

I. Introduction

A. God's blessing on Grace Fellowship through the COVID season

1. We claimed the promises of God's healing and protection.
2. We claimed the covenant promises of Psalm 91.
3. We declared our profession of faith – "We will come through COVID Stronger than before."
4. God had prepared us for the COVID season through the previous teachings that had occurred in this church.
 - a. [Take Your Authority](#)
 - b. [Faith Basics 101](#)
 - c. [Be Strong](#)
 - d. [The Truth Shall Make You Free](#)
 - e. [Fully Developed – Prepared for Every Battle](#)
5. Through the release of His word into our lives, God is always preparing us for what may be coming.
 - a. **John 16:13 (NKJV)** – *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*
John 16:13 (AMP) – *He will disclose to you what is to come in the future. Sometimes with precision – sometimes through preparation.*
 - b. **Acts 20:22-23 (KJV)** – ²²*And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: ²³Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.*

B. The next threatening storm for our world – Recession

1. Daily news reports declaring the probability of recession.

2. **Undeniable inflation – *gas, groceries, building supplies, etc.***
3. **Talk of shortages.**
4. **This financial instability has the potential to spread the same spirit that overshadowed our world in COVID.**

Fear – worry – effecting your ability to do life – to dream – to set goals – overcome with uncertainty – anxiety

NOTE: My assignment today – to declare to you: “*God’s covenant blessing that is at work in you – isn’t limited to what the world calls “Good Times.”*”

God’s commanded blessing is upon his people during the good times and tough times.

If recession comes – “We have a covenant!”

If tougher times arrive – “We have a covenant!”

If there are shortages – “We have a covenant!”

Whatever comes, “WE HAVE A COVENANT!”

We did not participate in the Spirit of COVID – I am not going to participate in the spirit of recession.

II. **Prepared in tough times – potential recession**

A. **Bible times of famine**

1. **Famine – Heb/hunger – dearth – to suffer hunger**
 - a. Extreme scarcity of food
 - b. Shortage – lack – to be in need
2. **Famine was one of the most dreaded times in Bible history**
 - a. People would have to move to another part of the country where they could find provision.
 - b. Many people would die as a result of famine.
 - c. Crops would not grow – food was scarce.

- d. With famine – financial devastation always followed.
- e. When considering the most severe “Trouble Times” of the Bible – famine would be at the top of the list – *Famine would affect everything – pertaining to their lives.*

Note: While our world certainly isn't experiencing a famine – we could be approaching some troubled times.

B. Those in the Bible who were carried through times of trouble/famine – by God's supernatural power.

1. Isaac

- a. **Genesis 26:1-3 (NKJV)** – ¹*There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.* ²*Then the LORD appeared to him and said: “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you.* ³*Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father*
 - 1) When there was a famine in the Land – God gave Isaac specific instructions for survival.
We need to pay attention to God's instructions more than what the world is saying.
 - 2) God's Instructions, “Do not go down to Egypt – dwell here.”
Egypt represents – reliance upon self/flesh/the worlds system. We need to always be mindful that God is our source – and refuse to put our confidence in other sources.
 - 3) God – “I will be with you and bless you.”
God's blessing is not limited to what is available on earth. His blessing isn't affected by the circumstances happening on this planet.
- b. **Genesis 26:12-14 (NKJV)** – ¹²*Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him.* ¹³*The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; ¹⁴for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants*
NOTE: Isaac didn't just survive! The Lord caused him to increase

and be blessed in famine – in a time when the world said you couldn't increase.

2. Joseph and the famine

- a. **Seven good years and seven bad years of famine in Genesis 41-42**
- b. **Genesis 41:53-54 (NKJV)** – ⁵³Then the seven years of plenty which were in the land of Egypt ended, ⁵⁴and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. The famine was in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread
- c. **Egypt had bread – because God gave one of His covenant people the insight – famine is coming – and the wisdom for how to prepare.**
- d. **Genesis 45:5-11 (NKJV)** – ⁵But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for **God sent me before you to preserve life.** ⁶For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are **still five years** in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. ⁷And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. ⁹“Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph: “God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. ¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children’s children, your flocks, and your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine.”’”
- e. **Genesis 47:27 (NKJV)** – **So Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions there and grew and multiplied exceedingly.**

NOTE: When the rest of the world was experiencing the effects of the famine – poverty – etc. God's covenant people were experiencing His provision – and increase.

C. Building Faith for "Famine" – or troubled times.

For us – famine simply represents – any troubled times.

Our covenant is a total coverage policy – God left nothing out!

1. **Job 5:20 (NKJV)** – *In famine He shall redeem you from death, and in war from the power of the sword*

Job 5:20 (CEV) – *In times of war and famine, God will keep you safe*

2. **Psalm 33:18-20 (NIV)** – ¹⁸*But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, ¹⁹to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. ²⁰We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield*

3. **Psalm 37:18-19 (NKJV)** – ¹⁸*The LORD knows the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever. ¹⁹They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.*

Psalm 37:18-19 (NIV) – ¹⁸*The blameless spend their days under the LORD's care, and their inheritance will endure forever. ¹⁹In times of disaster they will not wither; in days of famine they will enjoy plenty*

Psalm 37:18-19 (NLT) – ¹⁸*Day by day the LORD takes care of the innocent, and they will receive an inheritance that lasts forever. ¹⁹They will not be disgraced in hard times; even in famine they will have more than enough.*

Psalm 37:18-19 (CEV) – ¹⁸*Those who obey the LORD are daily in his care, and what he has given them will be theirs forever. ¹⁹They won't be in trouble when times are bad, and they will have plenty when food is scarce.*

QUOTE FROM THE MESSAGE BIBLE

In hard times, they'll hold their heads high; when the shelves are bare, they'll be full.

NOTE: ALL OF THESE THAT ARE SPOKEN OF are God's covenant people. *They qualify for His blessing because they have entered into covenant with Him. When we were born again – we entered into covenant with God – through the blood and name of Jesus; WE ARE HIS COVENANT PEOPLE!*

4. QUALIFYING FOR HIS BLESSING IN TOUGH TIMES

- a. **Psalm 1:1-3 (NKVJ)** – ¹*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. ³He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.*

NOTE: Meditating on your covenant – covenant promises is extremely important when encountering troubled times. Are you depending on the counsel of the ungodly – or are you drawing strength from the Word of God? The one who meditates in it day and night – is the one whose leaf doesn't wither and the one who prospers. Where is the word flow in your daily thinking?

III. Closing Statements

A. Think right – talk right – live right!

B. Do not get into the Spirit of Famine

1. We will never make it.
2. What are we going to do?
3. I don't know how we will come through this.
4. Don't stop believing!
5. Don't stop hoping/expecting!
6. Don't stop dreaming!
7. Don't allow fear to stop you from living

- C. Stand against the spirit of tough times – in faith!

- D. The spirit of recession has no place in our covenant – just the same as the spirit of covid has no place in our covenant – *therefore, I cannot participate.*