



## HANDLING FAMINE

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Famine is a sustained period of lack or failure that leads one to become desperate. Viewed from a natural perspective it can lead to soulish decision making that would have disastrous effects long term. A biblical view about famine reveals that it is sometimes necessary to unveil the next phase of growth in our journey in God. Famine will always reveal the "Son" in us.

For each one famine could have a personal or corporate meaning. The case of the prodigal indicates a personal famine.

### **F - Financial**

*14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. (Luke 15:14 NKJV)*

When the younger or immature son had disconnected from his father he immediately created an environment for famine to manifest. He had squandered his inheritance and was in financial ruin. His entire economic sustenance was in the environment of his father but he had disconnected from that environment and ended up in famine.

Famine can be activated by what you spend your money on. He spent it on wasteful living and when famine arose in the land he was left destitute. We don't spend money we invest money through grace transactions. The absence of grace is famine. The young man had no grace connection to invest in so it led to wastage.

### **A - Assignment is not clear**

*15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. (Luke 15:15 NKJV)*

This son had no clear assignment in life. He joins himself to an equal who sends him to feed pigs. Famine is the lack of purpose and a clear definition of why we exist. When we lack vision and goal we are in famine. We must know why we are here.

Peter forgot his assignment and wanted to go back fishing

*3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing."*

*They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing*

*(John 21:3 NKJV)*

When your assignment is forgotten you will catch nothing. They had been commissioned to preach the gospel of the kingdom but wanted to go fishing.

Assignment in most cases is revealed through crisis:

- Moses received his assignment after he committed a murder and was in the back of a desert
- Jacob received his assignment after cheating his brother of his birthright
- Joseph fulfilled his assignment after false accusations, incarceration and being forgotten
- David received his assignment after living in caves and the wilderness and losing everything

- Saul received his assignment after being knocked off his horse
- Esther received her assignment after a decree to kill the Jews went out
- Isaac received his assignment during famine
- The early Church received its assignment during persecutions

Assignment is unveiled through crisis. Your famine is the greatest indicator pointing you to your assignment. Our perception of crisis must change.

Joseph would not have imagined that his assignment would carry much crisis.

*17 He sent a man before them—*

*Joseph— who was sold as a slave.*

*18 They hurt his feet with fetters,*

*He was laid in irons.*

*19 Until the time that his word came to pass,*

*The word of the Lord tested him.*

*20 The king sent and released him,*

*The ruler of the people let him go free.*

*21 He made him lord of his house,*

*And ruler of all his possessions,*

*22 To bind his princes at his pleasure,*

*And teach his elders wisdom*

*(Psalms 105:17-22 NKJV)*

### **M - Mentally unstable**

*17 " But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! (Luke 15:17 NKJV)*

Famine can make you mentally unstable. There was a disconnection within the young man of "he" and "himself". This is separation of the divine and the natural. The natural was separated from the supernatural. Such mental instability causes one to become illogical and without reason. The young man could not see that within the environment of his father he had all that he needed. His desire to leave and take his inheritance while his father was alive is insanity.

- Adam showed his mental instability in trying to hide from an omnipresent God
- Jonah showed mental instability when he tried to run from an omnipresent and omniscient God
- Judas displayed insanity when he betrayed the Lord Jesus for silver
- Saul showed insanity when he threw the javelin at his best soldier David.
- King Nebuchadnezzar displayed mental instability when he made an image of gold for all to bow down and worship. His pride made him insane

### **I - Internal struggles**

*18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." ' (Luke 15:18-19 NKJV)*

Famine causes one to have internal struggles. We begin to doubt God and our faith becomes weak. We feel that we are no longer worthy to be God's sons. We have a feeling of worthlessness.

*11 Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!" 13 Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites." 14 Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?" 15 So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house (Judges 6:12-15 NKJV)*

Gideon had forgotten that the people had done evil in the sight of the Lord and God had handed them over into the hands of the Midianites.

Peter had an internal struggle when he denied Jesus three times

*75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, " Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly. (Matthew 26:75 NKJV)*

### **N - Negative growth**

The son had experienced no growth in his life. Everything about his life had regressed and not progressed. We must know when there is negative growth taking place. Negative growth is not always negative. Gideon's army was cut down from 32000 to 300. It is sometimes what God needs to effectively reveal Himself through you. The son only came to his senses when had a negative growth. Many disciples walked away from Jesus when He said:

*53 Then Jesus said to them, " Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. (John 6:53 NKJV)*

*66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. (John 6:66 NKJV)*

We must know that negative growth is a setup for greater things

### **E - Estranged from God**

*21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son. ' (Luke 15:21 NKJV)*

When we experience famine we feel estranged from God. We do not feel like praying or worshipping. Lack of study of the word. We don't want to be with the Body of Christ.

*3 For my days are consumed like smoke,  
And my bones are burned like a hearth.*

*4 My heart is stricken and withered like grass,  
So that I forget to eat my bread.*

*5 Because of the sound of my groaning  
My bones cling to my skin.*

*6 I am like a pelican of the wilderness;  
I am like an owl of the desert.*

*7 I lie awake, And am like a sparrow alone on the housetop. (Psalms 102:3-7 NKJV)*

## Meaning of Famine

### HEBREW: Famine - ra ab

h7458. רָאָב *râ'âb*; from 7456; hunger (more or less extensive):— dearth, famine, +famished, hunger. AV (101)- famine 87, hunger 8, dearth 5, famished 1; famine, hunger famine ( in land, nation) of Jehovah's word ( fig) hunger ( of individuals ( STRONG)

### GREEK: Famine - Limos

g3042. λιμός *limos*; probably from 3007 (through the idea of destitution); a scarcity of food:— dearth, famine, hunger. AV (12)- famine 7, hunger 3, dearth 2; scarcity of harvest, famine ( STRONG)

g3007.λείπω *leipō*; a primary verb; to leave, i. e. (intransitively or passively) to fail or be absent:— be destitute (wanting), lack. AV (6)- lack 2, be wanting 2, want +g1722 1, be destitute 1; to leave, leave behind, forsake, to be left behind to lag, be inferior to be destitute of, to lack to be wanting, to fail ( STRONG)

Famine means that the harvest is scarce or destroyed. This causes one to be in want or in lack, to be destitute to lag or to be left behind.

The irony is that you can have all the riches and still lack or be in famine.

*22 So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, " You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."*

*23 But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich (Luke 18:22-23 NKJV)*

The rich young rulers inability to distribute caused him to be in lack. The lack is when we are unable to follow Christ who controls the famines.

### Causes of famine

#### Hail

*22 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt—on man, on beast, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt (Exodus 9:22 NKJV)*

#### Insects

*12 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land—all that the hail has left (Exodus 10:12 NKJV)*

#### Siege

*24 And it happened after this that Ben- Hadad king of Syria gathered all his army, and went up and besieged Samaria. 25 And there was a great famine in Samaria; and indeed they besieged it until a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and one- fourth of a kab of dove droppings for five shekels of silver (2 Kings 6:24-25 NKJV)*

#### Absence of rain

*1 And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, " As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word (1 Kings 17:1 NKJV)*

While these natural occurrences bring famine they must always cause us to turn to God.

*12 Then the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. 13 When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, 14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and **turn** from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:12-14 NKJV)*

*15 'And now, carefully consider from this day forward: from before stone was laid upon stone in the temple of the Lord — 16 since those days, when one came to a heap of twenty ephahs, there were but ten; when one came to the wine vat to draw out fifty baths from the press, there were but twenty. 17 I struck you with blight and mildew and hail in all the labors of your hands; yet you did not **turn** to Me,' says the Lord. 18 "Consider now from this day forward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, from the day that the foundation of the Lord's temple was laid—consider it: 19 Is the seed still in the barn? As yet the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not yielded fruit. But from this day I will bless you. "' (Haggai 2:15-19 NKJV)*

Patriarchs were all affected by famine.

Abram

*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 (Genesis 12:10 NKJV)*

Isaac

*1 There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar (Genesis 26:1 NKJV)*

Jacob

*1 When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" 2 And he said, "Indeed I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down to that place and buy for us there, that we may live and not die (Genesis 42:1-2 NKJV)*

David

*1 Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the Lord. And the Lord answered, "It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites (2 Samuel 21:1 NKJV)*

Each of these famines led to movements and settlements. Famine must reposition us for greater purpose. In each of these famines God speaks and allows us to move into His divine purpose.

Famines have a divine connection

*1 Then Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, "Arise and go, you and your household, and stay wherever you can; **for the Lord has called for a famine**, and furthermore, it will come upon the land for seven years (2 Kings 8:1 NKJV)*

*16 Moreover **He called for a famine in the land**; He destroyed all the provision of bread.*

*17 He sent a man before them—  
Joseph— who was sold as a slave  
(Psalms 105:16-17 NKJV)*

While a famine can be divinely declared by God He also promises deliverance  
*20 In famine He shall redeem you from death,  
And in war from the power of the sword  
(Job 5:20 NKJV)*

*18 Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him,  
On those who hope in His mercy,  
19 To deliver their soul from death,  
And to keep them alive in famine  
(Psalms 33:18-19 NKJV)*

*18 The Lord knows the days of the upright,  
And their inheritance shall be forever.  
19 They shall not be ashamed in the evil time,  
And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied  
(Psalms 37:18-19 NKJV)*

## **HOW TO HANDLE FAMINE?**

### **Turned Heart**

The prodigal had to go back to the environment of grace where he could be restored. To overcome famine one's heart must turn to the Lord. The young man's heart turned when he recognized that his life was in famine.

*18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,  
(Luke 15:18 NKJV)*

A key to overcoming famine is a heart that is turned.

God had promised the Israelites that He will not forsake them in their distress when they turn to Him.

*When you are in **distress**, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you **turn** to the Lord your God and obey His voice 31 (for the Lord your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them  
(Deuteronomy 4:30-31 NKJV)*

When we turn at His rebuke He pours His Spirit and gives us answers through the word.

*23 Turn at my rebuke;  
Surely I will pour out my spirit on you;  
I will make my words known to you  
(Proverbs 1:23 NKJV)*

### **Confession**

The restoration from the famine begins with a turned heart. When the prodigal's heart was turned he went to His Father and confessed.

*21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son  
(Luke 15:21 NKJV)*

Confession indicates that the heart is turned to the Lord. When Nathan unveiled the sin of David, his heart turned and he confessed (2 Sam 12). A Davidic pattern is a heart that is turned with a mouth that confesses.

A turned heart is reflected in a confessed mouth

*45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.*

*(Luke 6:45 NKJV)*

*9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us*

*(1 John 1:9-10 NKJV)*

David confessed his sin

*56 I acknowledged my sin to You,*

*And my iniquity I have not hidden.*

*I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"*

*And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

*Selah (Psalms 32:5 NKJV)*

In order for one to be released from the wages of sin which is death, one must confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

*8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved*

*(Romans 10:8-9 NKJV)*

### **Formation**

*19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. **Make** me like one of your hired servants."* *(Luke 15:19 NKJV)*

**GREEK:** Make - Ποιέω

g4160. ποιέω poieō; apparently a prolonged form of an obsolete primary; to make or do ( in a very wide application, more or less direct): — abide, + agree, appoint, x avenge, + band together, be, bear, + bewray, bring ( forth), cast out, cause, commit, + content, continue, deal, + without any delay, ( would) do (- ing), execute, exercise, fulfil, gain, give, have, hold, x journeying, keep, + lay wait, + lighten the ship, make, x mean, + none of these things move me, observe, ordain, perform, provide, + have purged, purpose, put, + raising up, x secure, shew, x shoot out, spend, take, tarry, + transgress the law, work, yield. Compare 4238.

AV ( 579)- do 357, make 113, bring forth 14, commit 9, cause 9, work 8, show 5, bear 4, keep 4, fulfil 3, deal 2, perform 2, not tr 3, misc 43, vr do 3; to make with the names of things made, to produce, construct, form, fashion, etc. to be the authors of, the cause to make ready, to prepare to produce, bear, shoot forth to acquire, to provide a thing for one's self to make a thing out of something to ( make i. e.) render one anything to ( make i. e.) constitute or appoint one anything, to appoint or ordain one that to ( make i. e.) declare one anything to put one forth, to lead him out to make one do something cause one to to be the authors of a thing ( to cause, bring about) to do to act rightly, do well to carry out, to execute to do a thing unto one to do to one with designation of time: to pass, spend to celebrate, keep to make ready, and so at the same time to institute, the celebration of the passover to perform: to a promise  
( STRONG)

The disciples of Jesus were made into fishers of men and later into Apostles

*18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 They immediately*  
(Matthew 4:18-20 NKJV)

The son wanted to be a servant. Positionally we are the sons of God in Christ Jesus. Functionally we serve as sons. Sonship is to serve the earth. As sons we are made into servants.

*19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.*  
(Romans 8:19 KJVStrong's)

**GREEK:** Creature - ktizo

g2936. κτίζω ktizō; probably akin to 2932 (through the idea of proprietorship of the manufacturer); to fabricate, i. e. found (form originally):— create, Creator, make.

AV (14)- create 12, Creator 1, make 1; to make habitable, to people, a place, region, island to found a city, colony, state to create of God creating the worlds to form, shape, i. e. to completely change or transform (STRONG)

God as Creator is waiting in anticipation and with great expectancy for the revealing or the manifestation of His original design. What He has formed must be manifested to what He has created.

Jesus came to serve as the Son of God

*27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many*  
(Matthew 20:27-28 NKJV)

When we are willing to be formed as sons then we become willing to serve as servants. We use our position as sons of God to serve. As sons we are resourced by Our Father to serve with our wealth.

Famine is reversed when we become clear on why we need wealth. It is not the accumulation of wealth that makes one rich but its distribution.

*22 So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."*

*23 But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich*  
(Luke 18:22-23 NKJV)

David was a distributor

*19 Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house.*  
(2 Samuel 6:19 NKJV)

Jesus was a distributor

*11 And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.*  
(John 6:11 NKJV)



Apostles were distributors

*34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, 35 and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need  
(Acts 4:34-35 NKJV)*

*28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. 30 This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul  
(Acts 11:28-30 NKJV)*

We must allow ourselves to be formed as servants even though we are sons. That formation takes place in the House where there is a Father.

### **Be in the environment of a Father**

It is in such a state of repentance and confession that forgiveness and restoration begins. This is when the famine abates. The Father begins to restore the Kingdom of God to the son.

*“But the father said to his **servants**, ‘Bring out the best **robe** and put it on him, and put a **ring** on his hand and **sandals** on his feet. 23 And bring the **fatted calf** here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry  
(Luke 15:22-24 NKJV)*

The Father restores or forms through “servants”

- Saul was formed through Samuel
- David was formed through Nathan
- Namaan was formed through servants
- Timothy formed through Paul

The servant must bring out:

### **Robe**

Robe is a covering or a symbol of a mantle. This is to help a son discover their calling or their unique role in the Kingdom of God. The stones that are used to build the Temple of Solomon were quarried then placed in the temple. Every living stone must come under the hammer of the word to be quarried and placed in the Kingdom.

The robe is also a robe of righteousness.

*10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
My soul shall be joyful in my God;  
For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments,  
And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels  
(Isaiah 61:10 NKJV)*

Christ is our Righteous King

*15 And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest 16 who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. 17 For He testifies:*

*“You are a priest forever*

*According to the order of Melchizedek.”*

*(Hebrews 7:15-17 NKJV)*

Melchizedek means the King of Righteousness and Peace. Christ is after the order of Melchizedek. It is only Christ who can bring us out of our famine as a Righteous King.

### **Ring**

A ring is a symbol of covenant and authority. Authority in the Kingdom of God is within the boundary of covenant. We as the bride of Christ receive authority because we are in covenant with our Husband, Jesus Christ.

Pharaoh gave Joseph a signet ring. (Gen 41)

Zerubbabel was the Lord's signet ring. (Hag 2)

Christ gives us a New Covenant

*15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.*

*(Hebrews 9:15 NKJV)*

All authority is given to Jesus Christ

*18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “ All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth*

*(Matthew 28:18 NKJV)*

Only Christ can give us a new covenant and authority to overcome famine.

The sphere of authority is determined by what you do with the least

*17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant:because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.*

*(Luke 19:17 KJVStrong's)*

How you manage the least determines authority over much. The prodigal son failed in the management of the inheritance he had received therefore he lost all authority and came under the authority of a citizen not a Father. One can overcome famine through proper administration of the little to make it much.

### **Sandals**

The exchange of sandals was a custom for redemption

*7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything:one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel.*

*(Ruth 4:7 NKJV)*

Christ exchanged His life for our life so that we can be redeemed

When the Father gives us sandals He redeems us as His sons. Christ is our Redeemer.  
*13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),*  
*(Galatians 3:13 NKJV)*

Sandals is also a symbol of the gospel shoes of peace  
*15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace*  
*(Ephesians 6:15 NKJV)*

As sons of God we are called peacemakers  
*9 Blessed are the peacemakers,*  
*For they shall be called sons of God.*  
*(Matthew 5:9 NKJV)*

To overcome our famine we must be peacemakers. As we walk in peace with all men we will cause the famine to turn into a harvest. We must make peace with our enemies to stop the famine. David made atonement with the Gibeonites to cause the famine to cease.

Christ is the Prince of Peace and sons of God we must be peacemakers.

### **Fattened Calf**

This is a prepared calf for a special day. This was a time of feasting and joy within the house.

*2 But to you who fear My name*  
*The Sun of Righteousness shall arise*  
*With healing in His wings;*  
*And you shall go out*  
*And grow fat like stall- fed calves.*  
*(Malachi 4:2 NKJV)*

Calve is a symbol of a son fattened by a Father in a stall. The joy of that Father is to see the son grow fat on the word of God so that they can go out of the stall. The prodigal son left in hurt because he was not fattened but now he returned to be fattened in the stall again.

Jesus who is the Son of God can give us joy. The joy He gives is to be fattened with His word.  
*16 Your words were found, and I ate them,*  
*And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart;*  
*For I am called by Your name,*  
*O Lord God of hosts.*  
*(Jeremiah 15:16 NKJV)*

If we want to overcome famine we must make the word our joy. We need to be fattened on the word of God daily so that we can receive instruction on how to overcome famine.

The Father restores the Kingdom of God to the son through the servants  
*17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*  
*(Romans 14:17 NKJV)*

The Father had restored the Kingdom of God to the son. It is only in the Kingdom of God that you receive your assignment. Without that assignment you are in famine. Famine is overcome when you connect to the Father who in His love and compassion is only looking for a heart that would turn and confess. Mercy is extended and restoration begins with such a heart

*40 Let us search out and examine our ways,  
And turn back to the Lord;  
(Lamentations 3:40 NKJV)*

When a father and a son reconnect the famine is stopped.

*12 Then David went and took the bones of Saul, and the bones of Jonathan his son, from the men of Jabesh Gilead who had stolen them from the street of Beth Shan, where the Philistines had hung them up, after the Philistines had struck down Saul in Gilboa. 13 So he brought up the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from there; and they gathered the bones of those who had been hanged. 14 They buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the tomb of Kish his father. So they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God heeded the prayer for the land  
(2 Samuel 21:12-14 NKJV)*

The bones represent structure or a wineskin. When the structure of fathers and sons are restored the famine will stop and God will hear the prayer for the land

## **PRACTICAL STEPS TO OVERCOME FAMINE**

### **Find a Joseph**

*56 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 (Genesis 41:56 NKJV)*

To be in famine simply means to be in lack or in want. In order to overcome or come through the famine one must find a Joseph. Such a person carries seed that can help you through the famine. Seed is the word of God. Words of grace help you to overcome your famine

*23 Then Joseph said to the people, "Indeed I have bought you and your land this day for Pharaoh. Look, here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land.  
(Genesis 47:23 NKJV)*

Christ is a picture of Joseph who has seed in His word to deliver us from any famine situation.

Christ is the Seed.

*16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.  
(Galatians 3:16 NKJV)*

## **Atonement**

### **HEBREW: Atonement - Kaphar**

h3722. כָּפַר *kâpar*; a primitive root; to cover (specifically with bitumen); figuratively, to expiate or condone, to placate or cancel:— appease, make (an atonement, cleanse, disannul, forgive, be merciful, pacify, pardon, purge (away), put off, (make) reconcile (- liation).

AV (102)- atonement 71, purge 7, reconciliation 4, reconcile 3, forgive 3, purge away 2, pacify 2, atonement... made 2, merciful 2, cleansed 1, disannulled 1, appease 1, put off 1, pardon 1, pitch

1; to cover, purge, make an atonement, make reconciliation, cover over with pitch ( Qal) to coat or cover with pitch ( Piel) to cover over, pacify, propitiate to cover over, atone for sin, make atonement for to cover over, atone for sin and persons by legal rites ( Pual) to be covered over to make atonement for ( Hithpael) to be covered (STRONG)

Atonement is to cover or cancel through reconciliatory means.

*14 Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.*

*(Genesis 6:14 NKJV)*

The Ark that Noah built was pitched inside and out. It was covered or atoned. Christ is our atoning sacrifice that covers and cancels through His blood. We who are in Christ are covered because of the blood shed at the cross.

While we have received atonement in Christ we must know how to make atonement so that famine can be broken.

*'Behold, your servant Jacob is behind us. "' For he said, "I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me." 21 So the present went on over before him, but he himself lodged that night in the camp*

*(Genesis 32:20-21 NKJV)*

Jacob sent his servants before him with gifts to appease or make atonement with Esau his brother whose birthright he had taken deceptively. It is in this context that God visits Jacob in a dream and changes his name to Israel. Our shift from Jacob to Israel is also determined by atonement.

*23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison*

*(Matthew 5:23-25 NKJV)*

To overcome famine we must forgive, reconcile and make agreement.

*1 Now there was a **famine** in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the Lord. And the Lord answered, " It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites."*

*(2 Samuel 21:1 NKJV)*

*3 Therefore David said to the Gibeonites, "What shall I do for you? And with what shall I make atonement, that you may bless the inheritance of the Lord (2 Samuel 21:3)*

David wanted to make atonement to the Gibeonites for what Saul had done. Saul's action against the Gibeonites brought a famine in the land. We must atone for our wrongs to break famine.

*10 Now Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until the late rains poured on them from heaven. And she did not allow the birds of the air to rest on them by day nor the beasts of the field by night.*

*(2 Samuel 21:10 NKJV)*

David had hung the sons of Rizpah as an atonement to the Gibeonites so she mourned the loss of her two sons.

### **HEBREW: Rizpah - Hot stone or live coal**

h7531. רִצְפָּה riṣpâ; feminine of 7529; a hot stone; also a tessellated pavement:— live coal, pavement. AV (8)- pavement 7, live coal 1; pavement glowing stone or coal, live coal (STRONG)

*6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said:*

*“Behold, this has touched your lips;*

*Your iniquity is taken away,*

*And your sin purged*

*(Isaiah 6:6-7 NKJV)*

Rizpah sat day and night and cried in sackcloth. She fought of the birds and the beasts until the rains came. Her lips were touched by the hot coal of the altar till the iniquity of the and was purged.

David is a picture of Christ who is our propitiation

*10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins*

*(1 John 4:10 NKJV)*

### **Migration**

*1 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 Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.*

*(Ruth 1:1 NKJV)*

*22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter- in- law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest*

*(Ruth 1:22 NKJV)*

Naomi and Ruth had to migrate back to Bethlehem to overcome the famine. Bethlehem is the House of Bread where you can be relieved from the famine. It is in such a location that you will find Boaz the Redeemer.

*5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in You,*

***Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.***

*6 As they pass through the Valley of Baca,*

*They make it a spring;*

*The rain also covers it with pools.*

*7 They go from strength to strength;*

*Each one appears before God in Zion.*

*(Psalms 84:5-7 NKJV)*

A man must know how to remain blessed. When our hearts are set on pilgrimage we can pass through the valley of Baca and cause it to become a spring. Pilgrimage simply means a “highway, a path, a causeway or a thoroughfare”.

### **HEBREW: Baca - Weeping**

h1058. בָּכָה bākâ; a primitive root; to weep; generally to bemoan: — x at all, bewail, complain, make lamentation, x more, mourn, x sore, x with tears, weep. AV ( 114)- weep 98, bewail 5, sore 3 ( inf. for emphasis) mourned 2, all 1 ( inf), complain 1, lamentation 1, more 1 ( inf.), weep over 1, tears 1; to weep, bewail, cry, shed tears ( Qal) to weep ( in grief, humiliation, or joy) to weep bitterly ( with cognate acc.) to weep upon ( embrace and weep) to bewail ( Piel) participle lamenting (STRONG)

When we are in famine we weep and lament for better times. If our heart is set to migrate we can turn the weeping into rain and we can move from strength to strength.

Naomi and Ruth were in mourning for the loss of their husbands. They were in grief with much weeping. They were also in a land that was in famine and with no provider in the home. Their decision to migrate to Bethlehem brought an end to their weeping.

Your famine will not change unless there is physical, mental and spiritual migration. You can be in Bethlehem physically but yet mentally and spiritually not migrated. The HEART must migrate as well as the body.

When they connected with Boaz, he brought their lives into great acceleration. Boaz means "fleetness". There is a field that can cause your life to accelerate like Ruth's from a mourner to an owner. Through marriage Ruth owned the field with Boaz.

Boaz is a picture of Christ who is our Redeemer.

*18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot  
(1 Peter 1:18-19 NKJV)*

### **Investment**

*1 There was a famine in the land, besides the first **famine** that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.  
(Genesis 26:1 NKJV)*

*12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him. 13 The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous (Genesis 26:12-13 NKJV)*

Isaac sowed in a time of famine and began to prosper in the midst of his enemies. His prosperity caused all his enemies to see that God is with him even in the midst of the famine.

Seed is an divine eternal principle that function in the economy of the Kingdom. As sons of God we are seeds. Christ is the Son of God who is the seed in us. We must give to reflect the seed called Christ in us.

*1 Cast your bread upon the waters,  
For you will find it after many days.*

*2 Give a serving to seven, and also to eight,  
For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.*

*3 If the clouds are full of rain,  
They empty themselves upon the earth;  
And if a tree falls to the south or the north,  
In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie.*

*4 He who observes the wind will not sow,  
And he who regards the clouds will not reap.*

*5 As you do not know what is the way of the wind,  
Or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child,  
So you do not know the works of God who makes everything.*

*6 In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that,  
Or whether both alike will be good  
(Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 NKJV)*

10 Now may He who **supplies seed to the sower**, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,  
(2 Corinthians 9:10 NKJV)

We must have seed for:

### **STRANGER**

*Deut 24:19-22*

19"When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

20"When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.

21"When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean it afterward; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.

22"And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I command you to do this thing.(NKJ)

2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.  
(Hebrews 13:2 NKJV)

5 Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, 6 who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well  
(3 John 1:5-6 NKJV)

### **ENEMIES**

*Luke 6:27-35*

27"But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

28"bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.

29"To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either.

30"Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back.

31"And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

32"But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

33"And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

34"And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back.

35"But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. (NKJ)

### **ECCLESIA - GIVING TO OTHERS IN THE BODY**

*Acts 2:44-45*

44Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

45and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.(NKJ)

*Esth 9:22-23*

22as the days on which the Jews had rest from their enemies, as the month which was turned from sorrow to joy for them, and from mourning to a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and joy, of sending presents to one another and gifts to the poor.

23So the Jews accepted the custom which they had begun, as Mordecai had written to them,  
(NKJ)



*Exod 36:5-7*

*5and they spoke to Moses, saying, "The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the LORD commanded us to do."*

*6So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, "Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary." And the people were restrained from bringing,*

*7for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done-- indeed too much.*

*(NKJ)*

YOUR GIVING TO THE BODY – BUILDS THE TABERNACLE OF GOD.

### **DESCENDANTS/ASCENDANTS**

#### **Ascendants:**

*Deut 5:16*

*'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.*

*(NKJ)*

*Eph 6:2-3*

*2"Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:*

*3"that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."(NKJ)*

#### **Descendants:**

The father must bless his sons.

*Prov 13:22*

*A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.(NKJ)*

*Ps 25:12-13*

*12Who is the man that fears the LORD? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses.*

*13He himself shall dwell in prosperity, and his descendants shall inherit the earth.*

*(NKJ)*

### **LOST**

*Rom 10:14-15*

*14How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?*

*15And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"(NKJ)*

Seed sown to send the preacher to win the lost.

### **INDIGENT - GIVING TO THE POOR**

*Prov 28:27*

*He who gives to the poor will not lack, but he who hides his eyes will have many curses.(NKJ)*

*Ps 41:1*

*Blessed is he who considers the poor; the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.(NKJ)*

*Prov 19:17*

*He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given. (NKJ)*

*Prov 22:9*

*He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor.(NKJ)*

## **NATIONS**

2 Cor 9:9

*As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."(NKJ)*

## **GRACE**

The Father, elders that feed.

*6 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.*

*7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life*

*(Galatians 6:6-8 NKJV)*

*17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. 18 For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."*

*(1 Timothy 5:17-18 NKJV)*

*10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse,*

*that there may be meat in mine house,*

*and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it*

*(Malachi 3:10 KJVStrong's)*

Storehouse is the Father of the house who has grain, bread and meat to deliver.

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## **Internal Assessment**

*3 Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die (2 Kings 7:3 NKJV)*

The city was under siege and there was a severe famine. The four leprous men assessed their condition and situation and decided not to sit down and die. Their decision to get up and do something brought deliverance to the city. We must internally assess where we are during our times of famine.

These lepers manifested the nature of Christ when they thought of their brothers in the City.

*9 Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king's household."*

*(2 Kings 7:9 NKJV)*

The prodigal son did an internal assessment and had to repent for his actions. Such evaluation must lead to repentance. When our hearts are turned it can turn our famine into an harvest. Like the prodigal we must come to ourselves and repent for our wrongs. He repented and confessed to his father that he had sinned then only the Kingdom was restored to the son and all its benefits.

Peter said I am a sinful man because he did not believe.

*8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord*

*(Luke 5:8 NKJV)*

When he cast his net in obedience to the word from Jesus he saw his own inability as a man and had to confess his sin. He had a change of heart. Our breakthroughs should make us more repentant and broken then proud and arrogant.

Zacchaeus showed fruits of repentance when he restored fourfold what he had taken.

*8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."*

*9 And Jesus said to him, " Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:8-10 NKJV)*

To receive the kingdom it required repentance from the Jews. To receive the kingdom it requires belief from the Gentiles.

Healing for the land requires repentance and to turn from wicked ways.

We must do an internal evaluation of our lives and examine our hearts. We can begin to prosper when we confess and turn from our sins

*13 He who covers his sins will not prosper,  
But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy  
(Proverbs 28:13 NKJV)*

### **Nullify the voice of the enemy**

*18 Then they called out with a loud voice in Hebrew to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to frighten them and trouble them, that they might take the city  
(2 Chronicles 32:18 NKJV)*

The Assyrians had besieged the city and caused a famine. They began to instill fear into the hearts of the people and deride their King who was Hezekiah. In famine we often heed to the voice of the enemy rather than the voice of God

The voice of God is in the voice of the Shepherd. When sheep hear the voice of the shepherd and follow they can be led out of famine

*3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.  
(John 10:3 NKJV)*

*1 The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not want  
(Psalms 23:1 NKJV)*

Lack is destroyed because there is a voice leading you to green pastures. When we heed to the voice of the shepherd then we will come out of famine.

It was in the voice of Moses that you could have manna and water. It was in the voice of Jesus that the multitude could eat five loaves and two fish.

We must overcome the voice of the enemy because we know the power of the voice of the Lord

*1 Give unto the Lord, O you mighty ones,  
Give unto the Lord glory and strength.  
2 Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name;  
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.  
3 The **voice of the Lord** is over the waters;  
The God of glory thunders;  
The Lord is over many waters.  
4 The **voice of the Lord** is powerful;  
The **voice of the Lord** is full of majesty.*

5 The **voice of the Lord** breaks the cedars,  
 Yes, the Lord splinters the cedars of Lebanon.  
 6 He makes them also skip like a calf,  
 Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.  
 7 The **voice of the Lord** divides the flames of fire.  
 8 The **voice of the Lord** shakes the wilderness;  
 The Lord shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh.  
 9 The **voice of the Lord** makes the deer give birth,  
 And strips the forests bare;  
 And in His temple everyone says, "Glory!"  
 10 The Lord sat enthroned at the Flood,  
 And the Lord sits as King forever.  
 11 The Lord will give strength to His people;  
 The Lord will bless His people with peace  
 (Psalms 29:1-11 NKJV)

God has a representative voice that can instruct, lead, and direct. It is His voice in a voice.

### **Exclusive devotion to Christ**

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written:  
 "For Your sake we are killed all day long;  
 We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."  
 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord  
 (Romans 8:35-39 NKJV)

Famine must not separate you but must invigorate you to fall more in love with Christ. While we need solutions we know that Christ is sovereign. He allows famine to show His glory.

Christ is the orchestrator, deliverer and the solution to all our famines.

20 In famine He shall redeem you from death, And in war from the power of the sword. 21 You shall be hidden from the scourge of the tongue, And you shall not be afraid of destruction when it comes. 22 **You shall laugh at destruction and famine,** And you shall not be afraid of the beasts of the earth  
 (Job 5:20-22 NKJV)

God has promised that He will redeem us from famine. We laugh at famine because Isaac the promised son who is Christ lives in us. He turns all our mourning into joy because we know how to praise Him in the midst of famine. This laughter is not the laughter of Sarah that did not believe but is the laughter of Isaac the promised Son who has brought us into rest in the Father.

## **Established in Doctrine**

To remain exclusively devoted to God in the midst of famine you need to be established in the word. To overcome famine there must be rain. Wind brings clouds which carry rain that waters the earth and forms rivers that become a life source in a time of famine.

Wind is a symbol of the Holy Spirit

*11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.  
12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire  
(Matthew 3:11-12 NKJV)*

*8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”  
(John 3:8 NKJV)*

*2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance  
(Acts 2:2-4 NKJV)*

Clouds are a symbol of the glory of God

*10 And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, 11 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.*

*12 Then Solomon spoke:*

*“The Lord said He would dwell in the dark cloud.*

*13 I have surely built You an exalted house,  
And a place for You to dwell in forever  
(1 Kings 8:10-13 NKJV)*

*27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory  
(Luke 21:27 NKJV)*

Rain has many applications within scripture

Judgement

*10 And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth. 11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. 12 And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights  
(Genesis 7:10-12 NKJV)*

The same rain that judges and destroys is the same rain that makes the ark float and safe guards a family that would fill the earth again.

*18 Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now  
(Exodus 9:18 NKJV)*

While the nation of Egypt was experiencing the plague of hail the nation of Israel was protected

Productivity and fruitfulness

*3 “If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them,  
4 then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit*

*(Leviticus 26:3-4 NKJV)*

#### Blessings

*12 The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow*

*(Deuteronomy 28:12 NKJV)*

God shuts up the heavens which leads to the absence of rain and this results in famine. God shuts the heavens because of sin

*26 "When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, 27 then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.*

*28 "When there is famine in the land, pestilence or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers; when their enemies besiege them in the land of their cities; whatever plague or whatever sickness there is; 29 whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows his own burden and his own grief, and spreads out his hands to this temple*

*(2 Chronicles 6:26-29 NKJV)*

In order for the rain to fall and bring relief from the famine the people had to call on God and turn or repent from their wicked ways.

*13 When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, 14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 15 Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place*

*(2 Chronicles 7:13-15 NKJV)*

The nation of Israel had committed many sins and turned away from God. God always had mercy towards them and called them to return to Him. He shut up the heavens because He wanted them to return to Him so that He could be a Father to them and bless them.

*1 "They say, 'If a man divorces his wife,*

*And she goes from him*

*And becomes another man's,*

*May he return to her again?'*

*Would not that land be greatly polluted?*

*But you have played the harlot with many lovers;*

*Yet return to Me," says the Lord.*

*2 "Lift up your eyes to the desolate heights and see:*

*Where have you not lain with men?*

*By the road you have sat for them*

*Like an Arabian in the wilderness;*

*And you have polluted the land*

*With your harlotries and your wickedness.*

*3 Therefore the showers have been withheld,*

*And there has been no latter rain.*

*You have had a harlot's forehead;*

*You refuse to be ashamed.*

*4 Will you not from this time cry to Me,*

*'My Father, You are the guide of my youth?*

*5 Will He remain angry forever?*

*Will He keep it to the end?'*

*Behold, you have spoken and done evil things,*

*As you were able  
(Jeremiah 3:1-5 NKJV)*

Rain is ultimately a symbol of the doctrine or teachings of God that cause people to walk in purity, holiness, righteousness and meekness.

*30 Then Moses spoke in the hearing of all the assembly of Israel the words of this song until they were ended:*

*Chapter 32*

*1 "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak;  
And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.*

*2 Let my teaching drop as the rain,  
My speech distill as the dew,  
As raindrops on the tender herb,*

*And as showers on the grass  
(Deu 31:30-32:2 NKJV)*

The doctrine are the teachings of God that fall like rain to refresh and bring life to every dead thing in our lives. As the people of Israel lived according to the teachings that Moses was delivering which were the law, commandments and statutes of God they saw the blessings of God on their land, family and nation.

This rain is the rain of God's word that must fall on our hearts and must be captured or taken in.

#### **HEBREW: Doctrine - Laqah**

h3947. לקח lāqah; a primitive root; to take (in the widest variety of applications):— accept, bring, buy, carry away, drawn, fetch, get, infold, x many, mingle, place, receive (- ing), reserve, seize, send for, take (away,- ing, up), use, win.

AV (965)- take 747, receive 61, take away 51, fetch 31, bring 25, get 6, take out 6, carry away 5, married 4, buy 3, misc 26; to take, get, fetch, lay hold of, seize, receive, acquire, buy, bring, marry, take a wife, snatch, take away ( Qal) to take, take in the hand to take and carry along to take from, take out of, take, carry away, take away to take to or for a person, procure, get, take possession of, select, choose, take in marriage, receive, accept to take up or upon, put upon to fetch to take, lead, conduct to take, capture, seize to take, carry off to take ( vengeance) ( Niphal) to be captured to be taken away, be removed to be taken, brought unto ( Pual) to be taken from or out of to be stolen from to be taken captive to be taken away, be removed ( Hophal) to be taken unto, be brought unto to be taken out of to be taken away ( Hithpael) to take hold of oneself to flash about of lightning (STRONG)

The doctrine that falls like rain must be seized, captured, fetched, acquired, bought, taken in marriage. We who receive the doctrine must captured by it. We must develop a lifestyle of taking hold of it or seizing it. We must marry it in order for us to handle and overcome famine.

When the manna fell from heaven, every father of a household had to go out and fetch or capture the manna for his family so that could be fed for forty years in the wilderness

*4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not  
(Exodus 16:4 NKJV)*

*15 So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was.*

*And Moses said to them, "This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat. 16 This is the thing which the Lord has commanded: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one*

*omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent. ”*

*(Exodus 16:15-16 NKJV)*

This manna is Jesus Christ the bread of life

*49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world*

*(John 6:49-51 NKJV)*

The doctrine that falls like rain is Christ the bread of life. We must be capture, seize and dwell in the words of Christ to overcome famine.

*7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples*

*(John 15:7-8 NKJV)*

Fruitfulness and productivity is connected to a married relationship with the words of Christ. The words of Christ is the doctrine of Christ.

*9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds*

*(2 John 1:9-11 NKJV)*

*Psalms 1:3 (NKJV)*

*He shall be like a tree*

*Planted by the rivers of water,*

*That brings forth its fruit in its season,*

*Whose leaf also shall not wither;*

*And whatever he does shall prosper.*

Famine is broken when we plant or establish ourselves by a river. The river is filled with rain which breaks famine and determines harvest.

*Deuteronomy 32:2 (NKJV)*

*Let my teaching drop as the rain,*

*My speech distill as the dew,*

*As raindrops on the tender herb,*

*And as showers on the grass.*

*Exodus 16:4 (NKJV)*

*Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.*

The manna fell like rain. Jesus is the bread from heaven

*John 6:31-35 (NKJV)*

*Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat. ”*

*32 Then Jesus said to them, “ Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”*

*34 Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.”*



35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Christ is the rain of bread from heaven that breaks the famine. He forms the river that causes famine to abate.

The rain has a Father

*Job 38:28 (NKJV)*

*Has the rain a father?*

*Or who has begotten the drops of dew?*

Rain has a source or an origin. It has a place of its begetting. It is a place where it is conceived incubated and released. The rain has its origin in a spiritual grace configuration called Father.

Rain is the doctrine of God or the teachings of God that drop from the heavens. It has the ability once meditated upon, understood and practiced to break the famine. When everything is done at the word of the Lord then fire falls and rain clouds gather.

36 And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that **I have done all these things at Your word**. 37 Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench  
(1 Kings 18:36-38 NKJV)

41 Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain."

42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, 43 and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea."

So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again."

44 Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.'"

(1 Kings 18:41-44 NKJV)

Fire consumes everything that is false and rain brings life to all that is dead. God baptises with the Holy Spirit and fire and then releases His word to bring rain into our dead situations.

1 Hear, my children, the **instruction of a father**,

And give attention to know understanding;

2 For I give you **good doctrine**:

Do not forsake my law.

3 When I was my father's son,

Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother,

4 He also taught me, and said to me:

"Let your heart retain my words;

Keep my commands, and live.

5 Get wisdom! Get understanding!

Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

6 Do not forsake her, and she will **preserve** you;

Love her, and she will **keep** you.

7 Wisdom is the principal thing;

Therefore get wisdom.

And in all your getting, get understanding.

8 Exalt her, and she will **promote** you;  
She will bring you **honor**, when you embrace her.  
9 She will place on your head an **ornament of grace**;  
A **crown of glory** she will deliver to you.”  
10 Hear, my son, and receive my sayings,  
And the **years of your life will be many**  
(Proverbs 4:1-10 NKJV)

When children follow the good doctrine of a Father that doctrine is regarded as wisdom and understanding. Such doctrine will:

- Preserve and keep you
- Promote you
- Bring honour
- Give you grace
- Crown of glory
- Extend your life

The doctrine carries the gender form of “SHE” because it is expected to produce, multiply and be fruitful.

The grace that a Father delivers is in the doctrine.

Jesus’ doctrine as a Son of God was from His Father

16 Jesus answered them and said, “ My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. 17 If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. 18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him  
(John 7:16-18 NKJV)

His words were like drops of dew. He instructed the disciples to abide in His words

7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples  
(John 15:7-8 NKJV)

Dwelling in the doctrine of the Father can give you whatever you desire. Fruitfulness is a result of doctrine.

The early church understood the importance of doctrine

42 And they continued steadfastly in the **apostles’ doctrine** and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need (Acts 2:42-45 NKJV)

Apostles Doctrine is first and it led to fellowship, breaking of bread, prayers, reverence for God, signs and wonders, oneness, commonality, selflessness and distribution of wealth. No one was in famine because of doctrine.

They continued steadfastly meaning:

**GREEK: Stedfastly - Proskartereo**

g4342. προσκαρτερέω proskartereō; from 4314 and 2594; to be earnest towards, i. e. (to a thing) to persevere, be constantly diligent, or (in a place) to attend assiduously all the exercises, or (to a person) to adhere closely to (as a servitor):— attend (give self) continually (upon), continue (in, instant in, with), wait on (continually). AV (10)- continue 4, continue instant 1, continue steadfastly 1, attend continually 1, give (one's) self continually 1, wait on 1, wait on

continually 1; to adhere to one, be his adherent, to be devoted or constant to one to be steadfastly attentive unto, to give unremitting care to a thing to continue all the time in a place to persevere and not to faint to show one's self courageous for to be in constant readiness for one, wait on constantly (STRONG)

Paul would nurture a son in the faith called Timothy. His growth is evident:

*21 Timothy, my **fellow worker***  
(Romans 16:21 NKJV)

*17 For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and **faithful** son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church*  
(1 Corinthians 4:17 NKJV)

*1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our **brother***  
(2 Corinthians 1:1 NKJV)

*1 Paul and Timothy, **bondservants** of Jesus Christ*  
(Philippians 1:1 NKJV)

*19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. 20 For I have no one **like-minded**, who will sincerely care for your state*  
(Philippians 2:19-20 NKJV)

*2 To Timothy, a **true son** in the faith*  
(1 Timothy 1:2 NKJV)

*2 To Timothy, a **beloved son***  
(2 Timothy 1:2 NKJV)

Timothy grew from a fellow worker to a beloved son in the faith because of the doctrine that he heard from his spiritual father Paul.

*13 Till I come, **give attention** to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. 14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. 15 **Meditate** on these things; **give yourself entirely** to them, that your **progress** may be evident to all. 16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you*  
(1 Timothy 4:13-16 NKJV)

*10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution*  
(2 Timothy 3:10-12 NKJV)

Doctrine produces advancement and progress

**GREEK: Progress - Prokope**

g4297. προκοπή prokopē; from 4298; progress, i. e. advancement (subjectively or objectively):—furtherance, profit.

AV (3)- furtherance 2, profit 1; progress, advancement (STRONG)

In order to break famine there must be an establishment of doctrine by giving attention and meditating and giving yourself entirely to them. Such an environment will bring progress.