

### Seven Famines of God – Part I

**Intro:** The Tribulation is now going world wide in its effects and John is being invited to “come and see” these events as they unfold, **Revelation 6:1, 3, 5a**. So, the big question is, “Why would a loving God allow famines?” Well, we are about to discover seven reasons why God allows famines to occur.

We are looking at the four horsemen of the apocalypse;

1. The first horseman is the Anti-Christ – Revelation 6:2 – The white horse and its rider.
2. The second horseman is war – Revelation 6:4 – The red horse and its rider.
3. The third horseman is famine – Revelation 6:5 & 6 – The black horse and its rider.

The incentive to the question is partly that we may get to know God better! When we have a question, we need to seek out the answers as to the why, knowing that the Bible has the answers. And God gives us seven reason or situations in which He allows famines.

### Sometimes God allows famines:

#### I. To \_\_\_\_\_ God’s people – Genesis 12:9 – 10 – (Egypt.)

- A. We have this tendency to get \_\_\_\_\_ comfortable where we are in our Christianity.
  1. Abraham obeyed God when told to leave his home land and journey to a strange land.
  2. It took Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ than it should have because he didn’t fully comply with God’s command. (Genesis 12:1)
  3. God had great \_\_\_\_\_ for Abraham in how He would use Abraham and bless him.
  4. But first, Abraham needed to \_\_\_\_\_ who God was.
  5. Also for Abraham to learn of his \_\_\_\_\_ weaknesses; so, God allows a test to enter Abraham’s life.
  6. This test is a famine in which God wanted Abraham to know that he only trusted God so \_\_\_\_\_.
  7. God is a discerner of the human heart – Hebrews 4:12! He knows the content of every heart.
  8. The lessons for Abraham are,
    - a. You are not as \_\_\_\_\_ as you think.
    - b. You know of Me, but you do not yet \_\_\_\_\_ Me.
  9. This famine which God allowed was to reveal one of two things for Abraham to answer.
    - a. Will You \_\_\_\_\_ in My will, and trust Me to take care of you, where you are? Or,
    - b. Will you \_\_\_\_\_ to Egypt and trust Egypt to take care of you?
- B. Through this famine and Abraham’s response, he would learn he had a \_\_\_\_\_ way to go in trusting God.
- C. God allows hardships to enter our lives to \_\_\_\_\_ to ourselves our trust level in Him, are we all talk?
  1. Our experience in Kentucky with Peg’s fifth pregnancy.
  2. Are we more \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_?
  3. We are facing issues today that will answer this question for us – talk or trust!
- E. Famines and events bigger than ourselves are allowed to \_\_\_\_\_ too us our trust level in Him.
  - a. From God’s vantage point someone is going to get \_\_\_\_\_ out.
  - b. From our vantage point, someone is going to go \_\_\_\_\_, we need to be able see what God is doing.

- F. When we get too comfortable where we are, God needs to \_\_\_\_\_ us up a bit.
1. David had gotten too comfortable in his life then along came the Bathsheba incident.
    - a. Would David \_\_\_\_\_ God and turn away from his temptation?
    - b. Would David let down his \_\_\_\_\_ and give into the temptation.
  2. Sampson, a Levite, would he honor God and the wisdom of his parents.
  3. Elijah just had a great victory over the prophets of Baal, would he stand up against Jezebel and trust God or would he run? **I Kings 19:1 – 3; 9**
- G. We can \_\_\_\_\_ God to save us, but when it comes to other issues or events in our lives, not so much!
1. How many times have we faced an event or issue and without taking it to God, we did it our way?
  2. How many times have we looked back and we knew we were not trusting God, but we did it anyway!
  3. We can expect this to be the norm if we aren't willing to trust God with \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. **“Casting all your care upon him; for He careth for you.” I Peter 5:7**
    - b. **“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.”**
  4. What messes we make in our lives when we fail to fully trust Him!

## Sometimes God allows famines:

### II. To bring about His \_\_\_\_\_ – Genesis 41:27 – 33. (Egypt)

- A. Why would God allow a famine to overwhelm a whole nation? Because God had a \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. God always has a plan in which the details are orchestrated by Himself to bring things to pass which He \_\_\_\_\_. They don't have to make sense to us, but we do need to \_\_\_\_\_ Him, Joseph did!
- C. What were God's plans in this famine?
1. For Joseph to \_\_\_\_\_ his family and an entire nation. (2 initial dreams & 2 dreams interpreted.)
  2. How in the world is God going to take a Hebrew and make him a Prime Minister of Egypt?
    - a. Up to this point did any of what Joseph had gone through make any \_\_\_\_\_?
    - b. Yet, God gave Joseph the unique ability to interpret dreams.
    - c. These dreams of Pharaoh involved 7 years of plenty & 7 years of famine.
    - d. No one knew how to resolve any of the looming disaster which they took seriously.
    - e. Isn't it wonderful how God always has the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ person in place.
    - f. Joseph knows how and the result was his becoming the Prime Minister of Egypt.
- D. Folks, God has a will for our lives which may involve some \_\_\_\_\_ along the way in order to get us to where He wants us to be. (Joni Ericson Tada)
1. We are His \_\_\_\_\_ in which He will get honor for Himself.
    - a. Genesis 50:19 – 21.
    - b. John 9:1 – 3.
    - c. John 11:1 – 4; 45.
  2. What God does is not the pawns business. He is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- E. The hand of God comes down as perhaps a famine or an affliction, an illness, marital problems and if we become impatient we'll miss the lessons or the opportunity to be used of Him. (Martha) & Mary)
- F. Never forget, God's best is found in \_\_\_\_\_, unexpected events as well as on the mountain top!