

## Where Do We Go from Here?, Lesson 7

- ☑ We are more and more unstable, it seems, and the reason is because our generation is on a diet.
  - ☑ This is a generation that is famished and starved for truth, we hunger for hope and thirst for the God-given message of the Bible.
  - ☑ What we are experiencing is something that the Bible has said would happen, a famine of truth in the last days.
  - ☑ The most vivid of these prophecies is in Amos, this untrained, unschooled, no bloodline preacher was originally a shepherd and a fruit picker by trade.
  - ☑ He was sort of homespun in his message and was so direct, **Amos 4:12**, they didn't like him saying that! **Amos 7:12-13**.
  - ☑ He met their threats with this prediction: **Amos 8:11-12**. Famine unlike anything else that has happened before.
  - ☑ The early stages of a hearing famine maybe what we are seeing today as we come closer to the end of time, it has to happen sooner or later.
  - ☑ **Ezekiel 7:25-27, Micah 3:6-7** It feels like these days are starting to come upon us.
  - ☑ People have turned aside to subjective truth and away from the objective truth of the Bible.
  - ☑ Not because there aren't enough Bibles in most places in the world in addition to a virtual army of Bible translators who work night and day to get the Scripture into every tongue.
  - ☑ 6 billion of the earth's 7.6 billion have access to the entire Bible.
  - ☑ God's word has never been more accessible whether it be a paper version or a smart phone or computer, the Bible is just a click or two away.
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**How is this a famine of the hearing of the Word?** It is not a lack of food but a lack of hunger that is being prophesied.

- ✓ It is self-inflicted!
  - ✓ Spiritual hunger and physical hunger are not alike, they are as diverse from each other as they could be.
  - ✓ Spiritual hunger works just exactly the opposite from physical hunger.
    - When we are physically hungry, we eat and satisfy our appetites and cease to be hungry.
    - When we are spiritually hungry and get a taste of spiritual food, we get even more hungry—The more we learn about God, the more we want to know.
  - ✓ The reverse is also true: when we are physically hungry and don't eat we become ravenous. On the contrary, if we receive no spiritual food we lose our appetite, we lose our desire and taste for it.
  - ✓ How do fix this? Force feeding, make yourself do it so you can get your appetite back.
  - ✓ Rekindle your appetite, or you will be a part of spiritual famine.
  - ✓ In reality, our hearts are easily drawn away from God and His word because we have a force always working against us (our flesh) and a system working against us (the world), and an entity working against us (the devil).
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**Human beings have a terrible tendency for losing their appetite** for the truth, we don't fall into repentance, faith, prayer, obedience, but we do just fall into sin, faithlessness, prayerlessness, disobedience.

- ✓ If we drift, it isn't towards being on course but off course, compromise, disobedience, superstition, godlessness.
  - ✓ Nothing actually falls into place it has to be made to go there.
  - ✓ If it falls, it falls out of line, out of place, out of sync, out of rhythm, out of order.
  - ✓ To fall into sin and disobedience will be the easiest thing you ever did, but to get away from sin and into obedience will be the hardest thing you ever did.
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**What does this mean?** How does this fit into the apocalyptic scenario that the Bible lays out for the coming days?

- ✓ We've talked about truly monumental trends such as: Socialism, Pandemic, Globalism, Money and commerce power grabs, Apostasy, and Cancel Culture.
- ✓ What is prophesied in Amos is nothing less than spiritual starvation: a crisis affecting our spirit and soul, this has to happen, logically, but can we see it prophetically?

**To appreciate how serious the coming spiritual famine will be**, we need to go deeper into its implications.

- ✓ What does it mean for the last days, and the lives of those who will be a part of it, both then and today?
1. Our heritage is being lost, **Psalms 61:5**. How many of you know much of anything about the past 2,000 years of Christian history?
    - ✓ Where are the missionary stories?
    - ✓ What's happened to the knowledge of martyrs and heroes of the past?
    - ✓ How many grow up learning **Psalms 23**; the Lord's prayer; **John 3:16**; The Roman Road.
    - ✓ We are losing our heritage
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2. Our theology is Getting Watered down. It is easy for churches to become malnourished in spiritual famine.
    - ✓ Popular preaching is topical (i.e., we preach to you what we want to preach and not necessarily what God would have us preach).
    - ✓ Real spiritual nourishment comes from going line by line, chapter by chapter, book by book.
    - ✓ People are seeking to maintain a Christian Identity without holding biblical beliefs.
    - ✓ If we don't have an understanding of the Bible as the Word of God and it alone as doctrine and direction and authority, then we will fall for anything.
    - ✓ **Ephesians 4:12-14**.
    - ✓ The majority of the people in America who go to church, do not know the Bible, or have even read it, do not know basic doctrines, cannot explain the gospel to anyone.
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3. Our Bibles are being overlooked. Mark Twain defined a literary classic as “a book that people praise but never read.”
    - ✓ China has recently banned the buying of bibles in stores and online.
    - ✓ In the USA, the Gideons are running into more and more pushback about placing bible in hotel rooms.
    - ✓ Only 48% of hotels are willing to offer Bibles in their rooms.
  4. Our spiritual appetite is being ruined. The reason for the coming or impending spiritual famine is that our appetites are being ruined.
    - ✓ More and more people just have a total distaste for the Scriptures, they don’t even consider it to be table fare, like a child spitting out carrots.
    - ✓ They are starting to call the Bible “**Hate Speech.**”
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### Where do we go from Here?

- ✓ **2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:12-15; 3:1-3** Forgetfulness and Scoffers are coming, so we must be zealous for the Word and for the proliferation of the Word.
1. Be Burdened, Peter was deeply burdened for the spread and understanding of God’s Word.
    - ✓ **2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:7-8** Until we are tormented by the lawlessness of our world, we will not do much about it.
    - ✓ We will not be moved to action until we have a burden for our world to know the truth.
    - ✓ The burden starts with us, we have to be burdened to make the Bible central in our own lives before we can expect anybody else to be hungry for it.
  2. Be Students, **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:2-3**. Learn to crave it!
    - ✓ Start with reading the Bible because you know you should, priority every day, then you will start to have a taste and appetite for it.
    - ✓ You will start not only doing it out of discipline but also out of desire.
    - ✓ There is no excuse or us not to be students, we have access to the Bible almost everywhere.
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3. Be Shepherds, **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:2**. Shepherd in Latin is Pastor, Peter was called as a shepherd and an overseer (another word for the same function).
    - ✓ The Official office and title is reserved for very few and always male in the New Testament, but the gift and responsibility is not gender specific or title dependent.
    - ✓ To be a shepherd is a great responsibility and burden, it takes serious preparation and a submission to the ultimate Shepherd to be effective.
    - ✓ You have to be well-fed before you can feed anyone else.
  4. Be Evangelistic, **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:23-25**, born again message.
    - ✓ **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:15-16** “Why are you different? How is that you made it through this pandemic and aren’t blown away by it?”
    - ✓ The way to banish spiritual famine is one person at a time.
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