

THE STRUGGLE FOR COMPREHENSION

APRIL 27, 2020

AMOS 8:11-12 AMP – (11) “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord GOD, “When I will send hunger over the land, Not hunger for bread or a thirst for water, But rather (a hunger) for hearing the words of the LORD. (12) “People shall stagger from sea to sea (to the very ends of the earth) and from the north even to the east; They will roam here and there to seek the word of the LORD (longing for it as essential for life), **But they will not find it.**

Amos predicted a famine of the word of the Lord, which famine certainly occurred during the period of apostasy (**falling away**) in Israel and Judah. The hardness of their hearts reached such a state that from 400 B.C. until the ministry of John the Baptist, which began in A.D. 30, as far as we know there were no prophets in Israel.

Amos’s prophecy was also fulfilled at a later time. After Christ established His Church on earth, it too eventually fell into apostasy (**falling away**). Again revelation ceased, and there was a great famine of the word of God, this famine lasting for well over a thousand years. “Many years passed and it was like a blanket of disbelief covered the earth, not a blanket of cotton or wool, but a blanket of apostasy (**falling away**), and a hunger and a thirst by many which was not satisfied.

Why did this happen then and why is it happening now? Because men have been blinded by the god of this world (**2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-5**) and therefore, it has led men to seek worldly goods and symbols of material power. This is blinding humanity to the truth.

Because there is a distressing hunger in the human heart that, if not fed by the truths of the gospel, it leaves life empty and empty of peace. Only the righteous life firmly established in the daily living of God’s commandments brings true happiness. Anything less leaves the heart unfed, with a yearning inner hunger—a hunger which it is our mission to identify and define and of which we should make the people aware.

So we want to look at the character of one falling away or of one engaged in Apostasy: (1) Ignoring God’s word. (2) Justifying sin (3) Application does not match with the word. (4) Adding or subtracting to God’s word. (5) You are unable to follow God’s instructions without justifying why? (6) No commitment. (7) No submission. (8) When excuses take place of God’s instructions. (9) When you second thought what is right. (10) Your repentance is not genuine. When these actions take place, God’s word is not a value to man.

This is happening today and many are deceived that they know what they are comprehending or talking about when it comes to God’s word. No revelation. No knowledge. No understanding and definitely no application. One can know of God, one may heard of God, one can even say I read what He said, but without a relationship, that one cannot be qualified. One can even quote certain scriptures (**cli·ché** - a phrase or opinion that is overused and betrays a lack of original thought), but without a relationship, you will not be able to comprehend. With the restoration of the gospel, the famine came to an end and can come to an end now, but not necessarily for every individual at once. Until then, many will struggle for comprehension!

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 PETER 2:20-22

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: The first step in apostasy would be men forgetting the true, and then adoring the false.

“A JOURNEY OF THE HEART”