

Scott's Thoughts

April 14, 2024



“When I send against you the deadly arrows of famine, arrows for destruction, which I will send to destroy you, and when I bring more and more famine upon you and break your supply of bread.”
(Ezekiel 5:16, ESV)

“Bread” is mentioned more than three hundred times in the Bible with various meanings. Many of them refer to the Passover in the Mosaic Law. This, of course, was a yearly event for the Nation of Israel to remember how God rescued them from Egyptian slavery. At other times “bread” is referred to as punishment by God because the Jews continued to disobey God.

A lack of food is horrible, and eating the same thing day after day with no variation in diet is boring. But when you get to the point of only having bread to eat and it becomes unavailable, what do you do? There were numerous times when the nation of Israel suffered famine. Every time God struck the land with famine, He also told them how they could reverse that situation - Obey God!

Over the years, we have learned more and more about crops and how to grow them. Yet, we have not succeeded in eliminating famine. Even though we produce more and better crops on less land there is still hunger and there are still people throughout the world who are starving every day. We still have hungry people in the USA in spite of the many organizations that do their best to supply food for those who are less fortunate.

Why does abundance of crops or famines happen? Is our abundance of crops proof of God blessing our country? Possibly. Is God punishing those nations whose people are starving? I don't know. I do know that in the book of Genesis, God used the nation of Egypt to rescue the Israelites from starvation because of a future drought. So, He caused Joseph to be sent to Egypt and eventually Joseph was put in charge of collecting and storing the crops during the seven years of plenty. Then he managed to feed the world's people who came for food during the seven years of famine. Egypt was anything but a Godly nation, but God sent the Israelites, who were God's chosen people, to Egypt to save them from the future famine that would happen in their land.

Confusing, isn't it? How can I tell if I am in God's will if my life is full of chaos? Am I in the will of God if my life is full of plenty? The answer is not in the events that surround my life because God can use either times of chaos or times of plenty, for His purpose. In the book of 1 John 5:13, God tells us we can know if we are in His will. Being in God's will isn't in our circumstances; it is in our obedience to His will.

We need His “bread of life” to sustain us. Bread, the simple food that can sustain life, was the illustration Jesus used when He said, “I am the bread of life.” He was speaking about spiritual life not the physical, but He phrased it in physical terms so we could understand Him.

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”” (John 6:51, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott