

PERILOUS TIMES: FOOD SHORTAGES

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Daniel Valles, 4/26/8

*Mat 24:7-8 "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and **there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.**"*

Wal-Mart restricts rice purchases news.bbc.co.uk 4/24/8

["Sam's Club, Wal-Mart's cash-and-carry division, says customers can buy a maximum of four bags per visit. ...The international price of rice has risen by 68% this year and Wal-Mart said the restrictions were "due to recent supply and demand trends"."]

Load Up the Pantry [Wall Street Journal] wsj.com 4/23/8

["Reality: Food prices are already rising here much faster than the returns you are likely to get from keeping your money in a bank or money-market fund. And there are very good reasons to believe prices on the shelves are about to start rising a lot faster. ...Even the best one-year certificate of deposit you can find is only going to pay you about 4.1%, according to Bankrate.com. And those yields are before tax. Meanwhile the most recent government data shows food inflation for the average American household is now running at 4.5% a year. And some prices are rising even more quickly. The latest data show..."]

Gas prices are the highest they have ever been

usatoday.com 4/22/8 The shipping costs of food is also added to the rise in the commodity's price.

Food Rationing Confronts Breadbasket of the World

nysun.com 4/22/8 ["Major retailers in New York, in areas of New England, and on the West Coast are limiting purchases of flour, rice, and cooking oil as demand outstrips supply."]

Asian food crisis has political and civil implications

iht.com 4/19/8 ["The price of rice, which on world markets surged 165 percent over the past year, is being closely watched as a barometer of potential unrest."]

China to Raise Fertilizer Export Tax to Boost Supply

bloomberg.com 4/18/8 ["China, the world's largest grain producer, will increase export duties on all fertilizers and some related raw materials by 100 percentage points to ensure domestic supply for farmers during the main growing season. ...If China effectively restricts exporting fertilizers, it could be "fatal" to global supplies of some products, such as ammonium phosphate, as it supplies between 20 to 30 percent of global trade volume of the plant feed, Xu said."]

Bangladesh army feeds troops potatoes

reuters.com 4/18/8 ["More than half a million Bangladeshi troops have been ordered to eat potatoes in an attempt to ease the impact of surging rice and wheat prices."]

Biggest grain exporters halt foreign sales ninemsn.com.au

4/17/8 ["...Kazakhstan, one of the world's biggest wheat exporters halted foreign sales and rice prices shot to a record high after Indonesia stopped its farmers from selling the grain abroad."]

As Australia dries, the world suffers iht.com 4/17/8 ["The Deniliquin mill, the largest rice mill in the Southern Hemisphere, once processed enough grain to satisfy the daily needs of 20 million people. But six long years of drought have taken a toll, reducing Australia's rice crop by 98 percent and leading to the mothballing of the mill last December."]

World Bank echoes food cost alarm bbc.co.uk 4/14/8

["The price of staple crops such as wheat, rice and corn have all risen, leading to an increase in overall food prices of 83% in the last three years, the World Bank has said. The sharp rises have led to protests and unrest in many countries, including Egypt, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, the Philippines and Indonesia."]

Bangladesh workers riot over soaring food prices

breitbart.com 4/14/8 ["...involved around 10,000 workers from several garment factories, adding, "They became unruly demanding higher wages, saying their current wages don't even meet basic food needs." The government says food prices, notably the staple rice, have doubled in the last year, caused by a massive shortfall in production after devastating floods and a cyclone last year."]

Who caused the world food crisis? nationalpost.com 4/9/8

["...At the World Bank, president Robert B. Zoellick last week proposed a "New Deal for Global Food Policy." The bank estimates that 33 countries face potential social unrest because of the "acute hike in food and energy prices.""]

Could we really run out of food? msn.com 4/8/8

["Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan in recent weeks have restricted wheat exports as well, slapping on big tariffs to make sure shelves are stocked in their homelands amid soaring prices. ...until now, food crises in world history were regional concerns that arose from crop failures, war or pests. Once global trade of grains got going in the 19th century in a major way, food shortages in one country were ameliorated by imports, he said. What's happening now is a lack of supply everywhere at once."]

What's coming?

Massive spikes in food costs, scarcity and rationing, tied with social unrest

What can I do?

Invest in durable/on-hand food. Have a garden. Have a full pantry (2-3 months supply of food at least) and use it, rotating out old with newer. Store what you eat; eat what you store. Buying food in bulk now saves money from the monthly food and gas price increases. Discount grocery stores and bent-and-dent stores will give you more for your money. Buy generic. Avoid ramen noodles. Learn to cook from ingredients (ie. cookbood), not mixes - will save you lotsa money.

"...and having food and raiment let us be therewith content."
1 Timothy 6:8

Read Act 11:28-30 for the disciples' response to a famine.

"A prudent man forseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished." Proverbs 22:3