

# The End Times Sign of Famine

(Broadcast: September 10, 2014 | <http://www.twave.org>)

Format: Unedited Transcript



By [Nathan Jones](#)

**Vic:** Nathan, could you list the first three end times signs Jesus gave in Matthew 24 and Luke 21 before we get into the fourth sign — famine?

**Nathan:** The first three of the end times signs Jesus told us would increase in frequency and intensity like birth pains before His return were false teachers and false messiahs, wars, and earthquakes. Then Jesus got up to sign number four which is famine.

**Vic:** Often time when people think of famines they only think about biblical times, like during the time of Joseph, but there are a lot of famines plaguing the world today.

**Nathan:** Yes, exactly. Remember also in Matthew 24 the first question the Apostles asked Jesus was, "When will the Temple fall?" One of the answers Jesus gave was famines. He said there would be famines before the Temple would fall. We read in Acts 11:27-28 about a man named Agabus who said during this time in the life of the infant Church that some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of those prophets' name was Agabus. He through the Holy Spirit predicted a severe famine that would spread over the entire Roman world. This happened historically during the reign of Claudius Caesar, which was 41-54 AD. And so, the people of the First Century knew about famines because there were some before the fall of the Temple.

Just like in those days, Jesus said that famines will come more frequently and more intensely the closer we got to His return. His response also answers the second question the Apostles asked Jesus, "What are the signs of the end of the age?" This means before the Rapture of the Church.

I've got to tell you, we who live in the West live very well. When you read the statistics about famine in other parts of the world it's just heartbreaking.

**Vic:** Yes, here in the United States we are very blessed because everywhere you turn there's a grocery store or restaurant. In our city her in Miami we have Publix, which are like Super Walmarts. They sell any type of food you could want and it's just a few minutes away. An abundant supply of food here in the West is why famines are such a foreign concept to us.

**Nathan:** The world has experienced tremendous famines just in the 20th Century alone. There was the great Chinese famine in 1959-1961 where 43 million people starved to death. Also in Russia in 1921, 5 million people died from starvation. During World War II another million died from starvation. In 1974 another 1.5 million died. In Ethiopia, if you remember back in '84 and '85, there was so much talk about the Ethiopian famine where the world watched reports on TV

of 400,000 men, women and children starved to death there. In '96 North Korea experienced a famine where 3.5 million people starved.

Did you know that the occurrences of famines is even worse in the 21st Century, Pastor Vic?

**Vic:** No, I didn't.

**Nathan:** We are really isolated here in the West, just like you said. I'm sitting here with a bag of chocolate covered cranberries, and most countries don't even have access to the most basic staples of food. We are really blessed, and I think the reason is because our country was based on Judeo-Christian values, on God's law. Though we are pulling away from our roots, the Lord has continued to provide blessings to America because there are still many believers in Christ living here.

So far in the 21st Century, Bread for the World reports that there are 17 famines going on in the world right now in places such as Myanmar, Malawi, North Korea, East Africa, Kenya and Somalia. They report there are 925 million — that's almost a billion people — who go hungry every day.

Did know that every day almost 16,000 children die from hunger related causes? That means one child every five seconds dies. Just in the last minute, 12 children have died from starvation.

**Vic:** That is so tragically sad, but because people don't see famine in their own country, they don't think it's really happening. So you're telling us that in the 21st Century 17 famines have occurred?

**Nathan:** Yes, 925 million people go hungry and 1.4 billion people, a quarter of the world's population, live in extreme poverty.

There are also recessions and droughts going on in the world, especially like the drought in California. It's really hitting the food market hard. You've probably gone into your local grocery and noticed food prices have double in most areas.

**Vic:** Don't get me started on that, Nathan! My wife does the food shopping and rising food prices is something she gets a little bit irate about, especially when egg prices just keep going up. All the simple basics of life are steeply on the rise.

**Nathan:** Yes, you used to be able to buy an onion for a quarter. Now its like \$1.50. Rising food prices push people who are just making ends meet down below poverty level. Did you know that by 2010 famine had pushed 100 to 150 million people below the poverty line?

**Vic:** I'm originally from the Dominican Republic. I was born there and today my church leads a lot of mission trips there. We go to these villages and it just breaks my heart to see these people's living conditions. Seeing such poverty is a sure reminder of how much we are really blessed here in the US.

**Nathan:** But, I wonder if our blessings are coming near to an end. I don't know if you've been keeping up with the drought going on in California, but it's getting so bad now that even well water is running out.

California is the breadbasket of our nation. We get so much of our fruit and vegetables from there. Now they are talking about not just a drought, but a super drought or a mega drought. Food production could not be coming from California anymore which means that our country's resources and ability to get the food that we need will continue to diminish.

### **Famine in the Tribulation**

**Nathan:** The food shortages of today will be nothing compared to the uber famine that will plague the world during the coming 7-year Tribulation. We read in Revelation 6 that a fourth of the world's population is going to die from the first four Seal Judgments. The great Second Seal War will destroy much of the food supply chains so that there won't be any way people can get food. When you level a plant that processes chicken, you're not getting chicken. When you destroy the supply runs by the ships, you're not getting food shipped in anymore. When the stores are destroyed and when crops are swallowed up by earthquakes, terrible events like that which the Bible says will happen, it destroys the way people get food.

Starvation will be a tremendous problem during the Tribulation, to the point that a fourth of the world will die from it. In today's numbers that's 1.5-2 billion people who will die.

**Vic:** We got a little taste of what food shortages are like here in South Florida. We get a lot of hurricanes, and as soon as there is a hurricane threat, people flood to the stores and buy up all the food. There's nothing left. The shelves are empty and the stores are bare.

**Nathan:** I've never had to experience a hurricane, but I remember seeing the news on Hurricane Katrina back in 2005. On the news they showed a Walmart and how within hours literally, like you said, every scrap of food was taken from the shelves. People ran in there and bought it all up.

I think we take it so for granted the fact that in our day we can go anywhere and get food. Can you imagine cutting the food supply chains off? Within days our shelves would be empty.

**Vic:** Just think about a mother who has a newborn baby and needs food, milk, and just the basic necessities. When disaster strikes, that can happen to us, really at any point. Today's disasters point us to this awful sign of famine that the Bible is warning us about.

**Nathan:** Like we discussed, famine is happening in different places all over the world. Just here in the West we have such a great supply chain, we don't realize this sad fact. Praise the Lord for a good economy based on values that make us productive!

In the future, the world will destroy these supply chains through global wars and earthquakes which will happen during the Tribulation. Both political and natural disasters will cut off people's ability to get food.

I don't know about you, Pastor Vic, but I'm a suburbanite. I don't have a yard big enough to grow food, much less wait the three to four months for it to grow. I'd be in deep, deep trouble. So many in the world aren't farmers, and will be the first to suffer.

Jesus tells us this time is coming when severe famines and pestilence will come upon the world and wipe out a quarter of the population. To think that's 1.5 billion people who will die from starvation.

**Vic:** I live close to the Everglades, so I guess I'll have to start hunting alligators! Maybe I'll outlive you.

**Nathan:** Alligator is good eating! But, I don't want to joke about this topic, though. I really don't think you and I can really grasp what it's like not to have food. We can go anywhere and get as much food as we want. In fact, that's why American's are so obese, because we have too much food; more than we know what to do with. It's almost impossible to imagine there not being food a plenty.

But, that's what the Bible says will happen. During the Tribulation there would be such tremendous famine that a quarter of the world's population will starve to death. That's just beyond my ability to understand, but for many people here on the earth, they understand. Some live on only one meal a day.

**Vic:** That's why we are not making light of the situation, because famine is really is a very, very serious thing.

### **Hope for Today**

**Vic:** We are hoping everyone will finally recognize that the Tribulation is what the world is preparing for. The signs leading up to the Tribulation are what we are starting to see happening. But, there is hope — the Rapture of the Church. Sadly, there are going to be millions of people who will be left behind, and they are going to have to experience all this disaster and death. That's why we all need to start telling our unbelieving loved ones about Jesus and offer them hope, because once these disasters come, it's going to be unbelievable.

**Nathan:** It will. There are so many people holding out that don't want to give their lives to Jesus Christ. They want to hold onto their sinful lifestyle. They just want to live their own lives doing whatever they want to do and forget God's protective law. They want to forget the fact that their decisions are hurting themselves and those around them, even killing them, and certainly killing them forever.

There is a time of judgment coming. The Bible is very specific and this point and gives us tremendous detail about it. Jesus even told us what the signs would be so that we can prepare. It's very important that we get our hearts right with Jesus Christ and surrender our lives to Him. We must ask for forgiveness of our sins so we can be made right with God and so that we can inherit those blessings of forgiveness and eternal life.

**Vic:** That's right. We all have loved ones who don't know the Lord. I think what's encouraging is that we all need to see the urgency in telling people about the Lord. Tell our neighbors, our friends, people at school, wherever you might be, because the only real hope for the future is Jesus Christ. We need to be ready to receive Him. Of course, we also never know when the

Rapture is going to take place, but we can see the signs of the end times all around us pointing to Jesus' soon return.

I'd like to encourage everyone that if you don't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, come and receive a relationship with the Lord now while there's still time. Nathan, how can a person begin their relationship with the Lord?

**Nathan:** Start by knowing that the Lord Jesus Christ loves you so much. God has been trying to get humanity redeemed, in other words, forgiven of their sins and its punishment of death. God went so far out of His way to accomplish a means of redemption that He sent His only Son, His perfect Son Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place.

When we accept Jesus as Savior and ask Him to forgive us of our sins and be our Lord, then we no longer stand condemned before God. When we accept Jesus our sins are forgiven. We're given a whole new life in Him. We inherit the promises of the Rapture of the Church and to live with Jesus forever in Heaven and all the wonders that entails. That's why it's so vital that you give your life to Jesus Christ right now.

**End of Program**