



Does the Coronavirus Fit Into God's Plan?

2 Peter 3:11: (KJV) *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.*



Social distancing. Three months ago, if we had heard that term, we may have thought it was describing someone who was a loner or someone who swore off social media. Now we not only all know what it means, we *feel* its meaning and it is frightening. I was in the grocery store today, and on the floor of the line for self-checkout there were tape lines six feet apart so shoppers could more easily avoid contact. The novel coronavirus - COVID-19 - has arrived. It is potent, fearsome and sneaky. Because of its presence the entire world has been altered socially and economically in a matter of a few months. As Christians, what

are we supposed to do with this pandemic? What should we know, how should we act, and most importantly, is this virus connected to God's plan?

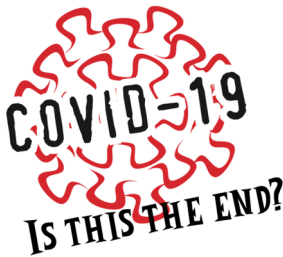
Is this the "time of the end" everyone is worried about? No, but it is a piece of the puzzle that is part of the "End Times."

We have seen a lot of Scriptures thrown around on social media lately, *trying* to be prophetic.

Is COVID-19 from God? Was it predicted along with other recent tragedies in the world?

2 Chronicles 7:13-14: (NASB) ¹³If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain - the Australia wildfires and the rain was held back! I command the locust to devour the land - the recent African locust plague is enormous! I send pestilence among My people - worldwide pandemic - COVID-19!



NO, it is not the end! The context is about Israel being faithful at the completion of Solomon's Temple:

2 Chronicles 7:11-15: (NASB) ¹¹Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king's palace, and successfully completed all that he had planned on doing in the house of the LORD and in his palace. ¹²Then the LORD appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ¹⁵Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place.

These verses specifically refer to Israel. Solomon's Temple had been completed, and it was to be used for worship. The warning was given: if Solomon was not faithful to that purpose, there would be consequences.



God never does things randomly. He does them for a purpose.

Example:

The 10 Plagues were sent to the Egyptians for the purpose of releasing the enslaved Israelites. Egypt would have been spared IF Pharaoh had listened to Moses.

God NEVER randomly sent pestilence upon any people. He provided harsh lessons to His chosen people, only when appropriate.

For more about how God relates to mankind in different time periods, please search our archives for Episodes 779 and 783: Does the Same God Rule in the Old and New Testament? (Parts I and II)

Does the Bible prophesy self-quarantine?

Isaiah 26:20-21: (NASB) ²⁰Come, my people, enter into your rooms and close your doors behind you; hide for a little while until indignation runs its course. ²¹For behold, the LORD is about to come out from His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; and the earth will reveal her bloodshed and will no longer cover her slain.

God's people are those who are trusting in Him, living a life of Christlikeness and staying under His wings. They are not hiding. Christians live in the safety of God's will and protection.



We believe the prophetic interpretation of the following texts refer to the failure of the world's religious systems' to bring the world to Christ:

Isaiah 26:17-18: (NASB) ¹⁷As the pregnant woman approaches the time to give birth, she writhes and cries out in her labor pains, thus were we before You, O LORD. ¹⁸We were pregnant, we writhed in labor, we gave birth, as it seems, only to wind. We could not accomplish deliverance for the earth, nor were inhabitants of the world born.

Now is NOT the time for all those in the world to come to Christ. WE CANNOT TAKE THE BIBLE OUT OF CONTEXT. God is not bringing the coronavirus to make people suffer.

We are approaching this subject from four perspectives: social, political, religious and medical. Based on clarity and facts, we want to bring hope and peace to people. Truth opens up understanding and understanding opens up the ability to cope.





Now that we know God is not crashing and burning the world, we need to handle the huge problem we all face.

**This pandemic really is sending the world into a frenzy.
How do we handle the panic - is it justified?**

This is not the first time the world has been sent into such a panicked state. However, it is the first time we have had this experience in the advanced social media society we live in. Just like the 2016 United States presidential election was the first “social media” election we ever experienced, the COVID-19 pandemic is the first social media pandemic we have ever experienced.


Julie has done a lot of background research on COVID-19 for this podcast.

What is COVID-19?

(Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>)
What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)? Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Viruses are infectious particles. On their own, they cannot make more of themselves, and can only be replicated with the help of a living cell.

Julie: I am blessed to have a lifelong friend, Dr. Wendy Trzyna, Professor of Microbiology at Marshall University. I asked Dr. Wendy a few questions:

 **Why is coronavirus so contagious? Dr. Wendy Trzyna, Professor of Microbiology at Marshall University**

- *Coronavirus first attaches specifically to cells of the airway, gets into the cells and essentially reprograms these cells to make more viruses. The infected cell can produce millions of new viruses, which can then be transmitted to other people, often even before symptoms occur in the originally infected person. Since it resides in the upper respiratory tract and causes only mild or no symptoms in about 80 percent of people, many people do not even realize they are contagious. It is spread very easily by people coughing or sneezing or via their hands if they have rubbed their nose. The virus can remain infectious on some surfaces for as long as three days. It is the 20 percent who will develop severe life-threatening symptoms who are most at risk.*

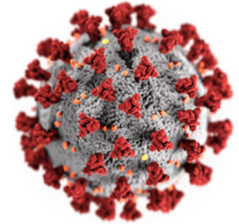


This is actually the seventh kind of human coronavirus we have identified: 229E, NL63, OC43, HKU1, MERS (MERS-CoV) - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, and SARS (SARS-CoV) - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. The seventh is called SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus or COVID-19. They are named for their crown-like spikes on their surface. We have all seen the pictures of the virus ball with those little spikes coming out of it. We asked Dr. Wendy what those are.



What are those spiky things? Dr. Wendy Trzyna, Professor of Microbiology at Marshall University

- *The coronavirus has spike proteins on its surface. These spike proteins are what bind to receptors on the target cell - in this case, the cells that line the respiratory tract, called epithelial cells. Think of the spike protein as a key and the receptor on the cells as the lock. This is how it attaches to our cells. And this virus binds at least ten times more tightly to this receptor than does the spike protein of the SARS virus. Once our bodies make antibodies that are specific for the spike protein, the virus would then be prevented from binding. Scientists around the world are learning more each day about the virus, understanding its shape and the mechanisms it uses to infect and replicate in our cells. A detailed understanding of these processes will provide potential targets for therapeutic intervention and vaccine development.*



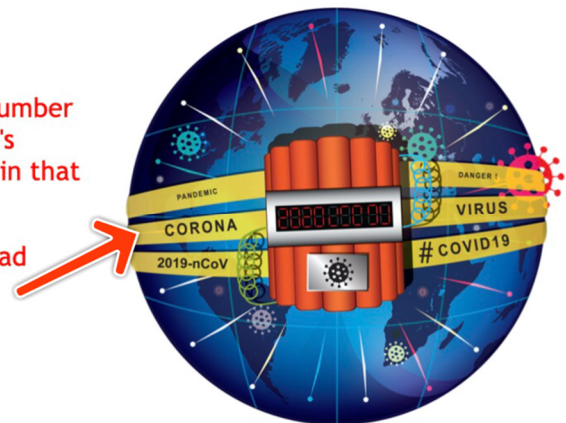
We are trying to give a factual foundation of understanding in order to better cope with the panic surrounding us.

What is a pandemic?

(Source: <https://www.health.com/condition/infectious-diseases/epidemic-vs-pandemic>)

That word - pandemic - is enough to induce widespread panic, and with good reason: According to the World Health Organization, a pandemic is the worldwide spread of a new disease. "A pandemic is when an epidemic spreads between countries," says David Jones, MD, PhD, a professor of the culture of medicine at Harvard University. In the case of COVID-19 specifically, the World Health Organization said that it's the first pandemic caused by a coronavirus.

- Epidemic: A sudden increase in the number of cases of a disease—more than what's typically expected for the population in that area.
- Pandemic: An epidemic that has spread over several countries or continents, affecting a large number of people.



Declaring a pandemic is important because pandemic vaccines are paid for by governments, and conventional vaccines are paid for by ordinary health services. A pandemic frees up funds.

As of this broadcast, COVID-19 was in approximately 177 countries.



We are also experiencing a social media pandemic, which might better be described as pandemonium.

The more we hear about something, the bigger it gets in our minds. If we hear it many times in one day, it keeps growing. We have the added difficulty of constant and inconsistent information being thrown at us.

It is unnerving to see current death counts on every cable news channel, updated continuously. This is new for this pandemic.

Social media is great for the transference of thoughts and opinions, and the stirring up of predominantly negative emotions. This has led us to outright fear.

Here are a few examples:

Julie, how long does coronavirus last on surfaces?



Julie: I would have said three days, but I read an article that says 17 days, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). They found the virus in the cabins of the Diamond Princess cruise ship after passengers disembarked.

Here is the problem - WHAT JULIE SAID IS INCORRECT!

They found the virus' RNA - the genetic material - in the uncleaned cabins, but not the live virus that can make people sick.

The factual answer: a study in the New England Journal of Medicine published March 17, 2020, found **THE VIRUS WAS ABLE TO LIVE THREE HOURS IN THE AIR** and up to **THREE DAYS ON HARD SURFACES** like plastic and stainless steel.

The headline of the 17 days caused panic and is misleading.

Jonathan, should we avoid taking ibuprofen or aspirin to combat symptoms?



Jonathan: There is an email going around that says taking Advil makes the symptoms 10 times worse.

Wrong answer!

The French Minister of Health did issue a statement that people infected should not use ibuprofen or aspirin to treat the disease. He said they should instead use acetaminophen, Tylenol.





Factual answer: The truth is, **WE JUST DO NOT YET KNOW**. The World Health Organization is not aware of reports of negative effects of ibuprofen beyond the usual known side effects. **THERE IS NO MEDICAL EVIDENCE yet to support the claim.**

We hear things, jump to conclusions, send our conclusions to others, and it spreads faster than the virus itself. This is like the old telephone game. Someone passes along information and it changes as it goes.



We were sent an article just this morning with the headline - "Up to 10 percent of recovered coronavirus patients test positive again." Upon closely reading it, the people have no symptoms, are not contagious and it says the numbers of people are "not enough to assure us of the validity of our initial findings." And it is Chinese data. Everything we hear can be added to and editorialized.

All of this promotes fear, which is the other pandemic going around.

Merriam Webster:

Fear:

1. an unpleasant often strong emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of (perceived) danger;
2. anxious concern.
3. profound reverence and awe especially toward God;
4. reason for alarm.

There is a difference between being afraid and having a respect for the reality of the disease and the misery it brings.

Luke 21:25-26: (NASB) ²⁵There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶men fainting from **fear <5401>** and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Fear: Strongs #5401 *phobos*; from a primary *phobomai* (to be put in fear); alarm or fright
King James Version translates this as: be afraid, exceedingly, fear, terror

1 John 4:18: (NASB) *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out **fear <5401>**, because fear involves **punishment <2851>**, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.*

In this episode, we are only addressing the words related to this type of fear and not with the reverential type of fear, meaning respect.

Men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world. It sounds like that is happening now, but we are not yet at that time described in Luke. We will return to this thought in the next segment.

What does it mean that *fear has punishment or fear has torment*?

Torment/Punishment: Strongs #2851 *kolasis*; from 2849; penal infliction:

Torment/Punishment: Strongs #2849 *kolazo*; from *kolos* (dwarf); properly, to curtail, i.e. (figuratively) to chastise (or reverse for infliction)



Greek English Lexicon: 1. to lop or prune, as trees and wings; 2. to curb, check, restrain; 3. to chastise, correct, punishment; 4. to cause to be punished

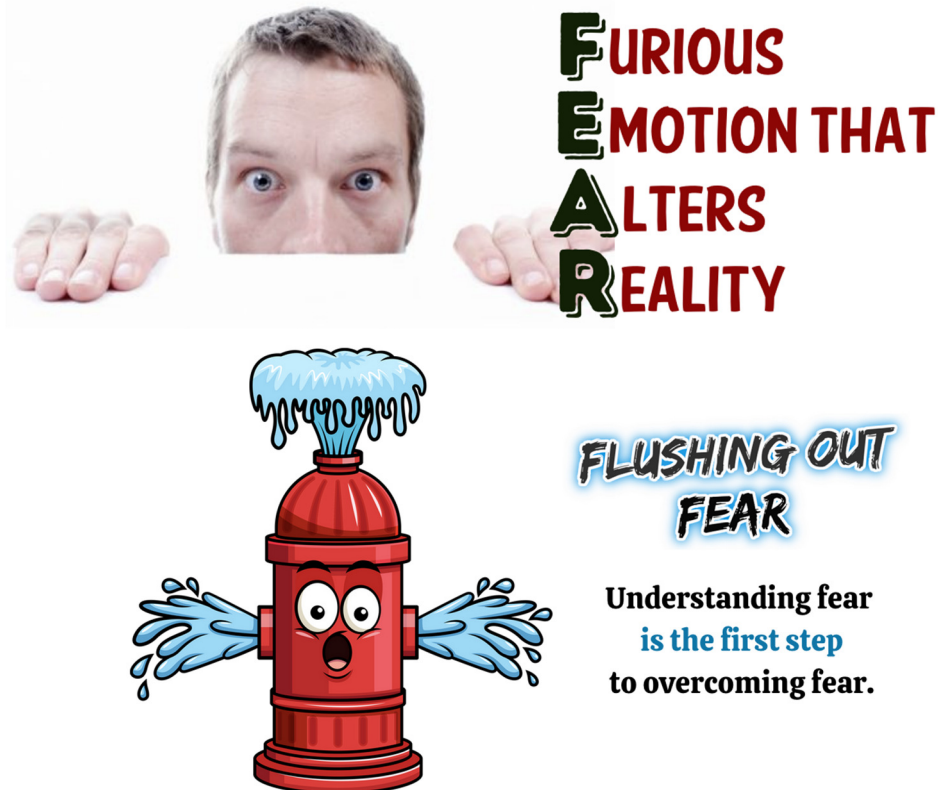
A good example of this word:

2 Peter 2:9: (KJV) *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be **punished** <2849>.*

To punish means “to be pruned or restrained.” Fear cuts back our abilities in a dramatic way. The fear that surrounds COVID-19 cuts back our ability to see the reality of the circumstance. We need to focus on what is REAL.

Fear has consequences. When we fear, we pay a costly price.

For this episode, let's look at FEAR using this acronym:



We now have a basic understanding of the virus and the other contagion - fear.

**Is the coronavirus pandemic different than other pandemics?
Are there things that make it unique?**

The most unique aspect may be so obvious that we do not even notice it. That is, we are watching this pandemic unfold before our eyes in real-time. We can view every aspect from wherever we are in high definition, and we are free to react, respond and editorialize at our leisure.



The following audio clip is from a video that explains how COVID-19 works.



How it enters the body, *The Coronavirus Explained & What You Should Do, Kurzgesagt - In a Nutshell*

- *The lungs are lined with billions of epithelial cells. These are the border cells of your body lining your organs and mucosa waiting to be infected. Corona connects to a specific receptor on its victim's membranes to inject its genetic material. The cell, ignorant of what's happening, executes the new instructions which are pretty simple - copy and reassemble. It fills up with more and more copies of the original virus until it reaches a critical point and receives one final order - self-destruct. The cell sort of melts away, releasing new Corona particles ready to attack more cells. The number of infected cells grows exponentially. After about 10 days, millions of body cells are infected, and billions of viruses swarm the lungs.*

We need to understand the facts and not get stuck in the fear.



**FURIOUS
EMOTION THAT
ALTERS
REALITY**



christianquestions.com

Children are affected by fear. Check out our CQ Kids video: [How Can We Fight Fear? ChristianQuestions.com/youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

(Source: CBS News, March 22, 2020)

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coronavirus-and-the-contagion-of-fear/>

Three factors make fear spiral out of control: The first, if it is **unpredictable**. The second is if it is **uncontrollable**. The third is if it is **sustained and chronic**. Unfortunately, we have all three classes of problematic stress in the coronavirus. We feel anxious because of what we see and fear fills in the blanks making us think everything is more dangerous.

Between 1347-1351, the Bubonic Plague killed 200 million people. The outbreak wiped out 30-50% of Europe's population. It took more than 200 years for the continent's population to recover.

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/2009-h1n1-pandemic.html>

In the United States: From April 2009 to April 2010, the Centers for Disease Control estimated there were 60.8 million cases (range: 43.3-89.3 million), 274,304 hospitalizations (range: 195,086-402,719), and 12,469 deaths (range: 8868-18,306) due to the (H1N1)pdm09 virus (Swine flu). Additionally, CDC estimated that 151,700-575,400 people worldwide died from (H1N1)pdm09 virus infection during the first year the virus circulated. Globally, 80 percent of the virus-related deaths were estimated to have occurred in people younger than 65 years of age. This virus continues to circulate as a seasonal flu virus and causes illness, hospitalizations and deaths worldwide.

This was just 10 years ago! How come we do not remember the Swine flu as being a major issue? We did not have social media the way we do now. We now track real-time death rates all over the world.



We asked Dr. Wendy how the novel Coronavirus compares so far to other pandemics and this is what she said:

How does this pandemic compare to previous pandemics? Dr. Wendy Trzyna, Professor of Microbiology at Marshall University

- *COVID-19 is spreading much more than either Swine flu or SARS did. This may be because of the fact that it's not as lethal as SARS, MERS or Ebola. The more lethal a virus, the less likely it becomes super infectious since it's killing the host and thus not spreading. Swine flu, the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, was highly infectious but not very lethal. A lot of people were infected around the world, but the death rate was very low - around 0.01 - 0.02 percent. SARS was a lot deadlier but a lot less infectious; it didn't spread anywhere nearly as easily as this virus and was reasonably quickly contained. The SARS epidemic of 2003 killed around 10 percent of the 8,098 confirmed cases. COVID-19 has the worst of both. It looks like it spreads as easily as Swine flu but kills almost as many as SARS, with lethality currently at 4.5 percent globally, according to data from the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center.*

As of the date we aired this podcast, globally there were 775,286 cases with 37,140 deaths, a 4.8% fatality rate. In the United States, the fatality rate was 1.8%. (Note: These numbers have since increased.)

Ebola had a 40 percent mortality rate and only affected nine countries. 180 countries are currently affected by the coronavirus.

VIRUS	YEAR IDENTIFIED	CASES	DEATHS	FATALITY RATE	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES
Ebola	1976	33,577	13,562	40.4%	9
Nipah	1998	513	398	77.6%	2
SARS	2002	8,096	774	9.6%	29
MERS*	2012	2,494	858	34.4%	28

Sources: Johns Hopkins, CDC, World Health Organization, New England Journal of Medicine, Malaysian Journal of Pathology, CGTN

We need to be aware but not afraid.

<https://informationisbeautiful.net/visualizations/COVID-19-coronavirus-infographic-datapack/> Please see page 20 of Bonus Material for infographics.

- Almost 81 percent of the infections are mild. A little under 14 percent are severe and 4.7 percent are critical.
- Most of the people with the greatest adverse effects are 60 years old and older, and that is where the mortality rates increase. Ages 70-79 have much higher mortality rates. These double over age 80.
- Pre-existing conditions make it exponentially more risky. Anyone is susceptible to death from the coronavirus, but the likelihood is minimal unless they have certain pre-existing conditions.

We should be careful but not be afraid. Be safe.



COVID-19 has been mentioned approximately 2.1 billion times in the media. **See Bonus Material.** It is being blown up and causing fear. We are not underestimating the virus, but let's not overestimate what it can do.

Knowledge is power. Now that we know more about this current pandemic, and we have been able to put it into some context, let's use this understanding to face down our fear. Rather than being full of fear, let's suggest re-labeling our fear as a tool. Let's re-label our "fear" acronym:

F**AITH:** A DECISION, NOT AN EMOTION, THAT NEEDS TO BE APPLIED, NOT MERELY FELT.

E**XPECTATION:** HERE IS WHERE YOU APPLY THE ROOTS OF YOUR FAITH.

A**CTION:** HERE IS WHERE YOU APPLY THE REALITY OF YOUR FAITH.

R**EJOICE:** HERE IS WHERE YOU WITNESS THE RESULTS OF YOUR FAITH.



My 12-year-old grandson, Domenic, has been spending time with me lately. One way we have been managing the fear of the virus is by tracking the numbers. We have been doing consistent research together.

Domenic: I learned you need to wash your hands to keep others and yourself safe; be smart. We will get through this.

If we give those around us factual knowledge, it helps put the fear aside. I saw a change in Domenic's perspective when we started researching."

Here is a FAITH test. What do we decide to see when we read this next prophecy?

Daniel 12:1-4: (KJV) ¹And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. ²And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. ⁴But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

Are we in the time of trouble or the time of the end now? Is the time of the end the same as the End Times?

No. The time of the end is a long period of time in which this great increase of knowledge takes place. We believe we have been in this "time of the end"



period for many generations. One of its many purposes has been to bring Israel back to their homeland. In contrast, The "time of trouble" is the last stage of the time of the end. Its purpose is to facilitate the dismantling of all ungodliness and make room for God's coming earthly kingdom. **For more on this topic, please see Episode #702: Are We Now in the End Times of Prophecy?**

What do we expect when we look at this prophecy? Do we expect the worst time of trouble ever to come upon this world? OR, do we expect deliverance as a result of this trouble? Yes, to both! The time of trouble is very short. The deliverance is eternal.



FLUSHING OUT FEAR

**Fear begins to falter
when we begin to grasp
the driving force behind it.**

Faith really is our foundation, but we better be sure our faith is built on the solid rock of Jesus.

**Faith is always a key Christian answer.
How do we practically apply it under such dramatic conditions?**

Applying faith is more of a challenge than we may think. Like a salmon swimming upstream, faith requires actually making decisions and living in a way that is not dictated by the current of our physical world. We need to step up for faith to be daily active and daily engaged.



What it does to the immune system, *The Coronavirus Explained & What You Should Do*, Kurzgesagt - In a Nutshell

- The virus has not caused too much damage yet, but corona is now going to release a real beast on you...your own immune system. The immune system, while there to protect you, could actually be pretty dangerous to yourself and needs tight regulation. And as immune cells pour into the lungs to fight the virus, Corona infects some of them and creates confusion. Cells have neither ears nor eyes. They communicate mostly via tiny information proteins called cytokines. Nearly every important immune reaction is controlled by them. Corona causes infected immune cells to overreact and yell bloody murder. In a sense, it puts the immune system into a fighting frenzy and sends way more soldiers than it should, wasting its resources and causing damage.*

Just because we have faith does not mean we should not be concerned and take this seriously. We learn to stand by using both facts and Scriptures.



FAITH: A DECISION, NOT AN EMOTION, THAT NEEDS TO BE APPLIED, NOT MERELY FELT.

EXPECTATION: HERE IS WHERE YOU APPLY THE ROOTS OF YOUR FAITH.

(Source: Excerpts from "Coronavirus is bringing a plague of dangerous doomsday predictions," CNN.com, by John Blake, March 23, 2020)

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/22/world/doomsday-prophets-coronavirus-blake/index.html>

In the summer of 2008, an elderly psychic who claimed she started receiving premonitions at age 5 published a book that contained an ominous prediction: "In around 2020, a severe pneumonia-like illness will spread throughout the globe, attacking the lungs and the bronchial tubes and resisting all known treatments," it said. "Almost more baffling than the illness itself will be the fact that it will suddenly vanish as quickly as it arrived, attack again ten years later, and then disappear completely."

She died in 2013 but her book is now No. 2 on Amazon's nonfiction chart, and physical copies are now selling for hundreds of dollars...

The book was written after the SARS outbreak. Snopes.com, the fact-checking website says: "Lobbing vague claims about likely events does not a prediction make."

The article goes on to say invoking biblical imagery such as that found in the book of Revelation can damage others' psychological health. It can also lead to the danger of doing nothing. People seized with panic over something like COVID-19 might ignore other chronic issues threatening humanity's survival.

Talking about misinterpretations of Revelation, the article says, "It can lead to a call to inaction. That is to say, people will say this is all happening because of God's plan and it's going to get worse before it gets better, so there's nothing we can do about it because it's God's will."

We have been talking about God's coming kingdom on Christian Questions for over 20 years. What can we do about it? The Bible DOES tell us God has a plan and we DO know it is going to get worse before it gets better. What is wrong with the statement, "...there's nothing we can do about it because it is God's will"?

There is *everything* we can do about it. The idea of a Christian succumbing to inaction is a satanic approach to living our life. Satan wants nothing better than for those of us with faith to say, "There is nothing we can do. It is God's plan and we will let it unfold." Our job as Christians is to participate in the unfolding of God's plan. Wherever we are, whatever we do, whatever we think, whoever we are with - we should be that Christlike individual. Did Jesus ever stop showing others the gospel? Never. Everything about him was about being a beacon of light no matter what was happening to him or around him. It should be the same with us. We should never go down the road of inaction. If all we can do is pray, then pray hard. We should pray fervently and pray specifically and ask for God's providence to be upon those whom we know are suffering.



Luke 17:27: (KJV) *They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.*

Isn't this the way we are living now? Should this text scare us? No. The point of the verse is not to say we are to stop living. It is to say that God's plans progress while life goes on. While everyone is doing what they always do, God's plans are progressing, sometimes imperceptively and sometimes obviously. It is a good example of God giving us free will. He allows us to live our lives as His plan progresses. When the time for His kingdom comes, it comes! It is coming, but we do not know when.

We should live our lives, observe, be wise, be scriptural and be spiritual in how we live our lives as Christians.

To manage fear, we need to lean upon our strongly-rooted, pre-fear expectations we already have in place. We need these in place before the big experiences come. If we are new Christians, feeling overwhelmed as this took us by surprise, now is the time to start. If fear weighs 10 pounds today, it will weigh 12 pounds tomorrow and 15 pounds the next day - start here, start now. Keep fear from gaining weight. Keep it from gaining strength and influence.



Here is a good place to start! christianquestions.com/bible-study

2 Peter 3:9-10: (KJV) *⁹The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

Look at the hope this verse brings up! We should be a beacon of light during this time. There is wonderful hope for the future.

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

This shows the goodness of God's plan and shows that path goes through trouble. Mankind is destroying himself.

Faith's expectations show us the opportunity for worldwide repentance and for coming trouble. The repentance is eternal. The trouble is only temporary.

2 Peter 3:10 is highly symbolic. We know the earth will not literally be burned up. Ecclesiastes 1:4: (KJV) *One generation passeth away, another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.*

CQ Bible 101 VIDEO: What's Going to Happen at the End of the World?
https://youtu.be/oalxc_Dszt4

Earthly governments and religious systems will be "burned up" - removed - in order to make room for Christ's righteous kingdom.



Such expectations should make us carefully consider our steps:

Proverbs 4:25-27: (NKJV) ²⁵*Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you.* ²⁶*Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established.* ²⁷*Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil.*

Focus on those things that are true, sound, scriptural and reasonable. Let everything else bounce off of us. Only absorb that which is profitable. Turn fear into faith.

Study QUESTIONS

With all this new-found time many of us have been given, we can look at it as a blessing. Some of us now have the ability to learn more about the Bible, to study that subject we always wanted to, to memorize more scriptures. We suggest going to ChristianQuestions.com and clicking on the Bible Study tab on the gray bar. We have a lot of ideas here, including our new Study Questions that are now included with every program. You can listen, read the CQ Rewind Show Notes and then review questions to provoke further study.



BIBLE STUDY ARCHIVES CQ VIDEOS TOPICS CQ REWIND

ACTION: HERE IS WHERE YOU APPLY THE REALITY OF YOUR FAITH.

To manage fear, our faith and its expectations should bring us face-to-face with the reality of action:

2 Peter 3:11-13: (KJV) ¹¹*Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

We know trouble is coming and we have unique troubles right now. What kind of person are you going to be?

¹²*Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

Look for new heavens and a new earth - this is how we manage fear. Peter goes back and forth between a positive message and a difficult one.

The elements shall melt with fervent heat - the earthly systems are going away, making room for the government of God.

We have a positive message, then short-term trouble, then verse 13:

¹³*Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

This is how to manage fear. We take the action of saying, "This is how I live!" It is not just how we think or feel. We live with the expectation and anticipation of God's kingdom. Whatever He brings, His providence will overrule. We can get through it in His way, not our way.

Faith's actions direct us to be fortified so we may go through the times of trial and not avoid them. What is your permanent *spiritual* address? What is the



address where you live spiritually that will protect you from spiritual harm? If we do not have the right address, we will not have the right protection.

Psalms 91:1-4: (NASB) *¹He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.*

Live covered by the shadow of the Almighty.

Why do we live here?

²I will say to the LORD, my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!

We move here because we trust the Landlord. He is all-powerful.

What do we expect?

³For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence.

Our deliverance is through God. Does God take us out of having the experience of the virus? No. Does God protect us from getting the virus? No. Does He protect us from the panic? No. But if we allow ourselves to be protected, we can get *through* these things.

What is expected of us?

⁴He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.



This does not mean we automatically have refuge; we need to seek it. Part of the action of living a Christian life is to place ourselves under His wings. We need to make sure we are living at the right spiritual address. If we are not there, **MOVE!** Put up a For Sale sign on your old address and immediately move. There is a vacancy waiting for you!



FLUSHING OUT FEAR

Fear may relentlessly challenge our faith, but in the end simply cannot stand up to one whose faith is tangible, whose faith expectations are clear, whose faith actions are sure.

We must be a beacon of light.

This sounds great and inspiring, but how can we be sure that we are standing for God? We must know His plan.



Faith is important. What can we do to be a beacon of light to those around us in such times of panic?

In a panic such as this, we need to be creative. While social distancing is important, we must realize that *spiritual* distancing is not on the table. To be a light to others first requires knowledge and conviction, and then it requires communication. Communicating light helps to alleviate fear.

There have been several church congregations around the country who have been meeting against the directives of the governors of their states. They say they are going there in faith, and God will protect them. This is serious. God does not just make it so no Christian will get sick. When we step outside of what is healthy for those around us, we can contaminate others. This is being careless. We want to have respect for those who are trying to alleviate a serious situation. We must use the spirit of a sound mind.

 **Then two kinds of cells that destroy, *The Coronavirus Explained & What You Should Do, Kurzgesagt - In a Nutshell***

- *Two kinds of cells, in particular, wreak havoc. First, neutrophils, which are great at killing stuff, including ourselves. As they arrive in their thousands, they start pumping out enzymes that destroy as many friends as enemies. The other important type of cells that go into a frenzy are Killer T cells which usually order infected cells to commit controlled suicide. Confused as they are, they start ordering healthy cells to kill themselves, too. The more and more immune cells arrive, the more damage they do and the more healthy lung tissue they kill. This might get so bad that it can cause permanent and irreversible damage that leaves to lifelong disabilities. In most cases, the immune system slowly regains control. It kills the infected cells, intercepts the viruses trying to infect new ones and cleans up the battlefield. Recovery begins.*

We should always try to live up to a higher standard. In this case, apply the prescribed safety protocols and help encourage others not to be fearful.

REJOICE: HERE IS WHERE YOU WITNESS THE RESULTS OF YOUR FAITH.

John 16:33: (NASB) *These things I have spoken to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."*

Jesus left us a legacy of peace:

John 14:27: (NASB) *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.*

CQ Team Let the peace of Jesus drive us to be a beacon of light.



Trish asks: Doesn't God overrule these things for our best interest?

God will not automatically put a dome over us to keep us safe if we want to break protocol and meet together. We should not step outside of using the spirit of a sound mind, using our spiritually highest motive and thinking. We do not want to hurt ourselves or others.



What does God's plan look like? There WILL be a time of worldwide trouble:

Luke 21:25-26: (NASB) ²⁵There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶men fainting from **fear <5401>** and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

This sounds scary! *Sea and the waves* symbolically represent restless humanity. This shows a dramatic unrest. The time of trouble is a serious situation.

Matthew 24:22: (KJV) *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

This sounds like bad times are ahead. We do not know what that will look like, but we are warned that the trouble of that time will be serious, recognizable and unmistakable. It will crumble the present societies.

This time will come upon the world in the same way labor pains come when a child is to be born:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3: (NASB) ¹Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. ²For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. ³While they are saying, Peace and safety! then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

The pain of labor may seem unbearable, but it lasts only a short moment. This coronavirus is part of the labor pains. God's providence is bigger than the moment. It is eternal and He has it all under control. God's grace is with us; we are not alone. We are to stay close to God through Christ regardless of what is happening.

GOD HAS A PLAN
for ALL



ChristianQuestions.com

How do we know when the end times are? Israel is a massive and obvious key to God's timing.

We have witnessed the miraculous return of Israel to their land, yet there is more trouble to come:

Psalms 83:1-5: (NASB) ¹O God, do not remain quiet; do not be silent and, O God, do not be still. ²For behold, Your enemies make an uproar, and those who hate You have exalted



themselves. ³They make shrewd plans against Your people, and conspire together against Your treasured ones. ⁴They have said, Come, and let us wipe them out as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more. ⁵For they have conspired together with one mind; against You they make a covenant.

Certain prophecies about Israel still have to happen before the big trouble comes. This gives us an idea of where we are on the stream of time.

For more about Israel in prophecy, please search our archives for Episode 824: What Did Jesus Say About Israel?

In spite of all their upcoming troubles, Israel eventually will be highly blessed and will bless others:

Zechariah 8:20-23: (NASB) ²⁰Thus says the LORD of hosts, It will yet be that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities. ²¹The inhabitants of one will go to another, saying, Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go. ²²So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD. ²³Thus says the LORD of hosts, In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.

This shows us the “birth” after the birth pangs. Jesus taught us to pray: *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven.* This has not happened yet, but Jesus told us to pray for it, so it is a done deal! Let the peace of God that passes all understanding wrap us up in the promise of what is coming so the fear that surrounds us now can be handled with grace, courage, strength and faith.

The end of all of this is a beginning!

Revelation 21:4: (KJV) *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

Where we are in the panic of this pandemic is difficult and scary, but it is not the end. Make it a beginning.





FLUSHING OUT FEAR

Our personal fear can be vanquished when we
embrace the power of God's plan with conviction.

**To stand as a beacon of light
and truth is our calling!**

Remember in the first segment, we talked about people misapplying Scripture, saying it predicted this virus? We found a text that 100 percent applies to what is going on. It tells us we definitely should be stockpiling! Matthew 6:20 (NASB) tells us to *store up for yourselves treasures in heaven*. You can't take it with you, but you can send things ahead of time!



*So, does the coronavirus fit into God's plan?
For Jonathan and Rick (and Julie!) and Christian Questions...
think about it!*

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CQ Rewind Show Notes and
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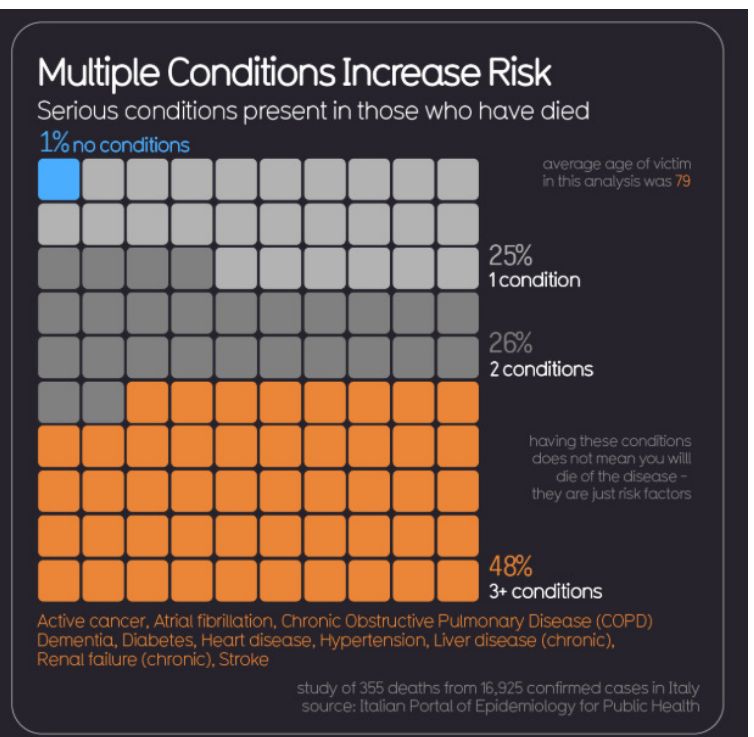
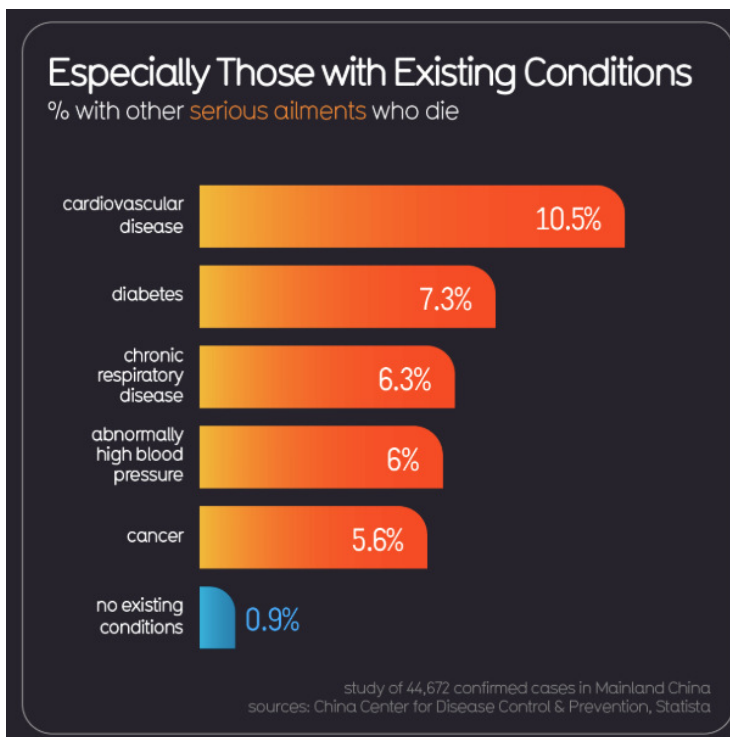
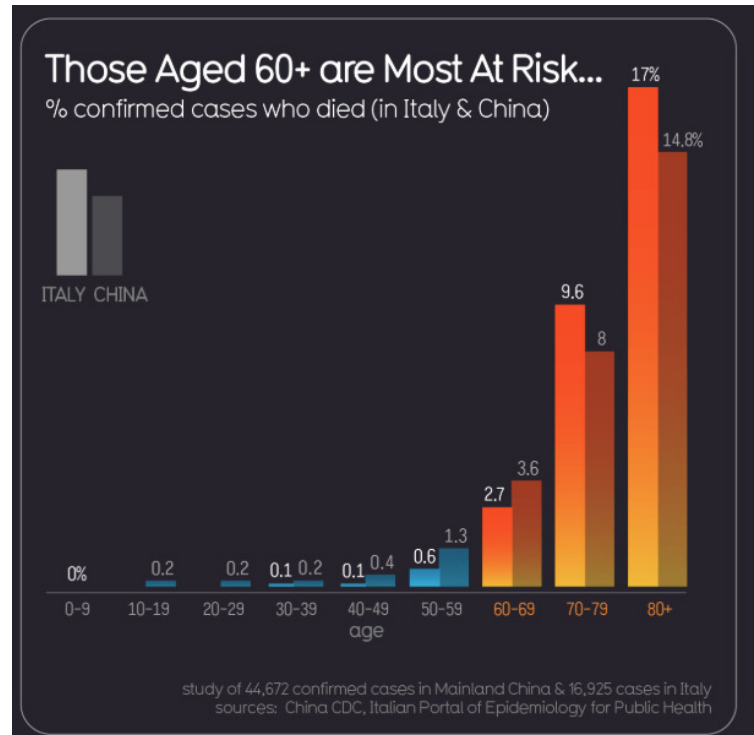
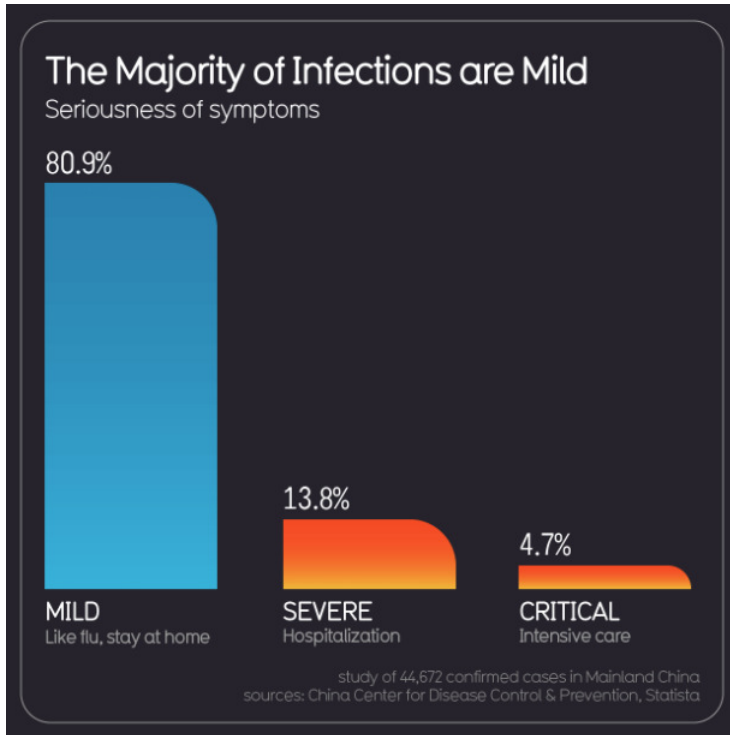
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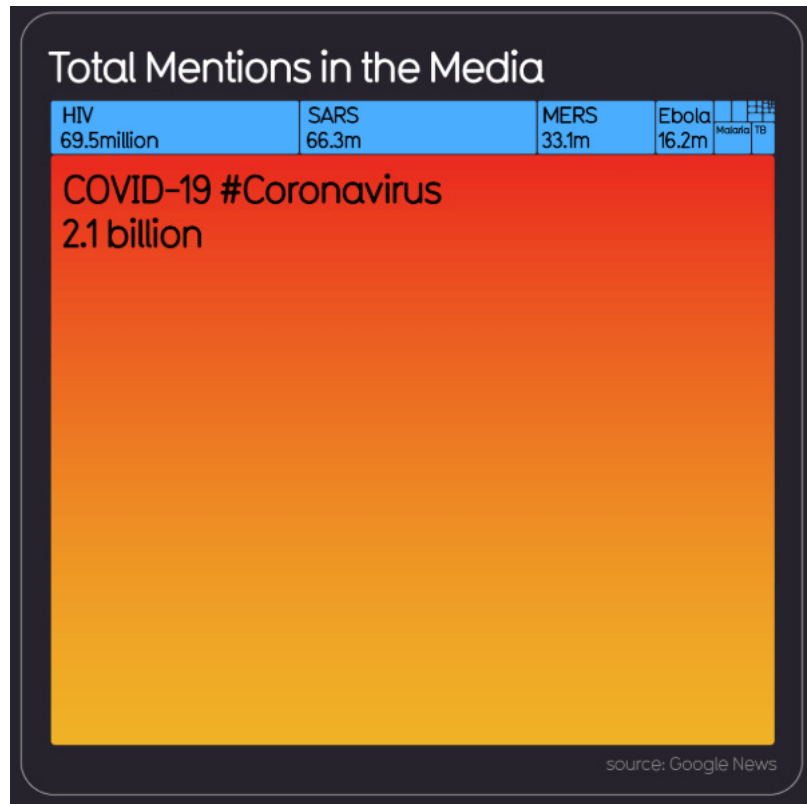


Bonus Material and Study Questions

Panic causes tunnel vision. Calm acceptance of danger allows us to more easily assess the situation and see the options. — Simon Sinek

<https://informationisbeautiful.net/visualizations/COVID-19-coronavirus-infographic-datapack/> This site is updated regularly. Here are the charts as of March 31, 2020.







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Ep. 1119: Does the Coronavirus Fit Into God's Plan?

<https://christianquestions.com/current-events/1119-coronavirus/>

See:  **CQ Rewind**
SHOW NOTES

1. Was COVID-19 and the other recent tragedies in the world predicted in 2 Chronicles 7:13-14? What does the context of this prophesy teach us? (See 2 Chronicles 7:11-18)
2. What is COVID-19 and why is it so contagious? What makes this disease a pandemic and why is this label important?
3. What is a “social media pandemic”? How can it quickly lead to wide-spread fear?
4. What is fear and how does it differ from have reverence/being respectful? What is the first step we must take to overcome our fears? (See Luke 21:25-26, 1 John 4:18)
5. What three factors can cause fear to spiral out of control? What is different about the coronavirus that has led to an increase of these three factors?
6. What is the difference between the “time of the end” and the “end times”? Which period are we living in today? What should we expect from these times? (See Daniel 12:1-4)
7. What are some things that we can do to apply our faith during these difficult times? (See 2 Peter 3:9-13, Proverbs 4:25-27, Psalms 91:1-4)
8. How can we be a beacon of light to those around us? (See John 14:27, 16:33)
9. What does God's plan look like? How can this help us overcome our fear? (See Luke 21:25-26, Matthew 24:22, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, Psalms 83:1-5, Zechariah 8:20-23, Revelation 21:4)
10. Did God send this global pandemic to punish mankind? If not, why has this happened?
11. How has this global pandemic affected you and your family? What support structures do you have in your life to help you? What steps will you take to remain a beacon of light?