

Morning Sermon March 22, 2020

“A Biblical Look at the Corona Virus!” Psalm 91

I. The Biblical argument for faith –

1. Who is safe, and why –

¹ He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.” Psalm 91:1–2 (NKJV)

- A. A secret place, is a place not many know about, probably few do.
- B. The shadow of the Almighty is a reference to being close to God’s protecting power.
- C. The LORD is the refuge and fortress of the Psalmist!

2. God’s promises about the pestilence –

A. Deliverance -

³ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. Psalm 91:3 (NKJV)

B. Lack of fear of it –

⁵ You shall not be afraid ...

⁶ ... of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness, ... Psalm 91:5-6 (NKJV)

C. They are connected to our relationship, our dependence, our trust or faith in God –

⁹ Because you have made the LORD, *who* is my refuge, *even* the Most High, your dwelling place,¹⁰ No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; Psalm 91:9–10 (NKJV)

These two verses tell us:

- (1) We need to make the LORD our refuge, our dwelling place - Not money, not medicine, PRAYER should be our emphasis
- (2) Plagues are ultimately punishment for sin
- (3) Plagues come near and enter many dwellings, but in Christ we are safe ---

¹³ Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. Exodus 12:13 (NKJV)

3. This Psalm is quoted by Satan in an attempt to tempt Christ, in an attempt to tempt to an extreme that is not “faith” but foolishness –

¹¹ For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. ¹² In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone. Psalm 91:11–12 (NKJV)

See Satan’s tempting quotation of these verses to Christ -

⁶ and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ” Matthew 4:6 (NKJV)

- A. Did Jesus throw Himself down to prove Himself the Christ? No!
- B. Do Christians sometimes believe Satan and do extreme things to show what they think great faith? Yes! How? Why?
- C. How are we to exercise faith? By trusting and obeying God’s Word ...

II. The Biblical argument for social distancing –

- 1. Chapters 13 and 14 of Leviticus give us instruction on dealing with Leprosy, please read more of the chapters to see detail given, I will only consider part –
- 2. Note Priests were given the job of examining the sick, and diagnosing disease -

¹³ And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying: ² “When a man has on the skin of his body a swelling, a scab, or a bright spot, and it becomes on the skin of his body *like* a leprous sore, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests. ³ The priest shall examine the sore on the skin of the body; and if the hair on the sore has turned white, and the sore appears *to be* deeper than the skin of his body, it *is* a leprous sore.

- A. God made our bodies, and He made them well, sin has brought disease, our bodies have their own ability, built in, to fight disease –

¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and *that* my soul knows very well. Psalm 139:14 (NKJV)

B. *We have hurt the medical profession counting it and letting move secular, care is indicated here -*

Then the priest shall examine him, and pronounce him unclean. ⁴ But if the bright spot *is* white on the skin of his body, and does not appear to be deeper than the skin, and its hair has not turned white, then the priest shall isolate the one who has the sore seven days.

- *Doctors who don't believe in God, won't believe in the sanctity of human life -*

⁶ **"Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man. Genesis 9:6 (NKJV)**

The value of life is lowered / even killing, abortion / euthanasia is called "healthcare"

C. *Note isolation for a period of time was commanded, this was isolation with periodic examination -*

⁵ And the priest shall examine him on the seventh day; and indeed if the sore appears to be as it was, *and* the sore has not spread on the skin, then the priest shall isolate him another seven days. ⁶ Then the priest shall examine him again on the seventh day; and indeed if the sore has faded, *and* the sore has not spread on the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him clean; it *is only* a scab, and he shall wash his clothes and be clean. ⁷ But if the scab should at all spread over the skin, after he has been seen by the priest for his cleansing, he shall be seen by the priest again. ⁸ And if the priest sees that the scab has indeed spread on the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean. It is leprosy. Leviticus 13:1-8 (NKJV) *Note this is just part of detailed instruction ...*

Note, isolation was for a period of time, with periodic examination, the end goal was to bring the sick person back when healthy ...

D. *This isolation could be extreme -*

⁴⁵ **"Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!'"** ⁴⁶ He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He *is* unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling *shall* be outside the camp. Leviticus 13:45-46 (NKJV)

Chapters 13 & 14 of Leviticus also teach the cleaning and sanitation of clothing and of houses (buildings) to get rid of disease - "The ancient

Jews were light years ahead of the pagan world in terms of sanitary codes... D. James Kennedy

"The historical importance of Hebrew medicine lies in its fundamental contribution to communal hygiene through concepts contained in the Bible" Roberto Margotta, The Story of Medicine

III. *How these things fit together -*

1. *Faith was needed on the priest's part as he was regularly in contact with the sick, he counted on God's protection and deliverance - Psalm 91:3.*
2. *Faith, Christian faith, brought the beginning of health care and especially hospitals into our world -*

"In the pre-Christian Roman Empire hospitals existed only for soldiers, gladiators and slaves. Manual laborers and other poor individuals had no place of refuge. Men feared death and took little interest in the sick, but often drove them out of the house and left them to their fate." John Jefferson Davis

3. *Faith is not doing what is most extreme, hugging and kissing everyone at church during a time of disease, but faith is following Christian / Biblical principles, which include washing hands, washing clothes, keeping a distance from people who are sick or if you are sick, keeping your own distance to keep others safe -*

⁴⁵ **"Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean! Leviticus 13:45**

IV. *Beware of lies ...*

1. *Fear what you should, not what you should NOT -*

⁴ **"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. ⁵ But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! Luke 12:4-5 (NKJV)**

2. *Don't trust men / trust God - Proverbs 3:5-6*

Arnold Brevick