

## Eat Too Much?

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by Wayne Goff

**Thanksgiving Day** (November 27, 2014) was a day on which most Americans ate an abundance of food set before them. Turkey, ham, chicken, duck, pheasant are some of the meats traditionally offered. Mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, sweet potato casserole, candied yams, cranberry jelly or salad, yeast rolls, and pumpkin pie round out the table!

The apostle Paul reminds us in Acts 14:17 that such blessings *silently* given by God for thousands of years are a testimony to His existence and providence: *"Who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness"* (Acts 14:16-17). Yes, every day I am thankful that God has given me my *"daily bread,"* but the annual thanksgiving feast reminds me most of this passage — *"filling our hearts with food and gladness."*

Such blessings are not automatic. I recall the horrible starvation suffered by the Jews of Jerusalem in the sixth century B.C. The city of Jerusalem was besieged by Nebuchadnezzar and *"by the ninth day of the fourth month the famine had become so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land"* (2 Kings 25:3). This was caused by the nation's rebellion against God, 2 Chronicles 36:16. *"But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy."* The people even refused to heed God's warning through Jeremiah to surrender to Babylon and live (Jer. 38:2). It is not good when a nation forgets their God!

So be grateful for this year's abundant harvest. There have been famines in the lives of Abraham (Gen. 12:10), Isaac (Gen. 26:1), Jacob (Gen. 41:27), Ruth (Ruth 1:1), David (2 Sam. 21:1), Elijah (1 Kings 18:2), Elisha (2 Kings 4:38), and others. But the worst famine of all is *"...not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord"* (Amos 8:11). Be thankful for your daily bread — both *physical* (Matt. 6:11) and *spiritual* (Jn. 6:27).

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