

# THANK GOD FOR THE PLAGUE

Matthew 24:7-8; Ephesians 5:20

## INTRODUCTION

- The coronavirus has turned the world upside-down
- The greatest impact has not been the disease itself, but the response of governments to it – closing borders, halting travel, rationing purchases, closing businesses, banning gatherings, and effectively crippling economies
- Many in the government and media are sensationalising and scaremongering as it suits their agenda to create fear in the population
- Multitudes are now living in fear, panic and dread of what may happen to them
- In their fear, some are finding comfort in godless songs such as “Imagine” and “You’ll Never Walk Alone”
- But while the children of this world have their “hearts failing them for fear” (Luke 21:26), the children of God have been given another spirit, not “the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Rather than be *fearful*, we can be *thankful* for the coronavirus (Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18)
- While the world sings the song of fools (Ecclesiastes 7:5), the Christian sings songs of praise and thanksgiving to God continually:

*Through all the changing scenes of life,  
In trouble and in joy,  
The praises of my God shall still  
My heart and tongue employ.*

- One of the marks of true faith is a thankful heart, not only in times of prosperity, but particularly in times of trial
- Job, having lost all his wealth, and all of his ten children, responded by worshipping God and blessing his name (Job 1:20-22)

Consider three reasons we can be thankful unto God for the plague:

## **I. BE THANKFUL THAT GOD HAS DOMINION OVER THE PLAGUE**

### A. The earthly source of the plague

1. The virus is thought to have originated in China
2. If we look back further such diseases originated with the fall of man and the curse that came upon the creation (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12; 8:22)

### B. The divine source of the plague

1. God, in his almighty providence, preserves and governs his creation (Psalm 103:19)
2. He “worketh all things after the counsel of his own will” (Ephesians 1:11)
3. He sends both good and evil upon man, as he sees fit
  - a. “Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?” (Job 2:10)
  - b. “I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.” (Psalm 119:75)
  - c. “I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.” (Isaiah 45:7)

- i. Note that the “evil” in this verse is not *moral* evil, but the opposite of peace, such as judgments, plagues, pestilence, war, etc.
4. Everything God does is just, holy and good (Psalm 145:17)
5. His ways are not our ways, and his ways are past finding out – we must not presume to think we can fathom his unsearchable judgments (Isaiah 55:8-9; Deuteronomy 29:29; Romans 11:33-36)
6. God is said in Scripture to directly send *pestilence* upon man twenty-five times, and *plagues* twenty-three times
7. God has been wonderfully merciful in sending a virus upon the world, instead of immediately raining fire upon the world and burning mankind up, as we all deserve

## **II. BE THANKFUL THAT GOOD WILL DEVELOP FROM THE PLAGUE**

- A. The forces of darkness are using the plague for their wicked designs
  1. Globalist agencies and governments are using the crisis to remove liberties, seize power, and hasten their New World Order
    - a. The World Health Organisation has urged the world to stop using cash for transactions
    - b. The Hong Kong government is forcing new arrivals to wear tracking wristbands/bracelets that will notify authorities if they leave home, or try to remove it
    - c. The USA, the President has enacted the “Defence Production Act”, which gives the government power to force private companies to produce goods or render services for the government

2. It is important to remember what their ultimate objective is: centrally controlled society, politically, economically
  - a. The end of the family unit, where the state owns your children
  - b. The end of private property; the end of small/family business, and even medium-sized business, so that everything is controlled by multinational corporations
  - c. The end of national democracies, and the formation of a global technocracy

B. Yet there are positive results from the crisis

1. A realisation of the frailty of man (Psalm 39:4)
  - a. Many people live under the illusion that they are indestructible
  - b. Yet our lives can be cut short by something so small that it cannot be seen by the naked eye
2. A removal of trust in riches
  - a. Prosperity is an obstacle to faith in God (Deuteronomy 8:10-17; 2 Chronicles 26:16; Psalm 30:6; Matthew 19:16-24)
  - b. Many now see that riches are “deceitful” (Matthew 13:22) and “uncertain” (1 Timothy 6:17)
  - c. Many now see the folly of trusting in riches that “make themselves wings”, and “fly away” (Proverbs 23:5)
3. The closure of borders, and nations asserting their sovereignty
  - a. The distinct nation-state is sanctioned by God (see Genesis 10)

- b. Globalism is rebellion against God (Genesis 11), and is an integral element of the final world kingdom under antichrist (Revelation 13)
- 4. Many children are being taken from schools to be taught by their parents at home
  - a. Parents, particularly fathers, are entrusted with the instructing of their children (Ephesians 6:4)
  - b. Children are likely to become infected at school
    - i. Humanism
    - ii. Evolutionism
    - iii. Socialism
    - iv. Immorality
    - v. Sodomy
    - vi. Transgenderism
    - vii. Vulgarly
- 5. Concern for the elderly
  - a. The condition of a society may be gauged by the way they treat their young and aged
  - b. Darwinian evolutionists are happy with the coronavirus as it “naturally rejects” and kills the elderly and unhealthy, who should be eliminated for the good of the herd
  - c. The Bible commands us to honour the grey head (Leviticus 19:32)

6. The closure of pubs and clubs with their drunkenness and immorality (Habakkuk 2:15)
  7. The crippling of the idol of professional sports (Exodus 20:3)
  8. Postponement of transgender surgeries
  9. Stockpiling of guns and ammunition (Luke 22:36)
- C. Affliction is the means that God often employs to turn people to himself
1. The ungodly, like the Prodigal, are not ready to turn to God until they “begin to be in want” (Luke 15:14)
  2. God uses affliction in the life of the believer
    - a. For chastening (Hebrews 12:5-11; Psalm 119:67)
    - b. For our perfection (Romans 5:3-5; James 1:3-4)
    - c. As unpleasant as these afflictions are, we know that they work together for our good (Romans 8:28)

### **III. BE THANKFUL THAT GOD WILL DELIVER FROM THE PLAGUE**

- A. God promises protection and deliverance to his people (Psalm 34:19; 2 Peter 2:9; 2 Corinthians 1:8-10)
- B. Christians are *not* promised to be spared from suffering, sickness or death from disease (see 2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
1. Paul was confident that “the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom” (2 Timothy 4:18)
  2. A short time after writing those words, Paul was beheaded for the name of Christ
  3. His deliverance was not *from* death, but *through* death

4. Some have misused scriptures like Psalm 91 to teach that believers will not become infected with the virus (Psalm 91:3-9)
- C. The ultimate deliverance for the Christian is *eternal* deliverance beyond this life and world
1. Death to the believer is an entrance to the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:8)
  2. It is *then* we shall be freed from all sickness, pain and evil for all eternity (Revelation 21:3-4)
- D. Hence we should act with wisdom regarding the present crisis
1. We must be careful not to act presumptuously and tempt God (Matthew 4:5-7)
  2. “A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.” (Proverbs 22:3; cf. 28:1)

## CONCLUSION

1. As serious as this current plague is, there have been far more serious plagues in world history
2. The Spanish flu of 1918-1919 killed 50-100 million people worldwide, which was between 3-5% of the world's population
3. When affliction comes, we have a choice as to how we respond – either *curse* God (Job 2:9), or *trust* God (Job 13:15)
4. As we see the fabric of society fracturing around us, it is an *opportunity* to rebuild
5. For Satan's people, an opportunity to rebuild upon a satanic, humanist, globalist foundation

6. For God's people, an opportunity to rebuild society upon a foundation of the gospel of Jesus Christ
7. This plague is having a serious and tragic impact on many people, physically, emotionally and financially, and our hearts go out to them
8. But it is vital we view this from an eternal perspective
9. In 100 billion years from now people will not be thinking about the coronavirus of 2020
10. If there is any thought of this life in eternity, it will be, "What did I do with Jesus? Did I believe in him, to the saving of my soul? Did I reject him, to my eternal damnation?"
11. The greatest plague comes not from without, but from within – the plague of the heart (1 Kings 8:38)
12. It matters little if a person escapes the present plague, only to perish in hell for eternity (Matthew 16:26)
13. For those who are in Christ, there is nothing, including the plague, that can separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:35-39)

*Fear him, ye saints, and you will then  
Have nothing else to fear;  
Make you his service your delight,  
Your wants shall be his care.*