

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

032920A

INTRODUCTION

1. How should we interpret this pandemic? It confronts us w/ life's large questions: 1] What kind of world is this? 2] For what should I be living? 3] Am I ready to die?
2. We need to have the big picture in view in order to understand a microscopic virus. A biblical worldview.

1st: The Bible's Worldview: Creation - Fall - Redemption - Consummation.

1. **Creation:** Genesis 1:1,31,27 - *very good*
2. **Fall:** Genesis 2:17; 3:4; Romans 5:12; 8:20 - sin brought curse of death
3. **Redemption:** gracious provisions for salvation: forgiveness & life = "gospel". All provisions fulfilled in Jesus - Luke 24:46-47
4. **Consummation** = life w/ God in age to come - John 5:28-29. Resurrection then judgment: eternity
5. Our problem: death. In Jesus we have life eternal.
6. A biblical worldview allows us to see ourselves & viruses.

2nd: The Pandemic Must Be Viewed in the Light of Creation and the Fall.

1. The distinction between Creator & creation is foundational. Romans 1:25.
2. The distinction between God's good creation & the effects of the Fall. Genesis 3:17; Romans 8:20.
3. Failure to differentiate Creation & Fall – 2 Peter 3:3-7. At issue is refusal to acknowledge the legitimacy of God's judgment. See Psalm 10. Romans 1:25 *the lie* = Genesis 3:4 *you shall surely not die*.
4. But we do die. A judgment must be made. Can we judge God? We see suffering & death & are tempted to blame God.

3rd: This Pandemic Must Be Viewed in the Light of Redemption & Consummation.

1. In Genesis 3, God did curse but, incomprehensibly, He salvaged creation & launched His program of redemption to bring man into His Sabbath glory.
2. The Creator reveals that He is the Redeemer - Habakkuk 3:2. Mercy, pardon, forgiveness - good news for death deserving sinners!
 - i. God salvaged original order of creation: "common grace." Platform on which the gospel is preached - Acts 14:17.
 - ii. God revealed "saving grace": promised One to defeat Satan; provided sacrificial substitute to bear sentence of death; sent from garden to hope for new garden; received worship on Sabbath.
 - a. Over course of time & thru series of covenants, God continued to promise the gospel which is fully revealed in Jesus Christ.
3. Jesus rose from dead & is seated on God's throne directing course of gospel & building His church until 2nd coming. Grants forgiveness of sin & life w/ God.
4. Thankful for all human gov'ts & medical professionals & civic servants for all they're doing to combat pandemic. Only the gov't of Jesus can forgive sins & bring us into the life of the age to come.
5. 1 Corinthians 15 - Jesus' resurrection & reign.
 - i. Luke 21 & Matthew 24-25 - life in this period of redemptive history: 1] gospel will be proclaimed to entire world; 2] opposition & persecution; 3] many will apostatize; 4] social upheaval & natural catastrophes: including plagues.
 - ii. Defining metaphor - pregnant woman giving birth - contractions crescendo to climax of birth - Romans 8:18-22
6. What kind of world is this? For what should I be living? Am I ready to die? May the Holy Spirit use this pandemic to see that the gospel of Jesus Christ answers these urgent questions. *Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed & whoever will call upon Him will be saved* [Romans 10:11f]