



*11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, 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 the Lord: 12 And 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 the Lord, and shall not find it. (Amos 8:11-12)*

### The Ninth Sunday after Trinity.

*The Collect.*

**G**RANT to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right; that we, who cannot do any thing that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Ninth Collect is that which expresses, according to Massey Shepherd, the "whole doctrine of grace." The strength of the Collect was slightly reduced by the 1662 revisers in the phrase, "*we cannot do any thing that is good without thee*" from the original of Cranmer's "*which CANNOT BE without thee!*" While it is true that we cannot do anything good without God, it is more importantly true that we cannot do anything at all without Him for, without Him, we could not exist. The Collect petitions for a grant of benefit. As is customary of all Godly prayers, nothing of personal and material benefit is sought, but only that which is pleasing to God. It is important to bear in mind that only those things which are pleasing to God are of any benefit to us as well, in the last resort, for He loves us and pines for only the good things of His Love to be manifested through our lives and testimonies. We can only live a life pleasing to God through the efficacy of His Will and Word both for us and acting through our members. Of course, His grace is not restricted to believers only, but is also manifested in a general application to the whole world. The world is full of lost and dying souls, but God is present even in the darkest corners of our world, and His saving Light only revealed to those whose souls and spirits respond to that bright beam of the Searchlight which tops the turbulent waves of the sea and draws us near by faith.

The grace expressed always in God's Word is very like a great Magnet which draws the metal whose properties are of the same nature with His own by having the Law of God written in scarlet letters upon the tender tissues of the heart. The great comfort we may have in all of this promise of grace is that God knows WHERE we are and where we are GOING! He sees our small bark on the restless waves of the sea and He knows, as well as we, that we cannot brave the storms of the seas in our bark without a great Power of Help. His outstretched Arm sustains us on these seas of life, and we are without in Him danger though the sea billows roar. This is our Friend, our Father, our

God, our Redeemer, and our Lord. Have you seen the Light?

***11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, 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 the Lord*** The text for today opens with this parabolic expression of 'famine.' But the parable's meaning is revealed in the same passage. So what is this famine to which the text makes reference, and how do we see its beginning manifested in our day as it has been in times before?

Perhaps we should first note that this famine is not an accident of nature, but sent by God Himself. Secondly, the famine is sent upon "the land." What is "the land" to which this reference is made? It refers to all of the lands of believers, for there has always existed a famine of hearing the Word in heathen lands. Thirdly, this famine is not one of physical bread and water. Such a famine of physical bread and water would be far less hurtful to our souls; but a famine of hearing the Words of the Lord deprives us of the very livelihood of our souls. The famine of physical bread and water makes itself starkly obvious to us in the pangs of our stomach and the dryness of our mouths; but the famine of the Word is less profound in any physical manifestation. We slowly begin to starve in our souls, but there are no red flags of warning to alert us. It is a matter of both forgetfulness and a callous disregard and irreverence for God's Word. Fourthly, the "days come" always in which we may face such a famine. The condition of our souls are the triggers of this famine. If we are diligent in study, fervent in love, and zealous in defending truth, the famine is forestalled; but if we take a flippant view of the things of God – His Word, His love, His Will for us, the worship due Him, or His excellency requiring reverence – we shall hasten the days of famine.

Have you known grinding hunger, or ravishing thirst? Perhaps you have not known that hunger for bread or water that threatens death. But there are grave signals today of impending famine of hearing the Word of the Lord. Those signals are subtle to the ear of those who are not keen to God and His Word, but they are growing with great rapidity and the famine is at our very doorstep today.

***12 And 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 the Lord, and shall not find it.*** Who are those peoples referred to as "they?" Those are all those peoples who have been privileged to hold the Word of God in faith but who have turned to lesser expressions of that word, watered down by the dirty hands of men. Surely we would all prefer to drink from the mountain spring where it emerges from the stones of the earth rather than downstream of the wading herds of cattle and men! The pure stream is the purely preserved Word of God "as they are commonly received" as the Sixth Article of Religion stipulates. So what were the textual evidences "commonly received" to which the article refers and upon which the Reformers relied for true faith and worship? The Received Text of Holy Scripture which underlies all reformation Bibles including the King James Bible, the Geneva Bible, the Great Bible, the Bishops Bible, the Tyndale Bible, etc. This text relies upon more than 5,000 manuscripts of evidence (95% of all evidence) which all agree in form and effect with one another. This contrasts sharply with the 5% of the manuscript evidence underlying the corrupt Westcott-Hort translations (and which do not agree in many places with one another). These corrupt bibles include the RSV, the NIV, and ESV (among a host of others). They leave out important verses and change meanings where the divinity of Christ is undermined in their "more reliable" textual evidence. These new versions are far more than harmless and amateur attempts to translate the Word of

God more accurately and with greater articulation – they are intentional departures from the true Word simply for the purpose of advancing a modern political agenda and modifications required in order to gain a copyright. I will never depend upon a copyrighted Bible, for God's Word is not subject to copyright.

The danger is deadly, but subtle. A young person, having no idea about textual evidence, goes into a Christian bookstore to purchase a Bible oblivious to the ramification of error hidden between the covers of a modern translation. He may inquire of the clerk for a recommendation of a good study Bible. The clerk will inevitably recommend a modern version since the required copyrighted version will render a greater profit to the seller. "*It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.* (Matt 21:13) The thieves den may now extend beyond the walls of the false church to the so-called Christian bookstore.

There occurred a great famine of my soul many years ago when the Episcopal Church departed from the truth of God in both worship and practice in the sixties. I sought diligently for a church that, first of all, believed the Word of God and, secondly, actually held that Word in reverence. I sought many years, and finally found that church expressed in the life and practice of the Anglican Orthodox Church under the God-fearing Bishop James Parker Dees. I have been in this sanctuary of truth ever since.

Slowly, through the increasing influence of publishing houses, the Received Text Bibles are being subverted. If I go to a Christian publisher to publish my works, they will insist that I use their own corrupted and copyrighted Bible version in my references. Since these publishers monopolize the distributive means of published works to Christian book stores, the true Word is locked out. The ideological intent is subtle but deadly in its influence of discouraging even an open discussion of the merits of the Received Text (Textus Receptus). So men wander from sea to sea seeking the Word of the Lord and they shall not find it – not in corrupt Bibles, nor shall they hear it preached from pulpits.

One of the most oft quoted verses is more profoundly changed in the NIV translation than even the omissions of verses in other places of these corrupt Bibles - **John 3:16**. Who is Christ? Is He different from the rest of humanity? Is He simply 'another son of God' as we all are assured of being in faith? *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.* (Romans 8:14) If we believe the modern versions, we must also believe that Christ is nothing special in His difference from the rest of mankind. Look at this one deadly change of this verse (John 3:16) as rendered by the **ESV** and its illicit sister – the **NIV** : *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life* John 3:16 (ESV). Now note the significant difference in how Christ is identified by the KJV: *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* John 3:16 (KJV)

Christ, in all truth and all creeds of the Church Catholic, is the only Son Begotten of the Father and of the same substance with the Father. He differs fundamentally as the only Begotten Son of God to those of us who are sons and daughters through the adoption. Why was the wording changed? What do you suppose motivated sinful men to change that wording? Is Christ just a man only, and just another son of God, or is Jesus the only Begotten, sinless and perfect, Son of the Father who ONLY could redeem us and make the way possible for us to become sons and daughters through adoption

into the family of His Father? This is just one of the many changes in meaning incorporated in the ESV, and other modern versions. Do we strive for truth, or do we seek 'political correctness?'

We might save our money on these monstrosities of translation and simply purchase a Jehovah Witness (New World Translation) since its ideological intent is in perfect unity with that of the modern versions. It omits the same verses and denigrates the divinity of Christ in the same way (for the JW's do not believe that Jesus was divine). Do not take my word for the error propagated by the new versions. If the Word of God is sacred, find out the truth through diligent study of the evidence – both internal and external. Do you believe the Word of God can be changed by men?

I ask you, Reader, to answer that question, for a low view of Scripture will result in famine, and a very low place in eternity as well.