

**Transforming Daily**  
“... *famine was in the land* ...”  
*Genesis 42:5*

Just as it is upon hearing the word Egypt, used in the Bible, one should be reminded of man's sin and bondage, so too it is upon hearing the word Canaan, one should be reminded of God's salvation, bounty, and blessing (promised land, heaven). God had not yet called Moses to lead Israel away from Egypt into Canaan, into the promise land. Canaan would later be described as a land that flowed with milk and honey, but for now, it was a place of famine.

Jacob told his sons to go to Egypt and buy grain. Humanly speaking, famine in the land was the reason for the journey. Sovereignly speaking, it was in part the plan of God to lead Jacob and his sons, as well as the rest of Israel, to find, not only sustenance, but order and organization of the children of Israel for the up and coming journey into the promise land.

At this point, Israel was not healthy enough to accomplish what it was that God had called Abraham to do. They were in no way or shape the best representation of the name of God. Jacob himself was just rebounding from the conclusion of a long family feud. His sons were perhaps still agonizing over their ruthless treatment of Joseph which they meant for evil, but God meant for good. The whole nation of Israel seemed to be discombobulated and disoriented. However, soon God would bring His purpose for their existence front and center.

The local churches of the 21<sup>st</sup> century seem to be showing similar signs. There seems to be a sense of poor discernment and lack of wisdom toward or concerning the things of God. There seems to be an identity crisis regarding biblical, Christian distinctives and the spirit of Christ exhibited through gospel ministry and service (denomination or denominationalism notwithstanding). Is it possible that the local churches of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, or more specifically the individual believer who makes up the local church, are experiencing spiritual famine? If so can anything be done about it? Yes, personal, spiritual renewal and corporate Holy Spirit sent revival are the answers.

Are you born again? Are you in a local church that recognizes the Bible as God's Holy Word? Do you personally read it and accept it as such? Are you hungry for the exegetical, expository preaching of the Word of God, or are you filling yourself with the pabulum of self-help, emotionally-oriented, felt need directed, and self-aggrandizing materials and teachings? You make the call. Will it be said of the 21<sup>st</sup> century church, spiritually, as it was said of Canaan, literally, “famine was in the land?”