

God's Gift of Protection

For the first time in our lives we face an uncertain future. Normality has suddenly disappeared and the world has changed, whether we live in a mud hut or a mansion. There is a pervasive sense of fear as we watch the dramatic increase in the death statistics from nations we may have visited, places we have holidayed in, and the figures creep up even where we live.

Our confident plans have been shattered; our finances seriously affected. The streets have emptied, the borders closed, and society is shutting down around us, with no end in sight. We wonder how could this happen, and what may happen next in our secure Western world, where we have felt immune to the tragedies, we see daily on the television news?

Apparently, it was caused by a wet Chinese food market, which sells all kinds of creatures which were never supposed to be eaten, but then, how could the Chinese know that, in an atheist communist country which has suppressed the only book which tells us what and what not to eat if we want to stay healthy – the Bible!

Leviticus 11: **‘And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them, “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, These are the living things that you may eat **among all the animals that are on the earth.** Whatever parts the hoof and is cloven-footed and chews the cud, among the animals, you may eat. Nevertheless, among those that chew the cud or part the hoof, you shall not eat these: The camel, because it chews the cud but does not part the hoof, is unclean to you. And the rock badger, because it chews the cud but does not part the hoof, is unclean to you. And the hare, because it chews the cud but does not part the hoof, is unclean to you. And the pig, because it parts the hoof and is cloven-footed but does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. You shall not eat any of their flesh, and you shall not touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you.....”’**

Still, how many people in the West are aware that our Western laws and our health regulations, even the very idea of quarantine, were long ago taken from that same Bible, which has now been almost universally relegated to the dustbin by many supposedly educated Westerners?

Our scientists are frantically working to come up with a cure to this simple virus that has turned our lives upside down, but in fact their inability to produce the quick fix has exposed their limited human ability in the face of a worldwide pandemic, which is likely to take millions in the poorer nations.

Only with our families do we feel secure, and our homes have become our safe havens into which we have gladly retreated from a dangerous world, warding off the

virus with sanitisers and sprays. The world with its bright lights, sport and entertainments has faded in attraction, and as we help each other and our neighbours, the true values in life can begin to be found. The older we are, all of a sudden, our mortality comes into question, and with hours of self-isolation to fill, some may find themselves asking questions about life they never had time for. Who knows, some may even blow the dust off that old Bible, and be amazed to find that Jesus talked about **the end of the age** exactly as we see it on the news each day, even down to the emergence of pestilence, like COVID -19, along with wars, famines, earthquakes and death!

Revelation 6:8 and Matthew 24:7, ‘**And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider’s name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth**’, ‘**For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places**’.

In fact, it is quite likely that that this shocking experience may be God’s way of showing us that something is seriously wrong; that our common assumption that we can decide for ourselves what is right and wrong, is not correct. We can look around us at what is happening on our earth and we should be able to see that mankind is making an awful lot of wrong choices, both physical and spiritual, and the evidence confronts us from day to day in a chaotic and evil world.

We need to recognise that God predicted He would act, Isaiah 24:5, ‘**The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant**’. We, humanity, have as good as poked God in the eye with our blatant rebellion. Gay Pride parades, the rainbow brigade, adulteries, murders, abortions, lying, cheating, and stealing, all these reflect our denial of God, our total disrespect for His Commandments and the Laws of our Creator. Our sins have mounted to the Heavens and our God has had enough. This pandemic, costly in every way though it is, will not compare to the predicted Tribulation if we do not turn from our evil ways. **This is but a foretaste and wakeup call** before the final miraculous warning which will reach every man and woman on the face of the earth with a vision of what the Bible calls “the Great Tribulation”, which will leave “few men left”. Revelation 14:6-7, ‘**Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”**’ Isaiah 24:6, ‘**Therefore, a curse consumes the earth. Its people must pay the price for their sin. They are destroyed by fire, and only a few are left alive**’.

Those few will be the ones who repented during the time of great trouble ahead, and asked for God’s forgiveness. If they are the descendants of ancient Israel, ie., the US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand etc., or *spiritual* Israelites of *any* nation through

repentance, they will be gathered in to Israel in the Middle East by the returned Christ and His Bride, which will become the leading nation of the post-Tribulation world, with its World Capital, Jerusalem.

There they will learn how to live God's way and enjoy peace, prosperity and happiness as an example to the other nations still in desolation. So, will you take this foretaste to heart? If you will, there is some good news. **Repent and change now** and you will not experience the Great Tribulation at all. Repent *during* the tribulation and you may be spared the worst of it. There are advantages to changing to God's way right now! Read the whole of Psalm 91 and gain God's protection straight away. There is only one condition. It is yours for the taking – nothing to join, no denomination, just a well-earned relationship with your Creator, as specified in verse 9: '**Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place— the Most High, who is my refuge**'. Dwell with the Lord. That means we must make His word our daily refuge and guide, and you need not fear!

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