

**THERE
SHALL BE
FAMINES...**

We find there are many verses relating to famines in the Bible. Some have already occurred in the distant past. Some, according to Bible prophecy, are on the horizon as the Second Coming of Jesus Christ draws near.

The Bible records a major famine in Egypt in the time of Joseph. One night, Pharaoh had a dream in which seven fat cows, which came up out of a river, were devoured by seven skinny cows. After waking and going back to sleep, Pharaoh dreamed again. This time he saw seven thick ears of corn consumed by seven thin ears of corn.

Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's two dreams as having the same meaning. He told Pharaoh, *"Behold, there come years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt; and there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land"* (Genesis 41:29, 30).

From this ancient history we learn a principle that operates invariably through all of life. It is the principle that the years of plenty are followed by the years of famine. This is true in the economic world. There is the flow and ebb of prosperity and depression; business volume is followed by recession.

This principle holds true in nature. Day is followed by night. The fruitfulness of summer is gobbled up by the lean, barren winter. The young look forward to the many years of life ahead of them. Each day seems long, providing plenty time to waste in play and pastime. But the Psalmist who knew that a famine of time would soon

overtake us advised: *"Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom"* (Psalm 90:12). Suddenly, one day, perhaps after high school or marriage, we discover that a good portion of our years has sped by.

Doesn't the same principle hold true for our intellect? In youth, our minds seem to learn so quickly and to memorize so easily. But as the years go by, one discovers that he cannot learn or memorize as easily as he did before.

It is the same way with money. A person who has saved up plenty for a rainy day and who thought he had security, may discover how quickly the days of famine can eat up his savings.

Because this principle is so true — famine follows plenty — we should take advantage of the days of plenty to prepare for the famine to follow.

Surpluses were never given to us to waste. If God has blessed you with health, strength, time, or money, He doesn't wish you to squander it. He wants you to invest it for the future.

You might say, "I've prepared for the future. I've made plans for the years ahead." But I ask you, "For how many years ahead?"

You reply, "I carry hospitalization in case I get ill. I have a substantial bank account in case of a rainy day. I'm insured heavily, so if anything should happen to me, my wife and children would be taken care of. Then when I get to be 65 I'll have Social Security; I'm all set."

But let me ask you this question: "What about after death? What are your plans for eternity?" Back in Egypt in the days of plenty, Joseph told the Pharaoh to appoint someone to oversee the

surplus grain. "Unless someone is appointed," said Joseph, "all of the surplus will be squandered and famine will come to the nation. You will have no reserves. Rather let someone possessing wisdom, who can look into the future, be appointed to have charge over the land." So Pharaoh appointed Joseph, who saved millions of lives.

Similarly, we need to invite someone to take over the running of our lives so that our eternal souls may be saved. We need a Saviour, a Guide, and a Leader. Who else is all-wise and able to forgive us for our sins, and make us fit for His eternal home, than the Lord Jesus Christ? He died for us on a Cross and He rose again after three days.

Jesus knows the future. Have you prepared for the future? The after-the-death-period? In other words, where will you spend eternity? You must make your plans now, while you still are able. Tomorrow may be too late! Will you say to Jesus Christ, "I give myself completely over to You Lord, from this moment on. Please forgive my sins. I want You to run my life. Thank You for saving me by the power of the blood You shed for me on the Cross at Calvary."

— *Leslie Flynn*