

The Coronavirus and the Coming of Christ

(A Message to the Multitudes)

(Preached on Sunday Evening, April 5, 2020)

“And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.”
(Luke 21:11)

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 4:17)

As I wrote this message and as I am presenting it to you now, I and my family, and quite probably you and yours (as well as the majority of everyone *else* living in your city, your nation and yes, throughout the entire world) is isolated, restricted, fearfully confined and “asked” to remain within the walls of our home.

The numbers of deaths are rising every day. The numbers of those infected surpassed the million-mark days ago. Meanwhile, research-driven reports continue to arise declaring that the contagion is greater than it was thought to be... just the day before.

Celebrities, royalty, co-workers, politicians, family relatives, people next door: announcements of who-has-the-virus-now continue to pour in.

Whether you call it “Safe at Home”, “Lock Down”, “quarantine” or anything else, it is what it. They call it “the coronavirus” or “COVID-19”, as if giving it a label lessens its effect. Labels indeed... of men! What does God call it, and where can we find what *He* has to say about all this?

The Bible is the Word of God.

“Is it?” You may ask. While you are asking, please allow us to restate the fact: *The Bible is the Word of God.*

Every Christian who has

- truly met with Christ and been converted into the family of God through Him;
- been washed, cleansed from sins by the eternal divine blood that He shed on that cross;
- been given life when they themselves were *resurrected* from the death that every man that comes into this world is born into;
 - I say been resurrected through the power of *his* resurrection,
 - the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Savior of the World;

Every true "believer" has found that the greatest proof of the Bible being the miraculously inspired Word of God is...

- That Jesus *really* saves from sin;
- That the triune God *exists* – He who they themselves personally *came* to know, when they came to God the Father through Jesus, God the Son and were "quickened" (made alive) through God the Holy Spirit;
- That the Word of God, which the Spirit of God used and still uses to bring them into direct and *constant* contact with God *is indeed*
 - "quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

So yes, go review the archaeology, the science *not* "falsely so called", the historical records, the linguistic confirmations, the army of facts which *clearly* substantiate Jesus' authoritatively stating,

"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle [one dot above the letter "i" or line across the letter "t"] shall in no wise pass from the law [a.k.a. the Bible], till all be fulfilled."
(Matthew 5:18)

Yes, *you* go back and study. Take your time: question and query, as did our Mother Eve in the Garden... *while COVID-19 continues to escalate!* The rest of us? With that mutating virus engulfing us like an army, we will, we *must* crack open a Bible to read the *full text* of the opening verse given at the start of this message. As you do, catch that word, that label given by God for that which we are experiencing right now.

"And they asked him, saying, 'Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?'"

“And he said, ‘Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.

“But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.

“Then said he unto them, ‘Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and great earthquakes shall be in divers [different] places, and famines, and **pestilences**; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.

“But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

“And it shall turn to you for a testimony.” (Luke 21:7-13)

“Pestilences.” Simple. That’s what the coronavirus is, of course.

the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia says this about the word “pestilence.”

“Any **sudden fatal epidemic** is designated by this word, and in its Biblical use it generally indicates that these are **divine visitations.**” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/pestilence/>)

Are you wondering if the Bible *really* “indicates that these are divine visitations?” Yes, it does. This is *exactly* how the word is used *48 different times* throughout the Bible!

Still, it must not go without notice that this “pestilence” is only part of this large statement mentioned above and pronounced with power *by Christ* over 2,000 years ago. And we must, yea, we shall now seek to discern from our Lord, the answer that he gave to his disciples two questions; yes, and to one other that they did not ask but which he so clearly answered anyway.

- ❖ “When shall these things be?”
- ❖ “What sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?”
- ❖ “What will happen to us and what are we to do when these things occur?”

I. The coronavirus may be a foreshadowing of the "Great Tribulation" - which directly precedes Christ coming again!

"And he said, 'Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.

"But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by."
(Luke 21:8-10)

II. The coronavirus may *actually be* a part of the "Great Tribulation" - which would mean that Christ is coming again *in just 7 years!*

"Then said he unto them, 'Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and great earthquakes shall be in divers [different] places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.'" (Luke 21:11-12)

III. In either case, the coronavirus points us directly (although through "much tribulation") to one great and wonderful fact: Christ *is* coming again (and probably very, very soon)!

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." (Luke 21:25-27)

Conclusion:

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. (Luke 21:28)

OUTLINE:

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- I. Does it lead into the "Great Tribulation?" (Luke 21:8-10)
- II. Does it mean we're already in the "Great Tribulation?" (Luke 21:11-12)
- III. In either case, it shows that Christ is coming soon! (Luke 21:27)