



# Prophetic Observer

January 2022—Vol. 29, No. 01

Keeping Time On God's Prophetic Clock

L-412

## A Famine Is Coming

by James Collins

Last week, I went to the grocery store with my wife. While I was there, I noticed that many products were missing from the store shelves. In fact, many of the shelves were just empty.

Why are the store shelves in America empty? Well, there are several reasons. First, consumers in this COVID crazy world are buying and hoarding products. People purchase extra items just in case there is another quarantine. Second, stores are dealing with a shortage of employees. We live in a country where people do not want to work. So, there is nobody to stock the shelves. Third, U.S ports are backed up with ships wanting to unload their cargo. A shortage of truckers to move the goods has caused delays in unloading cargo ships. And there seems to be no end in sight.

Could empty grocery store shelves eventually lead to a famine in the United States? I don't know. I do know that today we are seeing a famine growing all around this planet. We are told by the United Nations daily that a food famine is here, and it is growing. We are told that in just a short time we will need to be producing 50 percent more food than the world is currently producing.

Throughout history, famines have come and gone. Sometimes they are quite severe and encompass large areas of the globe. Other times they are not so far reaching, affecting only a small segment of our population. For the most part, the United States has been able to escape famines. We are a land



of plenty. So much so, that our country has always been very involved in sending supplies to areas where there is human suffering due to a famine or some other catastrophe.

Sure, today we are seeing a decline of availability of some food products and rising prices are beginning to put a strain on our pocketbooks. Gasoline prices more than doubled last year. The cost of

living is high and going up. Still, most Americans will go to bed with full bellies tonight. We are not suffering from a famine in this country.

However, I believe there is a famine coming. Empty store shelves and high prices pale in comparison to the famine coming upon this land which was spoken of by Amos.

In Amos 8:11-12, we read, "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: 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."

The people of Amos' time knew about famines. They had been through a few. They knew what it was like to live through a drought and watch one crop after another fail and die. They understood the suffering that famine brings when people starve to death. But the prophet Amos declared that there was a worse famine than a famine of food.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus said, "Man shall not live

by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). For you to grow spiritually, you must feast on the words of the Bible. Every kind of life requires nutrients – including your spirit. God gave you a Bible. God gave you men who have the gift of preaching and teaching. But are you listening?

A famine for the Word of God is coming upon our land and in fact is in part already here. People on a whole – that is worldwide – are no longer interested in hearing the Word of God. We live in a world where people run to and fro seeking what they are not able to find. Because they have rejected God’s Word for so long – people are not able to recognize the truth any longer even if that is what they desire. We are reaping what we have sown.

The famine of “hearing” God’s word is getting worse daily, and this famine is partially caused by believers who won’t speak up. It appears Christians are simply saying, “There’s always someone out there witnessing, why should I bother.” But this attitude is completely against God’s Word.

The mainstream media is a huge platform which the enemy uses to further his agenda of lies. If Christians were more vocal, we could also use this platform to spread the truth of God’s message of salvation. But that isn’t the case, is it? Christians have become so passive that the world has it easy when it comes to walking all over us – especially those in the mainstream media.

In Revelation Chapter Three, the Lord addresses the Laodicean church – the church at the end of the age. Jesus stands on the outside and knocks; whoever will open the door will receive unto them our Lord Jesus. The problem with the Laodicean church is they believe they already have everything they need. Guess what, they don’t have the most important part, Jesus Christ. Remember Jesus was standing on the outside knocking; He was not in the church.

The famine of God’s Word is a choice people have made to reject it, to completely turn from the truth and embrace the lie of secularism. Even many Christians have embraced this lie. According to research done by the Barna Group, only seven percent of born-again believers have a biblical worldview. The rest have turned from the truth of the Bible. That means 93 percent of professing Christians have no desire to hear the truth.

What Amos is speaking of in referring to a famine of God’s Word, is people will no longer “hear” the Word of God. Whether consciously or unconsciously they will seek after it in the end times, but they won’t find it. They didn’t want to “hear” it for so long that it will no longer be available to

them. A God famine, so to speak, brought about by a lack of pursuit of His Word.

Many pastors are either going through this famine or are steeped in it. Because so many have turned away from God’s Word, they are no longer able to preach the truth. People not wanting to hear the truth have convinced their pastors of what they want to hear. Pastors wanting to please their congregations preach what their congregations want to hear. Both are turning away from what God wants them to be teaching and to be taught so that sooner or later God just takes the Word away from them all together. We know for a fact this end time’s scenario is happening before our very eyes.

If we seek God, God tells us that we will find Him. On the other hand, if we despise God and remain in this attitude for very long, it will be increasingly more difficult to “hear” His word, let alone receive it unto ourselves. This is an attitude in which many are in today; they are completely unaware of where they are headed. Of course, we know they are headed for hell.

If we as born-again believers will confront these people with the truth of God’s Word, the Holy Spirit has a better than even chance to convict them of their foolishness and turn them toward God and the Holy Bible before it’s too late. We must plant the seeds of His Word to stave off this famine coming in our land. God will do the rest.

*You can learn more about the prophet Amos and his message of famine in James Collins’ new book **The 12** available now from Beacon Street Press.*



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# Courage Is Not For The Faint-hearted

Pastor Larry Spargimino, Ph.D

*“Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions”*

*(Dan. 6:16).*

For entertainment and sport, lions were released in the Roman Coliseum, and the audiences cheered and laughed with insane glee, as Christian families were slaughtered and eaten alive by hungry lions. The babies were evidently sweet to the lions’ palettes, because they were the first to be devoured as the screaming mothers hopelessly tried to rescue their children from the ferocious beasts.



The Book of Daniel is, among other things, a book of courage, and has been an inspiration to Christians who have had to endure unbelievable hardship through the centuries at the hands of their tormentors. Jesus was always honest about the cost of following Him. On one occasion a “certain man” said, “Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head” (Lk. 9:57-58).

## Unconditional Obedience and the Way of the Cross

In his book, *Church of Cowards: A Wake-up Call To Complacent Christians* (Regnery, 2020), Matt Walsh tells the story of a group of Egyptian Christians in buses headed to a monastery in the desert where they were scheduled to have a retreat.

Suddenly, the bus was stopped by armed Islamists who had blocked the roadway. They boarded the bus, pulled all the passengers out of the bus, and lined them up next to the roadway. The passengers were asked two questions: “Are you a Christian?” “Will you abandon Christ and convert to Islam?” When each passenger admitted they are Christians, and refused to convert to Islam, they were shot in the head or in the throat—everyone, men, women and children.

Supposing you were on that bus? You are asked, “Are you a Christian?” Your heart speeds up. Your mind races. The thought flashes through your mind that you only have to utter a single-syllable word, “no,” to escape. A stream of thoughts flash through your mind. The militant who asked you the question is growing impatient and jams the muzzle of the Kalashnikov into your throat. The man draws near to your

face. His foul breath is over-whelming. “Are you a Christian?” he snarls.....

Sometimes courage is not demonstrated by standing strong with a gun barrel in your face. It may be demonstrated through prayer and praise in impossible circumstances.

For most of his 18 years in a Chinese Communist labor camp, Pastor George Chen was not called to preach from a pulpit. He found himself

standing deep in a prison cesspool every day of the week, shoveling human excrement from 60,000 prisoners to be used for fertilizer.

At first Pastor Chen abhorred the work, but he soon realized that the revolting stench meant that no guards or other prisoners went near the pit, allowing George to pray and worship God in complete privacy and solitude. Almost every day he sang his favorite hymn, “In the Garden.” He found a sweetness in the air. His environment was transformed into a special place where the Holy Spirit came down as Pastor Chen communed daily with Jesus Christ ([asiaharvest.org](http://asiaharvest.org)).

## “Sign this. Your children need their mother.”

Paul Hattaway, originally from New Zealand, has faithfully brought millions of Bibles to Christians living in China. He is intimately acquainted with the house church movement and regarded as a model for suffering Christians. In over thirty years of dodging border guards, his gait is still as quick and silent, as it was when he first began as a courier for God. He was recently a speaker in a home meeting talking about Jesus’ command that we take up our crosses and follow Him. He was emphasizing the fact that when a man was crucified he completely surrendered control of his life to another.

At the meeting, Hattaway shared the story of Sister Yuen of Shanghai, a widow who was arrested many years ago and put in prison. In an attempt to make her deny Christ, the guards brought her young son and daughter right up to the bars of her small cell. With tear-stained eyes the two children begged their mother to come home. Their sobs and the words “ma-ma” brought anguish to her mother’s heart. Of course

she wanted to come home and hold her children close and feel their beating hearts.

The guards asked Sister Yuen, “Doesn’t your God want you to take care of your own children? You can return home today, right now. Sign this. Your children need their mother.” The guards gave Sister Yuen a pen, and slipped a sheet of paper between the bars of her cell. This would be a victory for these two guards. The prison chief would surely reward them for getting this stubborn Christian woman to deny that she would follow Jesus any longer.

Sister Yuen took the sheet of paper and quickly wrote a few words on it. She handed it to the guards. They happily took the paper and read what she wrote. Their faces were suddenly contorted with anger. She had written in large letters: JESUS CAN NEVER BE REPLACED! EVEN MY OWN CHILDREN CAN NOT REPLACE JESUS!”

Sister Yuen was sentenced to spend twenty three more years in prison. By the time she was released her two children were adults. They had been raised by the atheist state. She was able to find both her daughter and her son, and was able to reconcile with her daughter who, initially, did not understand why she chose Jesus over her two children. Her son, however, had become a police officer. He was loyal to the Communist Party and did not want to have anything to do with his mother or her God. This, however, is not the end of the story.

Hattaway says that after the presentation that he gave in the home meeting, a Christian couple, well known in the Christian community, angrily approached him and said: “Your story about Sister Yuen is stupid! If we were in that woman’s position, we would have signed the paper. Of course God wanted her to take care of her own children.” Hattaway writes;

“I was astonished that a pair of professing Christians could openly admit that they would willingly deny their faith under pressure, and that they didn’t see anything wrong with that. I asked if they were concerned about the words of Jesus, who said, ‘Whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven’” (Matt. 10:33). (Paul Hattaway, *Asian Harvest: An Autobiography*, pp. 265-266).

### **The America We Live In: Orwell’s 1984 Revisited**

Orwell’s *1984*, is a dystopian novel about a possible future society. The main character, Winston Smith, brings upon himself the rage of the ruling elite by insisting that  $2 + 2 = 4$ , but changes his mind and finally admits that  $2 + 2 = 5$  after being subjected to extreme torture and an emotional breakdown. Perhaps many American Christians are on the verge of such a breakdown right now.

Today, the party of the ruling elite in America claims

that it is the “party of science.” Yet that party holds that there are dozens of genders, that men can menstruate and get pregnant, and that affirming that  $2 + 2 = 4$  is a racist statement. Does the church in America today have the courage to stand strong in such a milieu of madness?

### **The Underground Church and the Back To Jerusalem Movement**

The growth, vitality and outreach of the Underground Church in China (also known as “the Unregistered Church”) is unique for the modern world in that it is being nurtured and becoming robust in a nation that militantly opposes Christianity. In fact, the current Communist regime is actively trying to stamp out and crush all religious expression. Churches, mosques, and Buddhist temples have been destroyed and their leaders incarcerated. Falun Gong practitioners have had their homes and places of business boarded up.

A large segment of the underground church is driven by a vision for world evangelism, especially those nations in the “10-40 window”—Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran... The Back To Jerusalem Movement is sending Chinese missionaries along the ancient Silk Road westward. Starting from Xi’an, China, the Silk Road ends in the city of Antioch, where the term “Christian” was first used (Acts 11:26). The Silk Road was used for both international trade and missionary access until the year 1453, when the Ottoman Empire, under Suleiman, closed it down. With the rise of Islam the fast-moving, hard-fighting armies of Islam dominated the religious landscape of the entire Silk Road.

In his excellent book, *China and End-time Prophecy: How God is Using the Red Dragon To Fulfill His Ultimate Purposes* (Whitaker House, 2021) Eugene Bach (a pseudonym) describes the amazing missions outreach of Chinese Christians in a hostile environment. Recently two Chinese missionaries seeking to fulfill the Back To Jerusalem vision were martyred by Islamic militants in Pakistan, but not before they had learned the language, won the hearts of the people, and started Bible studies in several areas. Similar reports are coming in from Iran and other “10-40” nations along the Silk Road. Courage is not for the faint-hearted, but not everyone is fainthearted.

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