



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### 'This Is The Finger Of God!'

*"Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said," Exodus 8:19.*

Some of the recent media headlines serve to show the 'unnatural' character of the Coronavirus outbreak. It is apparently defeating the best that science and money can throw at it, as nations struggle to hinder its spread and increase.

- "Belfast A&E doctor appeals to public: Stick to Covid rules to stop NHS being overwhelmed" - Belfast Newsletter
- "Coronavirus Northern Ireland: First person aged 19 or under dies after contracting Covid as nine further deaths reported" - Belfast Telegraph
- "Coronavirus: 'We're facing a war' - Italy's frontline doctors fear losing control as hospital cases" - Sky News.
- "Coronavirus rules in England aren't working, scientists say - with 96,000 a day getting COVID" - Sky News.
- "Coronavirus: Big family reunions at Christmas may be banned, minister warns" - Sky News.
- "Covid: England reaches 'critical stage' in second wave with estimated 96,000 new infections per day" - ITV News.
- "Covid: Environment Secretary George Eustice says controlling coronavirus is more important than Christmas" - ITV News.
- "London's R rate 'is the worst in England' and could be as high as 3: Government-run Covid-19 surveillance study claims the capital's outbreak is doubling every 72 hours" - Daily Mail
- "France goes into second Covid lockdown. Europe is being overrun, Emmanuel Macron warns as Boris Johnson is urged to protect UK economy" - Daily Telegraph

There is little doubt that a major part of the difficulty faced by medics is the indifference and carelessness of many and the scepticism and defiance of a sizeable body of opinion, convinced that the whole 'coronavirus' crisis is a sham and a conspiracy.

One local councillor from Co. Durham in England spoke to the Daily Mail and declared that she would not believe there was a virus! 'When my neighbours, relatives, friends and work people are dying around me then I'll believe it's true.' **See video here.**

When I read her words I thought: "What if she died before any of her friends and neighbours? Then she will really have evidence of the truth of this outbreak."

Such an attitude needs only to be adopted by a small section of society for the pandemic to continue to feed off their folly.

### Something Out Of The Ordinary

Over all, I believe the character of this virus and the spread of it amongst the nations and the colossal amount of money spent by governments to stop its spread and bring it under control - all of which have largely failed - indicate that it is something out of the ordinary.

The curtailing of social intermingling undoubtedly hinders the spread of the virus. Such a response is entirely Scriptural. One of the fundamental measures instituted by the Lord for the combatting of the spread of sin



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was isolating the sinful from the righteous. Here are some examples. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful," Psalm 1:1. "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them," Ephesians 5:6-7. "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them," Ephesians 5:11. 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 reads: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

The control of infectious physical disease was based upon exactly the same principle. "Command the children of Israel, that they put out of the camp every leper, and every one that hath an issue, and whosoever is defiled by the dead: both male and female shall ye put out, without the camp shall ye put them; that they defile not their camps, in the midst whereof I dwell. And the children of Israel did so, and put them out without the camp: as the LORD spake unto Moses, so did the children of Israel," Numbers 5:2-4.

### Not Surprising

I suppose it is not surprising in this age which has so blatantly turned its back upon God and His Word for such measures not to be readily embraced!

I have noted that the warnings against the Covid-19 virus and the measures deemed necessary for it being hindered, are treated exactly as have the warnings of the gospel about consequences of an even greater disease and plague - that of sin! "The soul that sinneth, it shall die," Ezekiel 18:20. That lies at the heart of the gospel message. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God . . . For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord," Romans 3:3, 6:23.

Man has universally rejected that warning and disposed of it as a fable and as 'fake news'!

Indeed, in some places those who seek to live by the warnings about the virus and the wearing of face masks have been ridiculed and even physically attacked by the rejectors of the pandemic.

How like the attitude throughout the ages toward the gospel and those who have believed it! The actions of the Jewish mob against Stephen is a prime example of that inexcusable attitude. "Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep," Acts 7:57-60.

### The Price Of Rejection

Rejecting the warnings of the dangers of this virus may bring death but many who reject the warnings will not suffer any ill-effects. However, it will not be so with the rejectors of the gospel! John the Baptist said: "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. The most famous verse in the Bible, the words of the Saviour to Nicodemus, declare in essence this same truth. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," John 3:16.

### The Text

But, to return to the text at the beginning of this article. These are the words of the 'magicians' of Egypt as



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they looked upon the dreadful impact of the third of the ten plagues the Lord smote Egypt with, just prior to leading out His people and starting them on their journey to the promised land.

In the Bible, there is a process of revelation termed 'progressive'. It is the method applied in schools universally. What a child learns in its first year in school contains the basics of what is systematically enlarged upon in successive years.

Well, such is the Lord's method instructing His people in His truth. Isaiah the prophet gave the Old Testament era one of the clearest revelations of the character of the Redeemer and His work (Isaiah 53). But it is only when that same portion is taken up by the New Testament preacher, Philip, that the actual name of the Redeemer is given. "And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: in his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. (Isaiah 53:7-8) And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus," Acts 8:30-35.

The Lord not only repeats and enlarges upon His revelation of His will and purpose amongst men, but He has so often given us pictures of the future in events in the past.

The Lord Jesus indicates the employment of this method by His Father. "And as it was in the days of Noe (Noah), so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed," Luke 17:26-30.

Here then we have a picture of what will happen when the time of Christ's return comes about. There will be events and circumstances similar to those which pertained in the days of Noah and also of Lot.

In the events in Egypt before the Exodus and God's intervention to the delivering of His people out of bondage and from under the cruel regime of Pharaoh, there were the plagues.

I say that the world will see a repeat of that but on a much larger scale.

The Book of the Revelation is a book containing a record of things which lie in the future but which when once they begin to take place will be fulfilled quickly. "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John," Revelation 1:1.

In that book we have the events which will come about in the world just before the return of the Lord Jesus in a fashion as stated by Paul: "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ," 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8.

There is a time of pestilence and plague coming upon this world, brought on by the increasing rejection of God and the blaspheming of His name.

Surely we see these trends happening today. Never was man more bold in his defiance of God than in this age. That will not go unchallenged!

The last three and half years of this age will see the emergence of one termed 'the beast', who will occupy a dominant political and commercial position within the nations that will occupy the territory of the old Ro-



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It is said of him, Revelation 13:5: "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months." The wicked blasphemies that will fill his mouth are already echoing amongst the nations today in preparation for that time.

As David responded to the blasphemous words of Goliath, so the Saviour will respond to 'the beast's' blasphemies.

The Lord will smite his territories in preparation for His smiting of him personally. This will be a repeat of the judging of Egypt before the destruction of Pharaoh and his army at the Red Sea.

"And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, and took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians. And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them," Exodus 14:22-28.

I repeat, there will be a like series of events at the end of this age, just before the Lord Jesus come to take up His Kingdom and destroy His enemies.

Consider these words: "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped," Revelation 14:14-16.

That indicates the 'time' of the events here recorded. In the next chapter we read: "And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: and the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled," Revelation 15:5-8.

Plagues are to be visited upon wicked men prior to the end-time 'Exodus' and the destruction of the latter-day 'Pharaoh'!

### Foreshadowing

I am of a mind to believe that the attitude displayed by many toward the Covid-19 virus is but a foreshadowing of the attitude that we read that men, wicked, unbelieving men will show toward the judgments that God will visit upon the earth before the return of Christ.

"And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth," Revelation 6:1. There then follows descriptions of the outpouring of the plagues of God. The verses 8-11 are especially to be noted. "And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat,



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and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; (the rebuilt city of Babylon) and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds," Revelation 16:1-11.

Man remains defiant to the end!

I say again, there is evidence of that defiance seen in today's attitudes toward the warnings regarding the Coronavirus and it is a portent of what is to intensify at the end of the age as God pours out His plagues upon rebellious nations.

### End

This age will end with that defiance being dealt with under the terrible judgment of God. "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth (the territories of the old Roman Empire), and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh," Revelation 19:11-21.

Is this not a repeat of Exodus chapters 7-12 and 14?

### Aware Of The Times

May we all take heed to God's Word and what Paul said to the Thessalonians. "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ," 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9.

May these thoughts profit your soul.

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