

THE FAMINE HAS BEGUN!

Amos 8:11-12 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:** 12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.

THESIS: To show that the famine of God's Word has begun w/the proliferation of Bible versions which corrupt the true Word and words of the Living God.

INTRO.: A. Because Israel had rejected and ignored God's Word the prophet Amos declared that God would no longer speak to them! For 400 years the famine of God's Word would continue from Malachi to Matthew.

B. America has had God's Word and words for 400 years in the King James Bible and now she has rejected and ignored it and them. The Bible that roared and reigned in the land for America's entire existence is now being eclipsed by a proliferation of corrupted versions of the Living Word and words.

NOTE: God's Word is likened to food in the Bible. The children of Israel ate a nutritious diet of perfect food called Manna, which is a picture of God's Word, called the Bread of God. Jeremiah declared: "Thy words were found and I did eat them..." Jer. 15:16 The Psalmist said that God's words were "sweeter than honey in the honeycomb." Ps. 19:10 But today the new versions delete words, verses, whole passages and doctrines so that there is an absence of spiritual food in the land and "THE FAMINE HAS BEGUN!"

I. A FAMINE PRODUCES AN ABSENCE OF FOOD:

QUOTE: Wycliffe, who produced the first complete Bible in English said: "*If God's Word is the life of the world, and every word of God is the life of the human soul, how say any anti-christ...take it away from us...and thus suffer the people to die for hunger in heresy and blasphemy...*"

A. Food Becomes Hard to Locate: (omissions)

Revelation 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

1. This warning even appears in the corrupted NIV; they are thus w/out excuse

- a. The trinity has been removed from 1 Jn. 5:7
- b. Believer's baptism has been removed from Acts 8:37
- c. The Godhead has been removed in the NIV
- d. The last part of the Lord's prayer has been removed from Mt. 6:13
- e. The doctrine of preservation is gone from Ps. 12:6,7

II. FAMINE PRODUCES HUNGER:

A. Hunger Sets In When Food is Scarce: (doctrinal changes)

1. Nearly every doctrine is attacked or changed in the new versions.

NOTE: We are often told that certain doctrines are missing in the new versions in some places, but are included elsewhere. In some cases that is true, but who gives anyone permission to remove doctrines anywhere God has spoken? The trick they use is called "**dynamic equivalency**" – "We'll (the scholars) will tell you what God meant to say, instead of translating what He said!"

2. In those versions where the Scriptures are in paragraph form it becomes difficult to locate the changes – this is on purpose, not accidental!
3. This eliminates the cross reference system in the Bible as well.

NOTE: The test for counterfeit bibles is found in prophetic passages. No "holy scriptures" deal with accuracy when it comes to prophecy. The new versions, the Koran, the Bhagavad-gita, the Book of Mormon, etc. all fail the prophecy test.

III. FAMINE PRODUCES DEATH:

A. Death is the End Result of Famine:

1. Robbing men of the Deity of Christ sends men to hell (e.g. Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, etc.)
2. The Uniqueness of Christ is missing or diminished in the new versions (*"only begotten" removed from Jn. 3:16*)
 - a. If Christ is not God He cannot be a Savior and men are lost without hope
 - b. If Jesus is only the only Son of God and not the *"only begotten Son of God"* He is no longer unique – angels are "sons of God" in the O.T. and we are in the N.T.
 - c. The Greek word is "monogenes" i.e., born or generated – Jesus was the unique product of the Holy Spirit via Mary and the virgin birth

ILLUS.: Without the food of the Word of God men will die in their sins. Jesus said emphatically that *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."* It is interesting that He was quoting from Deut. 8:3 – but there the word *"word"* is in italics in a KJ Bible. (Was Jesus quoting from a King James?) If Jesus left the italicized word in (as did other writers of the N.T.), I guess we should also.

To remove the italicized words opens a Pandora's Box of problems. Which do we remove and which do we allow to stay. Check the dilemma found in the NIV where the translators left out an italicized word in the King James.

2 Samuel 21:19 *And there was again a battle in Gath with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim, a Bethlehemite, slew the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. (KING JAMES BIBLE)*

In the NIV the translators removed the italicized words and have Elhanan killing Goliath! We all know who killed Goliath and it wasn't Elhanan! It is obviously better to leave the italicized words in our Bibles. Apparently the KJB translators were guided by someone other than "scholars"! Options: 1. Take them all out. 2. Leave them all in. 3. Set up someone to be our Divinely Inspired Editor! Anyone want to apply? Oops, they already did – in the new versions! (Problem: often they leave in the italicized words, they just don't tell you so! They don't put them in italics like the honest translators of the KJB!!!)

There is "death in the pot" of the new versions! People will die and go to hell because of the confusion created by these Bible correctors who have left us with a hodge-podge of versions of God's Word and words. Instead of the nutrients for believers found in the Bread of Life, the new version scholars have taken out the necessary food for the soul for the child of God who no longer has the milk and meat of the Word to build Him up.

CONCL.: **THE FAMINE HAS BEGUN!** There is coming a day when the Antichrist will take over and he will offer a "unified" translation of the Bible that makes Him God. He will take away the very spiritual manna which God has inspired and preserved and substitute a version acceptable to all.

As we said at the outset, the reason for the famine is that men refuse to listen to, obey, and reverence God's Word and words. God then stops speaking and the famine begins.

Question: will you listen to God's voice in His Word and obey His command to be born again?

Question: will every believer present here begin to find out what God says, and then obey what they hear? It is possible that believers will ignore the table of nourishing food God has given in His Word and experience a famine also. The choice is yours.

Joshua 11:15 *As the Lord commanded Moses his servant, so did Moses command Joshua, and so did Joshua; he left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded Moses.*