attention and carrying for them that fear Him!**

What does it mean to **fear The LORD?**

To fear The LORD is to be in **awe of Him!**

To have deep reverence, respect and yes, a measure of healthy fear!

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. The knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil.

What does it mean to **“hope in His mercy?”**

To **hope in God's mercy**, is to wait with expectation for Him to fulfill His promises!

God told Abraham He would bring His people out of slavery after 400 years!

Well it took 430 years, yet they NEVER stopped crying out to God until He delivered them.

God is watching over those who wait on Him, who expect to see His loving-kindness; these are the people God protects and uses His power to advance.

- The song writer is referring to **God's children**, to those who know God as their **Heavenly Father**.

A child who knows their father never **expects another man** to watch over them, protect them and use their **power** (resources, influence, and abilities) to advance them.

He goes on to say God rescues His children from death and keeps them alive in a famine!