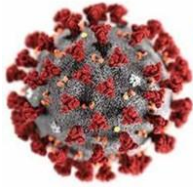


# God is in Control!



*What the Bible says about God's Providence*



Novel Coronavirus, 2019-nCoV  
is now officially called  
**COVID-19**  
CO - Corona  
VI - Virus  
D - Disease  
World Health Organization

## A “Global Pause” An Unprecedented Time

- Affecting 205 nations and territories – virtually 100% of globe
  - 2003 *Sars* plague affected 26 nations; 700 deaths
  - 1918 *Spanish Flu* affected 100 nations and territories; 17-40 million
- US - 85% of States “stay home advisories/orders”; 96% output
  - About 25% of US economy shut down / output dropped 29%...
  - 26% drop in 1929-1933; and 4% in 2007-2009...
  - 99.7% of all businesses are small – less than 500 workers; 98.2% less than 100 and 89% less than 20); 50% work from home anyway

## Dangers to Constitutional Rights and Globalism

- Theories on the origin and nature of this virus...
  - *Is the virus created as a bio-weapon, or a part of 5G technology, to force vaccines and digital chips for total, global control?*
  - *Are the numbers of those dying bloated in order to manipulate extracting more money and a greater crisis for government control?*
- Government emergency declarations should be...
  - “Narrowly tailored” – local, specific places where most needed
  - “Least restrictive” – *suggested* without force unless necessary
  - Safety is necessary but our economy is built on self-regulation

*Regardless of the deception, intended or not, it is imperative that we avoid detours and keep our main focus on God!*

## GOD IS SOVEREIGN!

- Ge. 50:20 – *You meant it for evil, God meant it for good...*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chr. 20:6 – *You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations*
- Job 42:2 – *You can do all things, no purpose...can be thwarted*
- Ps. 115:3 – *Our God is in the heavens, he does all he pleases*
- Pr. 16:9 – *The heart of man plans... the Lord establishes...*
- Ro. 8:28 – *that love God... all things work together for good*
- Col. 1:16-17 – *by him all things created... he is before all things, and by him all things hold together*
- Eph. 1:4 – *he chose us... before the foundation of the world*

## God is Sovereign but *not* the Author of Sin

- *God saw everything and declared it very good* – Genesis 1:31
- *God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.* – James 1:13
- *God is light, and in Him there is no darkness* – 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:5
- *Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, I will do all My pleasure.* – Isaiah 46:9-10

## If God is Good, why is there Coronavirus?

- God’s Creation was initially “good” – Genesis 1-2
  - He is not the author of evil / sin; but He uses it for His purposes
- The Fall of Man brought sin into the world – Genesis 3
  - Man cannot seek God or become worthy on his own
  - Creation itself is marred, does not operate perfectly
  - Thus, all sorts of aberrations from nature are possible
- Coronavirus – a plague, pestilence and infectious disease
  - Whether manipulated or not, it is serious, deadly, and unique
  - God uses the consequence of sin *to get our attention*

## Providence (God's control) Defined

- Webster's 1828 Dictionary...
- *the care and superintendence which God exercises over his creatures. He that acknowledges a creation and denies a providence involves himself in a palpable contradiction; for the same power which caused a thing to exist is necessary to continue its existence. Some persons admit a general providence but deny a particular providence not considering that a general providence consists of particulars. A belief in divine providence is a source of great consolation to good men. By divine providence is often understood God himself.*

## Primary and Secondary Causes

- Superintendency – *care and oversight for the purpose of direction and with authority to direct.*
  - God is the primary cause of everything due to being Creator
  - God's Will can be superseded by no one; it is sovereign
  - The creation was initially good; for God is not the author of evil
- Particulars - *Pertaining to a single person... not general*
  - Man's will is the strongest secondary cause of consequences
  - Nature's cycles are also secondary causes of many things
  - The majesty of God's Providence is to use the evil of sin and its secondary consequences to forward His overall purposes!

## So what is History?

- Rev. S. W. Foljambe – Boston, January 5, 1876
- *There are no accidents in the lives of men or nations. We may go back to the underlying cause of every event, and discover in each God's overruling and intervening wisdom. It has been said that history is the biography of communities; in another, and profounder, sense, it is the autobiography of him 'who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will' (Ephesians 1:11) and who is graciously timing all events in the interests of his Christ, and of the kingdom of God on earth.*

## What Providence and God's Control is not...

- *Human freedom and human responsibility in bringing about either good or evil, are not to be pushed aside; providence is not fatalism...*
  - God is not a dictator, controlling outcomes
- *... on the other hand, man's free activities do not prove the despotism of a blind chance, shifting as man's caprice may dictate...*
  - God does not wait to see what we will do!

# Competing Views of History

- **Marxist View** (*rob the poor and crush the afflicted*) Pr. 22:22
  - It uses conflict, “crisis”, in order to increase government control
  - Fueled by dissatisfaction and rebellion, it tears down the present system but is replaced by something worse – greater tyranny
- **Cyclical View** (*eat, drink be merry tomorrow we die*) Ec. 8:15
  - Studying history is a waste of time, for everything repeats itself
  - What has been before, will be again, devote yourself to happiness
- **Conspiratorial View** (*take counsel against the Lord*) Ps. 2
  - Secret societies and subversive organizations deceive the masses
  - Exposure of conspiracies is a primary focus to maintain liberty

## THE PLAGUES ON EGYPT EXODUS 7-12

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1		<b>BLOOD</b> (7:14-24) The Nile, along with all of the water in Egypt, turns into blood. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.	6		<b>BOILS</b> (9:8-12) Festering boils break out on the Egyptians and their animals. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.
2		<b>FROGS</b> (7:25 - 8:15) Frogs cover the land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.	7		<b>HAIL</b> (9:13-35) Hail strikes down everything in the fields - humans, animals and trees. Pharaoh asks for forgiveness and promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.
3		<b>GNATS</b> (8:16-19) The dust turns to gnats, which cover the people and animals of Egypt. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.	8		<b>LOCUSTS</b> (10:1-20) Locusts devour every tree and plant in the land of Egypt. Pharaoh asks for forgiveness, but does not let the Israelites go.
4		<b>FLIES</b> (8:20-32) Flies fill the houses and land of Egypt. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.	9		<b>DARKNESS</b> (10:21-29) Darkness covers the land of Egypt for three days. Pharaoh promises to let the Israelites go, but changes his mind.
5		<b>LIVESTOCK</b> (9:1-7) All of the livestock of the Egyptians die. But Pharaoh does not let the Israelites go.	10		<b>FIRSTBORN</b> (11:1-10; 12:29-32) Every firstborn son and firstborn of the cattle in Egypt dies. Pharaoh finally lets the Israelites leave Egypt, only to change his mind and pursue them to the Red Sea.

Hapi – god of Nile

Isis – god of medicine

Heket – god of fertility; head of frog

Nut – goddess of sky

Geb – god of earth

Heth – god of storms

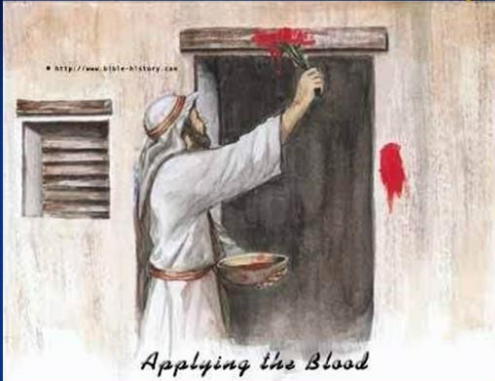
Khepri – god of rebirth; head of fly

Ra – the sun god

Hathor – goddess of love; head of a cow

Pharaoh – god himself

## The Remedy for the Plague of Sin



*Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you – Exodus 12:13*

*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” – 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:21*



*And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. – 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:2*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 7:13-14; the believer's *Primary* response

*When I shut up heaven and there is no rain,  
or command the locusts to devour the land,  
or send pestilence among My people,  
if My people who are called by My name  
will humble themselves,  
and pray and seek My face,  
and turn from their wicked ways,  
then I will hear from heaven,  
and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

## The Church is uniquely Positioned to Respond

- The Church is not a building... *we are a covenanted group*
- The Church is not a meeting... *our faith is seen in character*
- The Church is called to be in the world *but not of it*
  - We are called to *prefer one another* (distance to protect others)
  - We are called to *serve others* (friend or foe) and *uplift in prayer*
- The Church began at home... *return to our priorities*
- God gives us an opportunity to *respond with repentance rather than focusing on how government or evil responds*

## David Wilkerson to Mike Evans, 1986

- *Every house will be shut up, and no one will be coming or going. The city of confusion is broken down, and every house is shut up that no man may come in (Isaiah 24:10)*
- *All entrances and exits to the city are gone. There will be no place to escape. God has shown me that a calamity is coming beyond humankind's capacity to respond.*
- *This judgment will devastate the world's economies.*
- *Every restaurant and bar will be shut down, and all the drinking and merrymaking will end. All entertainment and churches will be shut down.... All sports will be shut down.*



- *But the prophet Isaiah also saw a great shaking of the olive tree coming 24:13. God's shaking everything that can be shaken. It's a time of overwhelming darkness as He exposes the world's idols.*
- *But in the midst of this terrible shaking, a song is heard, a chorus of voices singing praises to the majesty of God. 'They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the Lord, they shall cry aloud from the sea,' (Isaiah 24:14)*
- *That's the beginning of the Great Awakening... Lukewarm believers are going to come back to their first love. Their souls will be flooded with godly repentance...*

- *There will be a great awakening. The song of revival will be heard from the uttermost parts of the earth.*
- *From Israel to Indonesia, Africa, from the east to the west, from the north to the south, from China to Arab lands, all parts of the earth will rise up in the midst of this plague.*
- *They'll be feasting on the Word. The idols are coming down. They will see in horror the idols they have worshipped that have blocked them from the power of the Holy Spirit... idols they put their faith in...*
- *The greatest cry of repentance will come from God's remnant!*

## The Focus of the Believer in these Days

- The “birth-pangs” of His Kingdom – Romans 8:19-24
  - *For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God... Because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now...*
  - Focus on Christ and His Kingdom, not anti-Christ
- Service, not escape from duty – Luke 19:13
  - Stand in the gap, intercede for healthcare workers / public servants
  - Serve one’s neighbor, feed the hungry, volunteer

## Why should we affirm that God is in Control?

- We need to revive our spirit with His “prophetic” Word
  - *Lord, you are in control of all things, and this has not surprised you!*
  - *You are timing this “virus” to stir us all to a closer walk with you!*
  - *Regardless of how it started, who what evil is desiring to capitalize on it, your power is greater and it is only a tool in your hand!*
- We need to renew our minds that we might act with wisdom
  - *I will read your Word and meditate on your thoughts Oh Lord!*
  - *Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you!*
  - *Help us to discern what to do to serve others for your glory!*