

# Amos 8:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

## Analysis

**And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it** (וְנָעוּ מִם עַד־יָם וְמִזְרָחּ וְשָׁוֹבְטוּ לְבָקֵשׁ אֶת־דִּבְרֵיהָנָה וְלֹא יִמְצָאוּ) v'na'u miyam ad-yam umitzafon v'ad-mizrach y'shot'tu l'vekeish et-d'var YHWH v'lo yimtza'u)—The verbs intensify desperate search: נָעַ (nua, 'to wander'), שׁוֹבֵט (shotet, 'to run to and fro'), בָּקַשׁ (bakash, 'to seek earnestly'). Yet לֹא יִמְצָא (lo yimtza'u, 'they will not find')—God's Word becomes unavailable.

This describes spiritual famine worse than physical starvation (Amos 8:11). Those who despised God's Word when available will desperately seek it when removed. This prefigures Jesus's warning: 'The night cometh, when no man can work' (John 9:4). Opportunity for repentance doesn't last forever—God's patience has limits. When judgment arrives, it's too late to seek what was previously rejected.

## Historical Context

After Samaria's fall and exile, prophetic voice ceased in the northern kingdom. No more prophets arose; God's Word fell silent. For generations, they'd rejected prophets like Amos—then when judgment came, no prophetic word offered hope or guidance. Hebrews 12:17 describes similar irreversible loss: Esau 'found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.'

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does rejecting God's Word when it's available lead to its removal when desperately needed?
2. What warning does this give to churches or nations that increasingly silence or ignore Scripture?
3. How should the possibility of irreversible spiritual famine motivate urgent response to God's Word now?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיָדְרָא	מִ	עַ	מִ	מִצְרַיִם	מִ
And they shall wander	from sea	H5704	from sea	and from the north	H5704
H5128	H3220		H3220	H6828	
מִזְרָחַ	וְיָרַדְתָּ	לִשְׁמַרְתָּ	אֶת	דְּבָרָ	וְיָדָ
even to the east	they shall run to and fro	to seek	H853	the word	of the LORD
H4217	H7751	H1245	H1697	H3068	
וְלֹא	יִמְצָא				
H3808	and shall not find	H4672			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 12:30** (Parallel theme): He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

**Daniel 12:4** (Word): But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

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