The Dreadful Famine

Zanesville, OH | June 17, 2018 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** Amos 8:11-12

**Intro**:

* When we think of famines, we think of a shortage of food/water in areas where there may be deserts and a severe lack of agricultural produce. Places where rain is rare, and drought is common. There are many records of such famines in the scriptures, but none are more important than the dreadful famine spoken of in Amos.

**Reasons for this Famine**

1. **Israel rejected God’s love**
   1. **They refused to listen to God’s message and warnings** (Amos 2:12; 5:18-20; 6:3; 7:1-6, 10)
      1. When God spoke His word and it wasn’t what they wanted to hear they refused to acknowledge any part of it.
      2. When they committed evil and sin, they wanted no part in a message that stood contrary to their actions. Even through periods of prolonged mercy and patience (4:6-13) the people wanted no part of God’s warnings.
   2. **Ill-treatment of their neighbor** (Amos 2:6-7; 4:1; 5:10-12; 8:4-6)
      1. In their gluttonous desires to acquire still more for themselves, they did not hesitate to trample over their fellow man for the momentary high of a wealthy lifestyle without the slightest inkling of what they had done.
      2. Those who were doing right and practicing justice were enemies because they wanted to thrive in their wickedness (Dan. 6).
2. **Realizing their need for God**
   1. **Everyone is dependent on God both physically and spiritually** (Jn. 1:3; Acts 17:24-28; 1 Cor. 8:6; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3)
      1. For most of the book of Amos, they have clearly exhibited a lack of dependency on God. They trust in themselves, their idols and their sanctuaries.
      2. They reveled in their prosperity and wealth while forgetting where it had all come from: **God.** More importantly, they were not in the least bit concerned about the state of their spiritual well-being.
   2. **The importance of God’s word: Food for the soul** (Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4; 5:6; 6:25-33; Jn. 6:31-58)
      1. A famine implies food; thus, the use of the word famine suggests that God’s word is in fact food: **food for the soul.**
      2. While in captivity God would be silent. In their distress when they would turn to God, they would not find Him (1 Sam. 28:6-20; Prov. 1:20-33). There would be no prophets, no dreams, no visions. When people refuse God, He will reject them and give them over to their vain desires (2 Thess. 2:8-12).

**Lessons Learned**

1. Don’t take God’s love for granted.
2. Accept God’s message and be doers not just hearers.
3. God’s word equals salvation and eternal life.