

Harvest Series
Famine and The Christian

Reading: [Genesis 41:53-57](#)

Introduction:

- A famine is a widespread scarcity of food, caused by several factors including war, inflation, crop failure, population imbalance, or government policies. This phenomenon is usually accompanied or followed by regional malnutrition, starvation, epidemic, and increased mortality.'
 - Harvest is the cure for famine. Famine is the curse of harvest
 - Famine comes when the harvest does not.
 - Harvest ends famine
 - Thankfully, God has blessed us with much more harvest than famine
- [Genesis 8:22](#) "While the earth remains, **Seedtime and harvest**, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."
- Today in the harvest series we will consider Famines in the Bible

1. Trust God in Famines

- [Genesis 12:10](#) Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land.
- God had told Abram to "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house to a land that I will show you." [Gen. 12:1](#)
 - If God sent Abram here why didn't God tell him about the famine?
 - If obeyed in going, why didn't Abram ask?
 - Either way, he didn't ask God what to do about Egypt. He started his own plan about lying about Sarah. Where's the faith?
 - A similar famine happened with Isaac, Like father like son.
- [Genesis 26:1](#) And Isaac went to the Philistines, in Gerar.
- What famines come into our lives? Do we trust God in them?
 - Maybe it's loss of job, or finances, or marital trouble.
 - When do we involve God in the famine?
 - Trust God when we are lacking, trust God when in abundance
 - Trust God when you know. Trust God when you don't know.
 - That's what Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did. [Dan. 3:17-18](#)

2. God Disciplines by a Famine

- [2 Samuel 21:1](#) Now there was a famine ...because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites."
- God has always provided warnings for his people to make things right
 - There is another passage that talks specifically about God's discipline
- [Heb 12:5-6](#) And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

- Like children, we may not understand God's discipline, but he does it out of his love for us.

[Romans 8:35](#) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

- There will always be problems, it's a matter of how we respond
- Do we trust God in our problems? In our famines? In our weakness?

3. God Wants Our Attention in a Famine

[1 Kings 18:2](#) So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and *there was* a severe famine in Samaria.

[1 Kings 18:17-18](#) Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?" And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house *have*, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals.

- Ahab was king of Israel. God constantly gave him support, but warned him to be obedient. Ahab was often disobedient, the famine was one way God tried to get his attention, but again, he wouldn't listen
- We must listen to God. What famines come to our lives to get our attention? What would it take to wake us up to His will?
 - Could it be sickness? Would we rely on Him then?
 - Could it be an accident? Would we trust Him then?
 - What would get our attention? What would make us listen?

4. God Has a Plan in Famines

[Ruth 1:1](#) This book began with a famine connecting Ruth to the lineage of Jesus

[Genesis 41:53-57](#) Then the seven years of plenty which were in the land of Egypt ended, and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. The famine was in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Then Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, do." The famine was over all the face of the earth, and Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. And the famine became severe in the land of Egypt. So all countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine was severe in all lands.

- Both of these stories illustrate God has a plan and sometimes it involves terrible events. Joseph was enslaved, Naomi's husband died, then Ruth's husband died. Also, Israel was enslaved in Egypt.
 - It all tells us what Paul said in a few words:
- [Romans 8:28](#) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.
- We must trust God whatever the problems that come.