

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

294 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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A FAMINE – IN OUR LAND?

“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)

1. **Amos** This humble prophet from Tekota was (Amos 7:14) “no _____, neither was I a prophet’s ____; but I was an _____, and a gatherer of _____ fruit.” He was a contemporary of Hosea and Isaiah and called into service when Uzziah (1:1) was king in Judah and Jeroboam in Israel. The Northern Kingdom (ie: Israel) had reached its peak of prosperity and fallen into idolatry under Jeroboam II. Amos preached repentance.
2. **A Famine Of Hearing** The word famine literally means *a great shortage*. In our text God said there would be a great shortage (ie: famine) of people wanting to hear Him. We recommend that you study TPBS Lesson #30, Hear The Gospel. ~Ed~ Did you know that there are 7V KJV NT verses that contain the same identical sentence? ____ They are found in (Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). “*He that hath an _____, let him _____ what the _____ saith unto the _____.*”
3. **What Does “Hear” Mean?** (Mt 13:13) “*And _____ they _____, neither do they _____.*” (#1) To perceive by the ear that a sound has been made. All but the deaf have the physical capability to hear. The mentally inattentive and preoccupied may not be aware of sound. (#2) To gain knowledge of or understand the meaning. Some are on “another page” and are devoid of comprehensive hearing. (#3) To give attention to, as evidenced by some kind of response. Some are aware but unresponsive. (#4) To grant the request or accede to the wishes of. Few hearers actually reciprocate completely with 100% responsiveness.
4. **In Our Time (Circa 2005)** Attention spans have diminished significantly. We live in a “sound bite” society fueled by an insatiable appetite for instant gratification. It ranges from the Big Mac to Viagra. Most religion has been “dumbed down” to pass the sniff test of political correctness and the scripture that says (1 Cor 15:33) “*evil communications _____ good _____*” is fulfilled in modern multimedia content. Much of current society, like the Athenians (Acts 17:21), spend “*their _____ in nothing else, but either to _____, or to _____ some _____ thing.*”
5. **Feast Or Famine** Just as floods follow droughts, so famines follow feasts. When people become too prosperous they become lax and indifferent. Such is human nature. That’s why God warned Israel of old (Deut 8:10-20) to “*forget _____ the LORD _____ God.*” He said, “*Lest when thou hast _____ and art _____, and hast built _____ houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy _____ and thy flocks _____, and thy _____ and thy _____ is multiplied, and _____ that thou hast is multiplied; Then thine heart be _____, and thou _____ the LORD thy God.*” This is why there is (Amos 8:11) a famine “*of hearing the words of the LORD*” in prosperous nations today. It is readily available but hedonism suffocates spiritual desire.