



*Chalmette
Church of Christ
August 31st, 2014*

Starving with Bread Aplenty

A Study in Cause and Effect

Can one die of famine when the cupboard is full of bread?

A famine is an extreme scarcity of food. Ninety verses of Scripture speak of "famine," some explicitly citing God as the cause. Elisha told a woman to find a place to "sojourn," for "Jehovah hath called for a famine" (2 Kings 8:1). The famous famine in Egypt in Joseph's day happened because God "called for a famine upon the land" (Psalms 105:16). Warning of retribution against impenitent Judah, God bluntly said, "I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine..." (Jeremiah 14:12).

Two famines are mentioned in the Book of Amos, each caused by God. Trying to turn Israel around, God said, "I also have given you cleanness of teeth...and want of bread" (Amos 4:6). God cleaned their teeth by taking food away from them. This terrible famine, however, served as a type of one much worse: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord Jehovah, 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 Jehovah" (8:11). Just as with God's cleaning their teeth by taking away food, this hearing famine would be caused by God's taking away "his words"; that is, He would stop sending "his servants the prophets" (3:7). God finally destroyed and dispersed the remainder of the northern kingdom into exile where they would subsist without the "hearing of the words of Jehovah." After the Book of Malachi, God took away His words for some four hundred years. The consequence of this was: "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 Jehovah, and shall not find it" (v. 12).

This terrible famine ended when "the word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14); when "the bread of life" (John 6:48) "came down from Heaven" (v. 38); when "at the end of these days [He]spoke...unto us in his Son" (Hebrews 1:2); when "God raise[d] up" the prophet like Moses (Acts 3:22). In "words which the Spirit teacheth" (1 Corinthians 2:13), "the faith...was once for all delivered unto the saints" (Jude 1:3).

People, though, continue to be plagued by starvation and famine. Why?

People starve simply because there is no food, but that is not the case here. What then? Perhaps indolence — "The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh" (Ecclesiastes 4:5). Some refuse to "read [and] understand" (Ephesians 3:4). People with hard heads and hearts "hear...the word...understand...it not [and] the evil one snatcheth [it] away." There are also the "care of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches...[that] choke the word" (Matthew 13:9ff).

Then again, some people starve because they are like "sheep not having a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36); that is, no one to feed them. At NWFSBS, we teach our young men that when they go out to local churches, they, among other things, must "dwell[!] there...teaching the word of God among them" (cf. Acts 18:11). The "word of Christ [can, should and must] dwell...richly" in all of God's children (Colossians 3:16).

The USA sent forces into Somalia several years ago because the media kept showing pictures of starving children with bloated bellies. Worse yet is the sad specter of brothers and sisters in Christ, who, though periodic pew occupants and Bible owners, are starving when bread is aplenty.

Kings and Queens

U O J E R O B O A M L F R D M
 B J E Z E B E L H E G L O N A
 I G S U S E J K A L A B K Z R
 R A Z Z E N D A H C U B E N I
 E P J X L H A H P H A R A O H
 H P A Q I A D O N I Z E D E K
 C I B C P D L S K S S A H A B
 A R I H H A E H R E U T E R T
 N G N E T D L E L D I I Z A E
 N A O R A R T A X E R S E S S
 E G S O L O M O N C A M K E T
 S A O D G C Y R U S D R I A H
 A J O S I A H E C A D N A C E
 U E T D T F L M A O B O H E R
 L V D Y S H E B A D A V I D G

Adonizedek

Agag

Agrippa

Ahab

Artaxerses

Balak

Benhadad

Caesar

Candace

Cyrus

Darius

David

Eglon

Esther

Herod

Hezekiah

Hiram

Hoshea

Jabin

Jeroboam

Jesus

Jezebel

Josiah

Melchisedec

Nebuchadnezzar

Pharaoh

Rehoboam

Saul

Sennacherib

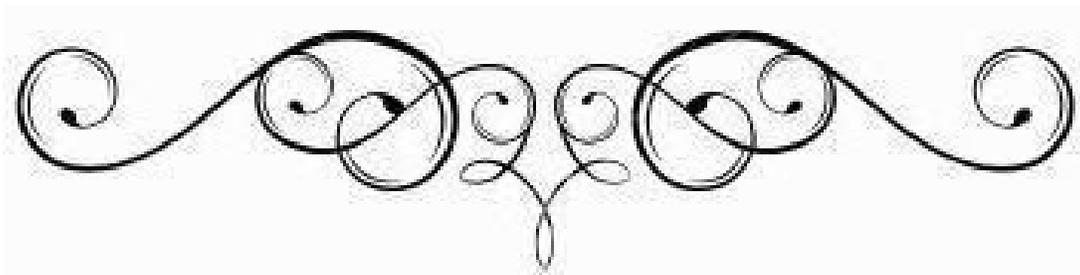
Sheba

Solomon

Tiglathpileser

News and Notes

- We express our deepest sympathy to the Snyder family at this time. Ms. Vera Snyder passed away last Sunday morning. She was a wonderful Christian woman, and was always helping others. She will truly be missed here at Chalmette.
- Our Third Sunday Singing and Fellowship Meal will be on September 21st. Bring a dish and a friend!
- Have a safe and happy Labor Day weekend!
- Our Gospel Meeting is just around the corner! It begins on October 5-9 and our Guest Speaker will be Garland Robinson. Sunday 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Monday through Thursday at 7 p.m. nightly. Please make plans to attend each day!
- Please keep Kelly Hall in your prayers at this time. She is the granddaughter of Sylvia Hall. Her condition is improving and has been moved to a rehabilitation facility.
- Please keep Alice Riley, Margo Rodney, and Malcom & Marlene Vazquez in your prayers at this time as they are in poor health.
- Please keep Keiane Johnson, Randy Certoma, and Kathy Calvert in your prayers at this time. They are battling cancer and undergoing treatment.



September Birthdays

16th-Audrey Clements

22nd-Butch Snyder

25th-Nicklas Smith



Prayer List



**Alice Riley & family
Sherry Towle
Margo Rodney
Judy Hennessee
Ella Gillard
Krisztian Montague
Jackie Gamble
Addrean Jenkins
Gloria Smiles
Joel James
David Ebeling
Ryker Amaya
Raymond Sanchez
Gary Huettmann
Malcolm & Marlene Vazquez
Sondra & Olivia Rivera**

**All of our brethren scattered across
the United States & our troops in
Iraq*



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Services of The Church Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 am
AM Worship 10:00 am
PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Evangelist

Mark Lance 504- 250-8492

gospelpr@cox.net

Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

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