



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

His hand is not removed from off the nations

I am pressed in my spirit to send out this article.

The nation is astir again as an even more severe lockdown is imposed in England, Scotland and Wales, and here in Northern Ireland we await similar restrictions to be imposed. Yet in truth, there is no real understanding of what is taking place. There is no seeing that the Lord is at work.

As long as that pertains, there CAN be no easing of the present distress.

Please consider the few thoughts we have put together.

His hand is not removed from off the nations

“ . . . His hand is not removed from you,” 1 Samuel 6:3.

The Covid-19 virus is proving to be more than merely similar to the ‘common ‘flu’ as some, even Christians, would have us all to believe!

This statement appeared on the BBC News site this morning.

“Scientists in South Africa say there is a “reasonable concern” the new variant of Covid-19 sweeping across the country might prove to be more resistant to current vaccines being rolled out in the UK and elsewhere, and warn it makes the need for a global rollout of vaccines “even more critical”.

“It’s a theoretical concern. A reasonable concern... that the South African variant might be more resistant,” Prof Shabir Madhi, who has led trials for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine in South Africa, tells the BBC.

Prof Madhi, responding to comments by the UK government and scientists, says a definitive answer will probably come in a matter of weeks, with extensive testing already under way in South Africa.

The concern arises from the fact the virus in South Africa is mutating far more than the variant in the UK, and one of those mutations might mean it can evade attack by antibodies that will normally fight coronavirus.

Prof Madhi says it is “unlikely” the mutation in South Africa will make the current vaccines useless, but it might “weaken the impact”.

A vaccine expert at Wits University, Prof Helen Rees, said: “Fortunately, should further modifications of the vaccine be required to address the new variants, some of the vaccine technologies under development could allow this to be done relatively rapidly.”

It would appear, and here we seek to be cautious, that if these ‘mutations’ taking place within the virus are as scientists fear, then all the boasted progress with the vaccines so rapidly produced at great cost to the public purse and great enrichment (according to news reports) to the scientists involved, may come to little or nothing!

I as a Christian, in the light of prophetic Scripture see this as the hand of God!

Nations have increasingly flouted God’s Law since the dawn of Creation but in the last hundred years and more have increasingly emboldened themselves in that defiance until today there is no regard whatsoever amongst the general public for any of God’s laws. Governments have, with complacent smugness, cast aside the tenets of God and imposed their own ‘moral’ standards upon nations! Of course, man’s morality is in



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fact 'immorality'! Unregenerate man is abominable and filthy and "drinketh iniquity like water?" Job 15:16.

Across the globe we have in place amongst the nations of man, laws permitting and endorsing that which God utterly hates and commanded man to turn his back upon.

It is for this reason that God will, in these last days visit the nations with judgment, WAR, FAMINE and PESTILENCE.

This, I believe, we are seeing begin amongst us.

From such, though pooh-pooed even by some Christians, there can be no escape by men though they invest £billions and exploit every form of ingenuity known to mankind. God's judgments upon the wickedness of a defiant, rebellious world will not be frustrated or avoided. Israel found that out to their cost in the days of Moses. "For indeed the hand of the LORD was against them, to destroy them from among the host, until they were consumed," Deuteronomy 2:15.

How many, even Christians, are putting their faith in a vaccine to deliver them from this plague! There is little consideration, even amongst Christians, that the vaccines being pushed upon the nation are those in which the tissue of an aborted baby is used, either for the actual production of the vaccine or its testing. For the vast majority of people no thought whatever is given to this fact. As long as there is some hope of escape presented, it matters not that murder has taken place to produce this vaccine.

Personally, I will not seek vaccination if it means the use of that which is stained with such a crime as abortion!

The events of the last ten months have not been ordinary. Where there have been anything like them before, God's people have recognised the hand of God at work and responded accordingly.

They have enquired WHY it is so and sought from God's Word guidance as to WHAT to do.

This has been to a great degree absent in recent months. It is certainly so at a national level. In comparison to times of national crisis but a generation ago, there has been no resorting unto God for His mercy and intervention. Indeed, there has not even been a mention of Him! As far as our government leaders are concerned, it is as if He is DEAD, NON-EXISTENT!

Such an attitude explains why there is judgment upon the nation and also guarantees that there will be no respite from God's afflictions upon us!

What are Christians to do?

I believe we must follow the example of the godly Israelite on the night of the first Passover.

"And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: and if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: and ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye



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shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover," Exodus 12:1-12.

1. There must be an embracing of God's Lamb. He is the Lord Jesus Christ. John the Baptist said: "Behold the Lamb of God!" John 1:36.

2. There must be a relying upon the covering of His blood for protection from the judgments of God. This is what faith in the gospel entails! "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him, John 3:36. There is shelter under the blood of Christ from that judgment which our sins deserve. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life," Romans 5:8-10.

3. In the midst of God's judgments, we must rest in faith upon the shelter of the blood of Christ. "And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it," verse 7. Such an act was very public. All could see the Israelite father doing this. Likewise we must openly profess in this godless age, our confidence in Christ to preserve us from the plagues that will come, while taking shelter as the Lord directs us.

4. There needs to be a feasting upon Christ amidst the dangers. That means of course, feeding upon His Word. He is the bread of life and it is as we BELIEVE God's Word that our souls are fed, sustained and maintained during times of distress. Such believing is a putting on the strength of Christ.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand," Ephesians 6:10-13.

Today, there is much fainting, much denying of God's truth amongst Christians. It comes as a result of the devil's attacks upon them. The answer is FAITH in God's Word! That faith is explained as a PUTTING ON the declarations of comfort and assurance given us in the Word as one would don armour.

How simple God makes it! Surely we can have no excuse for failing to understand! As we dress ourselves each day so we must READ God's Word and PUT ON the promise contained therein. We should reach forth our hand and by faith claim what God says to us and apply it to our hearts and lives. The little chorus taught to children says it all. 'Faith is just believing what God says He will do'!!

O Christian get into your Bible and seek the comfort, the shelter and the safety it provides for the soul in these days of distress.

Take the picture of the blood-sprinkled doorway on the night of the Passover in Egypt and carry it in your heart and mind and seek to emulate the act of faith it entailed.

May the Lord bless you all.

Rev Ivan Foster (Rtd)

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