



THE TRUMPET

For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Matthew 3:2-4

SURVIVING THE FAMINE!

BY JOHN JEYASEELAN

SIGNS OF THE TIMES!

God's word warns us of two famines in the last days: (1) A Spiritual Famine, and (2) An Earthly Famine.

The spiritual famine in the last days will be as prophesied by the prophet Amos: "*Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but shall not find it*" (Amos 8:11-12). Israel's sin forced her into searching for a true revelation of God's word but they could not find it. The unheeded warnings from the prophets such as Amos forced them into captivity.

It is amazing to see the parallel between the words of warning from God to an adulterous Israel on her impending captivity and a modern church that is wandering from the true word and the move of God. I am seeing it everywhere among the nations where I travel. England, once a beacon of light sharing the gospel to many nations, is today impoverished concerning the word of God. Many churches have been turned into nightclubs and many hundreds and thousands of young people stand outside these nightclubs wasting away their youth. It broke my heart during our recent ministry in England and I wept as I prayed for God to restore that great land once again. But England is not alone! Here in the west, people are disillusioned about the lack of God's true move in their churches and are wandering from place to place to find it elsewhere. Some are satisfied with they find but many are disillusioned and facing isolation and frustration.

The second famine – an earthly famine– Jesus forewarned us saying: "*For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows*" (Matthew 24:7-8). We are clearly living in the times Jesus warned us about.

There are wars, famines and pestilences everywhere. The current Russian invasion of Georgia is a precursor to the Third World War mentioned in Ezekiel 38. Adolf Hitler blatantly invaded Czechoslovakia 70 years ago, an invasion which was soon followed by the invasion of Poland, leading eventually to the outbreak of the Second World War. Ironically today, a stunned Poland has signed the Anti-Missile Shield Agreement with the USA. At the writing of this article, the President of Pakistan, General Musharraf is leaving the scene in Pakistan and the future of that land is murky at best. These are uncertain and troubled times for all nations.

There is a shortage of food, grain and other commodities not only in several parts of the world but also in rich western nations. God had me warn my loved ones in 2000 of the impending crash within the housing market and a severe shortage of supplies worldwide. I warned my loved ones to become debt-free before they faced the hard times ahead. Those hard times that I had warned are here and they are not going away soon. There is a global recession looming over the horizon. These situations are far beyond the control of the politicians and pundits.

God is true to His word and what He had warned us about He will fulfill. While the judgment of God is upon the nations, God is also mindful of His people and His remnant... God's children found in every nation who depend on Him and Him alone! I am writing this message so they may be strengthened by the hand of the Lord at this crucial hour.

GOD IS TRUE TO HIS COVENANT TO PROSPER YOU!

The word "famine" is used 95 times in the Bible more than half of which is in reference to God's people surviving the famines of their times. Throughout history, God's covenant people prospered in the midst of famines. Some of them even became the solution to the crisis. Take for example of the family of Abraham:

continued...

It was the summer of 1982 when I faced a severe financial crisis. I was a graduate student on a scholarship provided by a NASA grant that had just suffered a major budget cut. I was facing a future without a scholarship and with no legal provision to work as a foreign student in the US. I faced this crisis with my new wife of 10 months at my side. Not wanting to disclose my need to any of my friends I went to the Lord in prayer. As I prayed for a few minutes, the Spirit of God firmly spoke to my heart to open the Bible and read God's command from Psalm 50:14-15: "*Offer to God thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High. Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.*" I reviewed my vows to the Lord and to my wife and asked God to forgive me if I was slack in fulfilling my vows to Him. I remember running to my wife and sharing this special word and asking for forgiveness if I had hurt her in any way. She smiled at me. We prayed together and started thanking the Lord for His matchless mercy, love and grace for all He had provided.

It was a turning point of my life. Never before had I trusted God enough to yield my life into His hands. God provided miraculously during the following three months by moving the hearts of His people to send us provisions. At the end of that summer God provided a car and a job with benefits. Glory to God! I never suspected that the three months of God's miracle provisions in 1982 would lead me, some eight years later, to a ministry of total dependence on Him and Him alone for all our earthly needs. Today, without having to announce our needs to anyone, God provides for all according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus just the same way as He did in the summer of 1982.

God has promised to provide for His people in the times of famine. The words of the Psalmist: "*Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine*" (Psalm 33:18-19).

I want to take you through the Scriptures that provide guidance, comfort and restoration to God's people through the times of famine.

- **Blessings of Abraham:** The very first mention of famine was in the time of Abraham. *“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).* What did Abraham do in famine? He went into Egypt to escape the famine and when he came out of Egypt, he was blessed of God: *“Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South. Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold” (Genesis 13:1-2).*

- **Blessings of Isaac:** The second famine that came upon the earth was in the days of Isaac. When Isaac had the inclination to follow after his father’s footsteps into Egypt, God changed his direction. *“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. Then the LORD appeared to him and said: ‘Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws...Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him” (Genesis 26:1-5,12).* God blessed Isaac for his covenant relationship with Him just as his father Abraham was blessed. But God’s plan for Isaac was different from that of his father. Both Abraham and Isaac escaped the famine in their days by their obedience to their God of the covenant.

- **Leadership of Joseph:** The third and the most severe famine came upon Egypt and the surrounding nations at the time of Joseph, the great-grandson of Abraham. *“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. So all countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine was severe in all lands” (Genesis 41:56,57).* God made sure that Joseph was in Egypt positioned at the right time to solve their national crisis. Joseph’s wisdom preserved and protected Egypt during this critical period.

As Abraham’s family was provided for and protected in times of famine so will God preserve and protect His loved ones who

walk with Him in obedience and in truth. The covenant of God extends to us through the seed of Abraham, Christ Jesus: *“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’), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Galatians 3:13,14).* **God is positioning you in these times of crises to be a shining light to preserve and protect those that are given into your charge and to reach out to a world in turmoil with the strength and wisdom of God.**

PROPHETS AND FAMINE!

God sustained His servants, the prophets, in the midst of famine. Consider the following examples:

- 1) **Elijah and the Widow at Zarephath:** *“Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ‘Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you” (I Kings 17:8,9).* Elijah asked for water and bread; the widow gave up her last meal that she had saved up for her family. Then came the promise and the blessing upon her household: *“For thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.’ So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah” (I Kings 17:14-16).*

- 2) **Elisha Feeds His servants:** *“And Elisha returned to Gilgal, and there was a famine in the land. Now the sons of the prophets were sitting before him; and he said to his servant, ‘Put on the large pot, and boil stew for the sons of the prophets” (II Kings 4:38).* When poison entered the stew from a wild vine, the servants cried out to Elisha and Elisha restored the stew to feed his servants.

- 3) **Elisha and the Widow’s Oil:** A servant of Elisha died serving Elisha and leaving behind his widow and his two sons in severe debt. Here’s the woman appeal to Elisha and Elisha’s response: *“So Elisha said to her, ‘What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?’ And she said, ‘Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil.’ Then he said, ‘Go, borrow vessels from*

everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones” (II Kings 4:2-4). The widow and her sons obeyed and the result was that they survived the famine in their home and became debt-free: *“Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, ‘Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest” (II Kings 4:7).*

- 4) **Elisha and the Famine in Samaria:** Syria besieged Samaria and this was the result: *“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” (II Kings 6:25).* The people were in dire straits and even ate their own children. Then came the word of the Lord through Elisha: *“Hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD: ‘Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria” (II Kings 7:1).* God fulfilled the word of His prophet by sending four lepers into the Syrian camp where they found the treasure left behind by a confused enemy and set Samaria free from captivity and famine: *“So it happened just as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, ‘Two seahs of barley for a shekel, and a seah of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria” (II Kings 4:18).*

- 5) **Elisha and the Shunammite Woman:** *“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.’ So the woman arose and did according to the saying of the man of God, and she went with her household and dwelt in the land of the Philistines seven years. It came to pass, at the end of seven years, that the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went to make an appeal to the king for her house and for her land. Then the king talked with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, ‘Tell me, please, all the great things Elisha has done.’ Now it happened, as he was telling the king how he had restored the dead to life, that there was the woman whose son he had restored to life, appealing to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, ‘My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life.’ And when the king asked the woman, she told him.*

So the king appointed a certain officer for her, saying, **Restore all that was hers, and all the proceeds of the field from the day that she left the land until now**" (II Kings 8:1-6). The above story stands by itself as an example of a beloved family that cared for the prophet and was protected by his counsel, wisdom and warning.

The above examples provide us with the evidence of the servants of God surviving times of famine. Not only did they survive but they also blessed the households of those that served them faithfully. A true servant of God does not have any material blessing to pass on to his descendents. Rather he only has a true "Word of the Lord," that will help them survive the famines to come. Remember Jesus' words: *"He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward"* (Matthew 10:41-42). **Invest in God's Kingdom and in God's people. It will be the best investment you will ever make. God will bless your seed and multiply it in abundance to feed you in the midst of famine and to protect you from disasters.**

KINGS AND FAMINE!

We read in the Book of Proverbs: *"It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter"* (Proverbs 25:2). God gave dreams of warning to Pharaoh of the coming famine in the land. Unable to understand the dreams he sought the help of an anointed Hebrew slave named Joseph. It was Joseph who interpreted his dreams and offered wise counsel on how Egypt would survive the coming famine. Pharaoh heeded the warning and appointed Joseph to be the governor of Egypt to resolve the situation.

King David was perplexed at the famine in his days: *"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'"* (II Samuel 21:1). David and his people suffered because of the wickedness of Saul, his predecessor. David sought the Lord for His counsel and when God revealed the true reason for the famine David avenged the Gibeonites and God restored the land from the famine.

Today, you may be a leader in the marketplace. You must know that God called you to be king of the marketplace. There is a reason for whatever shortage you may encounter in your business. As you depend on God who gave you the ideas and established you in the position of authority in the marketplace, God will reveal to you what is troubling your business and what steps you must take to turn the situation around. King David had to make restitution for his predecessor, Saul, for the atrocities committed against the Gibeonites. We are called into a kingdom of a royal priesthood that we may show forth the praises of God who has taken us out of darkness and led us into His marvelous light (I Peter 2:9). God will indeed take you out of darkness and lead you into His light of wisdom, counsel and strength.

Here's what you must do to avoid famine in your business:

- You must first acknowledge that it is God who has given you the idea to make wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18) and dedicate your business to God with a pledge to operate it in the ways of God.
- You must then worship the Lord with your first fruits and a portion of the increase in your business – your attitude of worship tells God that the business is not yours but His to intervene.
- God has appointed you a shepherd over your business. You must guard your business and your employees as a wise steward of the Lord. You must love your employees as God loves them and care for them and protect them.
- God expects employees to serve you with loyalty, faithfulness and diligence as they serve the Lord. It is likewise expected of you to be just in your labor practices and to reward your employees. Here's a warning from James 5:1-6: *"Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you."*
- Finally, do not ever forget the purpose of your existence and that of your business. Your very purpose is to glorify God in the marketplace, provide for your families and share the goodness of your God to an impoverished world. As you communicate your wealth and your

resources to a people dying in famine, God will indeed sustain you through the hard times with His providing hand.

Ask God today to reveal to you what you must do. God speaks for those who are exploited and He will judge those who have exploited them. If you are in that place, it is not too late to repent of what you have done in the past and ask for God's forgiveness and make full restitution to come clean. Governments must do the same. This is God's law of reciprocity! What we sow is what we reap. Know that we serve a merciful God who always provides us with His answers from His word. God helped King David redeem his people from famine and He will help you to lead your families and the people under you to safety and victory.

REPENTANCE AND RESTORATION FROM FAMINE!

The Prodigal Son's story is a reminder to all of us, God's children, who have wasted God's resources and goodness in sinful living. Jesus shares three parables with His disciples in Luke 15 – the Parable of the Lost Sheep, the Parable of the Lost Coin and the Parable of the Lost Son.

The Parable of the lost sheep applies to the state of a sinner lost without a shepherd. The Bible says that we were all as lost sheep and had gone astray until the Good Shepherd Jesus came to redeem us and restore us to His fold.

The lost coin was part of the inheritance (dowry) of the woman which when she lost it, she did not rest until she searched for it all over her house with her diligence and found it. Likewise, a believer blessed with the down payment of his/her spiritual inheritance at salvation must pursue God with faith and diligence to obtain their full spiritual inheritance. *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him"* (Hebrews 11:6).

The Prodigal Son on the other hand lived in his father's house and enjoyed being the rightful son to all of the privileges and blessings from his father. Yet, he chose to take his inheritance and waste it in riotous living: *"And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living"* (Luke 15:13). This applies to a blackslidden believer who has tasted the love of God but has chosen to walk away from the presence of God and to live in sin.

After the son spent all he had, he faced a severe famine in the land: *“But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want”* (Luke 15:14). The comfort of the father’s home and the love of the family of God were taken away by the choices he made. There are some of you reading this article who can relate to this situation. You have tasted the love of God but are now deeply mired in sin. You are in a famine brought on by your own wanderings from God. Take note of the fact that God has not abandoned you. Our God of mercy, grace and all comfort is still waiting for you as the father of the prodigal son waited for him to repent and return.

Continue to read the account of the prodigal son: *“Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. 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! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.’ And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and*

ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 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 15:15-21).

The son truly repented and returned to his father and his father restored him with his compassion, mercy and love. Can you relate to this? Are you wandering away from your Heavenly Father? He is still waiting for you. He is never more than one step away from you but...**YOU MUST TAKE THAT ONE STEP.** He has not given away your place to anyone. The place you left behind sits vacant and your Father is waiting. Come back from your wandering. Come back from your famine. Return to the family of God.

Remember God’s promise for you: **“Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine”** (Psalm 33:18-19).

Please pray with me: **“Heavenly Father, I come to You in the name of Your Son, Jesus. I want to thank You for Your matchless mercy, grace and love in sending me Your precious Son, Jesus, to lift me up from the place where I was into Your Kingdom of marvelous light. I thank You for preserving and**

protecting me. I am grateful for Your covenant through the precious blood of Your Son, Jesus. Everything I have has come from You. Everything I have belongs to You. Father, I pray that You will lead me and guide me in these troubled times to be a shining light for You. Help me to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and restore those that are in famine in this world. As You promised to never leave me or forsake me, help me to never leave You or forsake You. I want to remain in Your presence forever, O Lord. In Jesus’ Name, Amen!”



“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2



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“Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity; nor sworn deceitfully.” Psalm 24:3,4

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September 5, 2008

Dearly Beloved in the Lord:

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus!

King David's praise for God: "Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:

Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's" (Psalm 103:1-5).

Like David, we thank the Lord for His matchless mercy, grace, love and favor upon Bethel and all that God has called us to do.

On September 23, 2008, Bethel will celebrate her 19th anniversary. It has been close to two decades since Hema and I answered the call of God. I recall that it was on a Wednesday night Hema and I attended a church service in Ormond Beach, Florida. The service was filled with people and the ministry of the word was offered by Brother Judson Cornwall of Ohio who was teaching that night on "The Intimacy of God!" After the service Brother Judson dismissed the crowd. While I stood up with my wife to leave the auditorium, I fell down. No one touched me. I was in a semi-conscious state on the floor! Once again, for the third time in my life, I saw the same brilliant light before me. I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Son, I need you in My service." This calling was repeated to me three times. Like Gideon I put out a fleece before my Lord. I said, "Lord, if it is You that is speaking to me, I would be grateful if you could kindly reveal to Hema the same thing You have just told me." The light disappeared. As I stood up I felt a holy hush all over me. As we were walking out of the church, I said to my precious wife, "Something wonderful happened to me tonight!" She replied that something wonderful happened to her as well. She said she heard the voice of the Lord saying to her, "Child, I need you in my service." The same words from the Lord spoken to both of us at the same time! I was stunned! We were stunned! We began the ministry on August 15, 1990. My Lord has been with me and my precious family ever since. I love Him. I am in love with Him. I am His bondservant and He is my Lord! To this day, God has miraculously supplied all our needs by supernaturally speaking to the people He has in mind and they stand with us in faithful support and prayer. Hema and I want to thank all of those friends and partners who have stood with us through these years. I pray that the Lord will indeed bless you and reward you all.

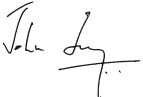
Hema and I have just returned from England with hearts filled with a burden for that great land. While people were saved and healed in many services as reported to us, there is still much work to be done. The entire country needs revival and I am one among many who will be committing my prayers and efforts to see that happen. Please join with me.

The ensuing article on "Surviving the Famine!" is powerful in that it brings out the assurance that God will protect and nurture His precious people in these hard and trying times. He who has called you is faithful. He will never fail you, nor will He ever forsake you.

Hema and I are always grateful for your support and prayers for this ministry. You have helped us fulfill God's mandate for our lives. Thank you so very much.

We also earnestly pray that the Lord will bless you and prosper you in all His ways as He meets your every need according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus.

In Christ's Love,



John Jeyaseelan

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