

## Y2K PART THREE

### Famine

Most people are concerned at this time about food, and a famine may be coming and so we will have to store up some food for the famine. There are times when God permits famine as a chastisement when He is disobeyed or forgotten. Famine is mentioned as one of his five sore judgments, under the five cycles of discipline.

Yet even in days when food is scarce, God is able to preserve His own.

*Psalm 105:16, Moreover He called for a famine upon the land: He brake the whole staff of bread.*

*Jeremiah 11:22, Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will punish them: the young men shall die by the sword; their sons and their daughters shall die by famine.*

*Leviticus 26:18–20, And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your Earth as brass: And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.*

But the Lord has promises for believers when it comes to famine.

*Psalm 33:19, To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.*

*Psalm 37:3, Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.*

*Psalm 37:25, I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread.*

*Isaiah 1:19, If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:*

*Genesis 45:18, And take your father and your households, and come unto me: and I will give you the good of the land of Egypt, and ye shall eat the fat of the land.*

*Job 5:20–21, In famine He shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword. Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh.*

*Psalm 37:19, They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.*

*Psalm 107:9, For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.*

*Psalm 146:7, Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners:*

*Ezekiel 36:29, I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you.*

*Job 5:20, In famine He shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword.*

*Job 5:22, At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the Earth.*

God's ability to care for His own in times of straightened circumstances is emphasized again and again in the Bible. Elimelech should have returned to, Bethlehem, meaning, house of bread, in spite of the famine. As a Jew, he should not have gone down to Moab for bread.

*Ruth 1:1-3, Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there. And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons.*

**That there was a famine in the land.** "RA AB" meaning famine, famished, hunger. Had not His covenant-keeping God promised to care for him? No matter what scarcity may prevail, God can provide for His own.

*Isaiah 58:7, Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?*

"Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry." "And thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house?"  
"When thou seest them naked, that thou cover him?" "And that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?"

*2 Kings 4:1-7, Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen. And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil. Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed. Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.*

Is thy cruse of comfort failing  
Rise and share it with a friend  
And through all the years of famine  
It shall serve thee to the end.

Love Divine will fill thy storehouse  
Or thy handful still renew  
Scanty fare for one will often  
Make a royal feast for two.

*Matthew 10:31, Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.*

There are many lessons to be learned from "doctor sparrow." The lowly sparrow feeds on God's table and teaches us that a mighty Hand cares for every need. The sparrow also reminds us that when the little span of life is ended, it dies under God's compassionate eye. All through and at the end, His eye is on the sparrow.

*Matthew 10:29, Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.*

If God sees the sparrow fall  
Paints the lily, short and tall,  
Gives the skies their azure hue  
Will He not then care for you?

**Our pre-eminent need in the material realm is that of water.**

Without which there would be no food to eat.

Have you ever stopped to think how utterly dependent we are upon this further gift of God? While we may have to pay for the piping of the water to home and industry, the precious indispensable commodity itself costs us nothing. God has given us the promise.

*Isaiah 33:16, He shall dwell on high: his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.*

The Bible gives us abundant proof of the Divine ability to fulfill even this encouraging promise. Death from thirst faced Hagar's son. But God provided the well of water and Ishmael lived. In the wilderness the Israelites thirsted for water, but God provided an unfailing supply which lasted for 40 years. **They drank of the rock which followed them.**

*1 Corinthians 10:4, And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*

Elijah knew what it was to languish by the side of a drying brook. And to live through a drought of three and a half years. Jesus Christ in His humanity knew how beneficial cool water was to a thirsty soul, and so He begged for a drink from the woman at Sychar's well.

*John 5:4-7, For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, He saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered Him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.*

At the cross, Jesus Christ thirsted, and those around him gave Him vinegar to drink, instead of the cooling water His parched lips needed.

*Isaiah 44:3, For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty,*

*Revelation 7:16, They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.*

**"Neither thirst any more."** The promise John has given us of eternal satisfaction holds more for those saints in the dry, uncivilized parts of the world than for those of us living in areas in which there is seldom any scarcity of life-giving water.

*Psalm 68:9, Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary.*

The Lord interposed and fulfilled the promise when three armies were perishing of thirst. Although there were neither cloud nor rain, yet he supplied an abundance of water that filled all the prepared ditches.

*2 Kings 3:16, And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Make this valley full of ditches.*

2 Kings 3:17, *For thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye, and your cattle, and your beasts.*

God is not dependent upon ordinary methods but is able to surprise His people with novelties of wisdom and power.

Deuteronomy 33:28, *Israel then shall dwell in safety alone: the fountain of Jacob shall be upon a land of corn and wine; also his heavens shall drop down dew.*

In the east without dew everything is dry and withered. In the world of nature things droop, fade, and die. But when the dew falls nature becomes lively and vigorous. What a promise there is for our souls in this natural occurrence. How we constantly need the quiet, gentle, saturating dew of God to refresh and quicken us.

Deuteronomy 28:12, *The LORD shall open unto thee His good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in His season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.*

Because God has promised that seasons will not cease. He sends in its season the copious showers that man and beast require. How unfailing is His bounty. As nature is the emblem of those celestial refreshings, the Lord is ready to bestow upon His people, may we drink and live.

John 4:14–15, *But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman saith unto Him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.*

Did not our Lord remind us that while food is necessary for our mortal life, we cannot live by bread alone? If God so willed it, we could live without bread, even as Moses and Jesus Christ did for 40 days. But we could not live without Him, who is the Bread of life.

**Bread is a second cause, the Lord Himself is the first source of our sustenance. He can work without the second cause as well as with it, and we must not tie Him down to one mode of operation. Let us not be too eager after the visible but let us look to the invisible God.**

**There is a worse famine than of food and water.**

Amos 8:11, *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:*

**And there is greater thirst than that for water.**

Psalm 42:1–2, *As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?*

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