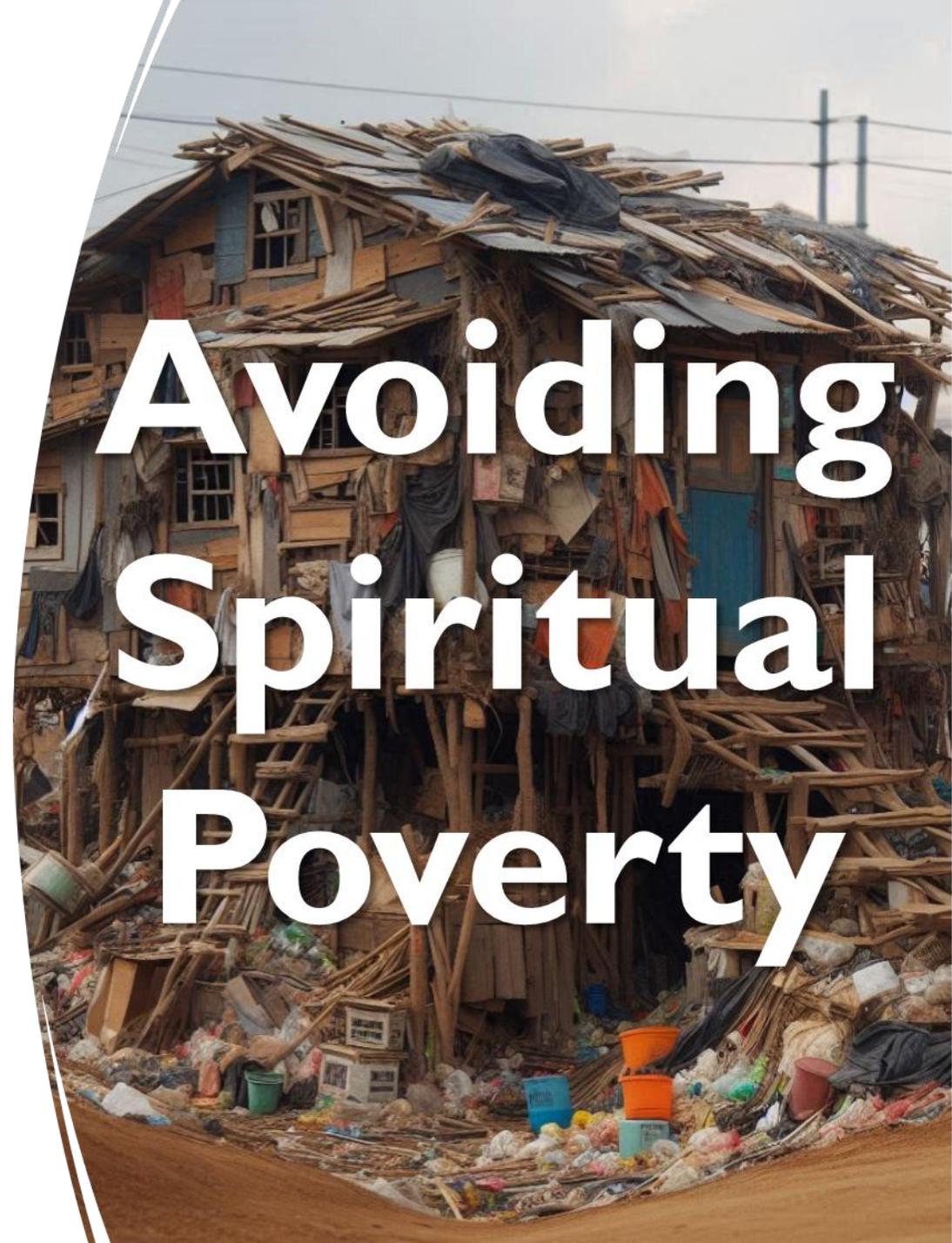


**A Famine of  
God's Word**



**Avoiding  
Spiritual  
Poverty**

# Spiritual Poverty

- Spiritual poverty occurs when there is a famine of God's word.
  - There were times when God withheld His Word.
  - There were times when man rejected God's word.
  - In either instance, spiritual poverty was the result.



# A Famine of God's Word



# A Famine of God's Word

- The nation of Israel was going to face a spiritual famine.
  - Israel had rejected the law of God.  
***Hosea 4:1-10***
  - Israel would face a famine “*of hearing the words of the Lord.*” ***Amos 8:11-12***
  - Israel would turn to their false gods.  
***Amos 8:13-14***



# A Famine of God's Word

- The nation of Israel fell to the Assyrians and God was silent.
  - God no longer spoke to Israel through prophets.
  - In vain, Israel would seek help from the Lord whom they had rejected.
  - Israel would not recover from their spiritual poverty.



# A Famine of God's Word

- Judah faced a similar famine.
  - After the captivity, God spoke to Judah through Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.
  - There were no prophets until John the baptizer. ***Cf. Mal 3:1; 4:4-6; Luke 1:67, 76-79***
  - John prepared the way for the One who would end the famine of God's Word.



# God's Word Came in Abundance



# God's Word Came in Abundance

- The Word became flesh. ***John 1:1-5, 14-15***
- God spoke to man through Jesus Christ.  
***Heb 1:1-4***
- Jesus' words will judge mankind.  
***John 8:44-50***
- Jesus' words also came through the apostles. ***John 16:7-15; cf. Eph 2:19-22***



**If, God's word came in  
abundance,**

**then**

***why does spiritual poverty  
exist?***



# Why Does Spiritual Poverty Exist?

- The world rejects God's abundance!
  - This famine is self-imposed!
  - The world rejects...
    - The Living Water. ***John 4:10-14***
    - The Bread of Life. ***John 6:32-40, 47-48***



# Why Does Spiritual Poverty Exist?

- The world rejects God's abundance!
  - Consider the Jewish leaders. ***John 8:42-47***
  - Mankind suppresses "*the truth in unrighteousness.*" ***Rom 1:18-23***
  - Mankind does not receive the "*love of the truth.*" ***2 Thess 2:9-12***



# Conclusion

- Spiritual poverty develops when people reject God's word.
- Is there a famine of God's word in your life?
  - Make the decision to partake of God's word, learning about Jesus Christ.
  - If you will learn of Him and believe in Him, then you can have the salvation of your soul.

