

CORONAVIRUS: JUST THE FACTS, MA'AM : PART 1

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NOTE: Be advised that due to the ongoing situation regarding the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the stats in part 1 of this series will be updated daily, as my time permits, until world health officials determine that the virus has peaked, and is on a steady downward trend worldwide.

Invitation To Share The Series, Initial Reactions To COVID-19, How This Series Came About, Definitions: Coronavirus COVID-19 And SARS-CoV-2, Lysol Misinformation And Conspiracy Theorists, COVID-19 Vaccine Is Many Months Away, Common Symptoms Of The COVID-19 Disease, Some Helpful Tips And Preventative Measures, Masks/Respirators: Price-Gauging And Unscrupulous Companies, The Danger Of Asymptomatic Carriers: Rapid Undetected Spread, Failures Of CDC: Limited Test Kits And A Few Authorized Labs, Ridiculous Recommendation To Not Use Face Masks, Some People Are More Vulnerable To COVID-19 Disease, My Medical Situation, Despite Many Recent Viral Threats World Is Still Unprepared For Major Pandemic, 1918 Spanish Flu, Irony Of China, Class Warfare: We All Have Right To Protect Ourselves From COVID-19, Purchase High-Quality Face Masks, Practice Common Sense Health Habits, More Tests Conducted = More COVID-19 Cases Revealed, Huge Spike In Cases Is Expected, Current COVID-19 Statistics, Top Ten Affected Nations, We Are In A Pandemic, Downplaying The Truth Regarding Seriousness And Extent Of COVID-19, The Real Actions Of National Governments Belie Their Actual Words, The Ongoing Global Effects Of The Current COVID-19 Pandemic

Before getting into the meat of this series, allow me to make a special request to my online friends; particularly to those of you who participate on the social networks. If you find this series useful and informative, and if you believe that it will be a blessing to your online friends, please consider sharing its URL with your friends as well. Thanks so much! Word of mouth is a powerful thing! Let us continue then.

Over the past few months since the coronavirus (COVID-19) first came to the world's attention, I have seen a lot of comments being made on the social networks, in the comments section on a variety of news websites, and elsewhere. These comments have ranged from those people who are taking the potential threat very seriously, to more laid-back folks who are laughing it off as nothing to worry about. Some people are chalking it up to a hoax being perpetrated by the mass media for the sake of increasing their profits and expanding their viewership/readership. Others are referring to it as just another false flag situation created by the globalists and the New World Order advocates as a means to implement their devious plans for world domination. And yet others are delving into even wilder conspiracy theories regarding the origin of the virus. Quite frankly, it is enough to confuse and frighten anybody.

In recent weeks, I myself have also posted six informative commentaries on my Facebook timeline. In fact, I was in the process of preparing another commentary when it occurred to me that rather than do that, I should consolidate all of the information I have shared thus far, along with the personal comments I have made regarding the current situation, and present everything in a unified format for all of my friends and readers. Thus, this present series will allow me to do exactly that, as well as share my latest thoughts regarding the COVID-19 threat.

The first thing I would like to point out is that the word "coronavirus" actually applies to a GROUP of viruses which can affect both birds and mammals, including human beings. It is NOT just a single virus. There are different strains of the virus which continually mutate. The current strain of coronavirus which has been making the news in recent months has been named "SARS-CoV-2". Furthermore, the disease which SARS-CoV-2 causes has been named "coronavirus disease 2019", which is abbreviated as "COVID-19".

One reason why I mention this point regarding "coronavirus" being the name of a group of viruses, is because currently, a lot of people are being misled by erroneous information which is being circulated on the web regarding a well-known cleaning and disinfectant product known as "Lysol". The problem is that because the word "coronavirus" appears on a can of Lysol, some people are claiming that the current strain of coronavirus is not new, and that we are being lied to. They are in fact using

this point to add legitimacy to and propagate their misguided conspiracy theories, which are helping no one, and which only serve to generate fear and paranoia.

However, what they fail to understand is that what is now spreading across the world is actually a new strain of the virus. That is precisely why it is called novel coronavirus; the word "novel" meaning "new". And, because it is a new strain of coronavirus, there is presently -- March, 2020 -- no vaccine for it as of yet. Furthermore, despite all of the online hype, and the boasts which are being made by some nations and medical facilities regarding creating a vaccine, from everything I've read to date, a safe, effective vaccine won't be available for at least six to eighteen months. Why so long? Because any new vaccine must undergo extensive test phases to determine its efficacy and safety to the public. In the meantime, we all just have to do whatever we can to remain safe, by taking common sense precautions and engaging in healthy practices.

One of the first questions that most people will want to be answered is how they will know whether or not they have been infected by coronavirus disease 2019, a.k.a. COVID-19. The CDC -- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA -- explains that "Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death." Furthermore, they state that the following symptoms may appear in an infected person two to fourteen days after first being exposed to the current strain of coronavirus:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

According to online sources, the following additional info regarding COVID-19 was provided by an unnamed doctor who worked in the Shenzhen Hospital in Guangdong Providence, China. This information appears to be verified by multiple websites. This doctor states that an infected person will display the following symptoms. Please note that I have edited and expanded his comments to some degree in order to make them more readable to English speakers. I have also added a few of my personal comments based on other material I have read online:

1. The coronavirus first infects the throat. As such, as occurs with any other cold or flu, you will have a sore

throat which will last for three or four days. At this point, you won't even know that it is specifically the COVID-19 disease.

2. The virus then blends into a pus-like nasal fluid that enters the trachea -- a.k.a. the windpipe -- and then the bronchial tubes which feed air into your lungs. This will result in pneumonia developing. This takes an additional five or six days to occur.

3. Once pneumonia sets in, it will be accompanied by a high fever, as well as by noticeable difficulty in breathing.

4. The nasal congestion is different from what you would experience with a normal cold or regular strain of the flu. You will in fact feel like you are drowning due to the build-up of fluid/pus in the nodes of your lungs. At this point, it is imperative that you seek immediate medical attention.

This same Chinese doctor also provided the following info which explains the difference between a regular cold or flu and COVID-19. Also included below are some helpful tips and preventative measures which can be taken so that a person can hopefully avoid coming in contact with this strain of the coronavirus:

1. If you have a runny nose and sputum -- a mixture of saliva and mucus coughed up from the respiratory tract -- you have a common cold, and not COVID-19. Please note that I have seen a few contrary opinions which state that this is not always the case.

2. In contrast, coronavirus-associated pneumonia consists of a dry cough which is NOT accompanied by a runny nose. Again, there have been a few contradictory opinions regarding this particular point.

3. The novel coronavirus is not heat-resistant. As such, it will be killed when exposed to a temperature of just 26 to 27 degrees Centigrade, or 78 to 89 degrees Fahrenheit . It also hates direct sunlight, so soak in some sun if you can.

4. If a coronavirus-infected person sneezes, it takes about ten feet before the droplets fall to the ground and are no longer airborne. My personal physician confirmed this point to me when I last saw him in February of this present year.

5. If the droplets fall on a metal surface, they will live for at least twelve hours. So if you come into contact with any metal surface, wash your hands thoroughly as soon as you can with a bacterial soap, if one is available.

6. On fabric, the coronavirus can survive for approximately six to twelve hours. Normal laundry detergent will kill it.

7. Drinking warm water is effective against all viruses, so keep up your water intake so that your body remains properly hydrated at all times. However, try not to drink liquids which contain ice. To reiterate, drink plenty of water!

8. Wash your hands frequently, being as the coronavirus can only live on your hands for five to ten minutes. However, please note that a lot can happen during that brief period. For example, you may rub your eyes, pick your nose, place your fingers near or in your mouth, etc. It is also a good idea to constantly have alcohol-based hand swipes on hand in case soap and water are not available.

9. It is also smart to gargle frequently as a preventative measure. A simple solution of salt in warm water will suffice.

10. If for some unavoidable reason you are forced to be out amongst large groups of people, such as at your place of work, in hospitals or clinics, on buses, subways, planes or trains, or in similar situations, wear a well-fitting face mask, also known as a respirator. Be aware of the fact that many respirators are not reusable, and must be discarded after a certain number of hours. This can quickly cut into your pocketbook, given how expensive high quality masks have become in recent months.

Yes, it is sad to say that certain unscrupulous individuals and companies won't hesitate to take financial advantage of people's suffering in situations such as this. Price-gauging has already become rampant, and face masks are becoming more and more difficult to find. If you are unable to obtain any respirators and find yourself needing to cough or sneeze, at the very least, do it in a handkerchief or in a tissue. If you do not have one available, then cough or sneeze in the crook of your arm in order to mitigate the spread of the droplets in the surrounding air.

Regarding COVID-19 symptoms, please notice that I said "may appear". You see, that is precisely the problem, because a lot of infected people are asymptomatic. This means that even though they may be carrying the virus in their bodies, they may never display any of the usual outward symptoms. The end result is that they could potentially infect tens, dozens or even hundreds of people for weeks or longer, and not even realize that they are COVID-19 carriers. This point is of great concern to medical professionals and facilities all around the world. It is in fact one of the primary ways in which COVID-19 has been able to spread so rapidly around the world, from one nation -- China -- barely three months ago, to over one hundred countries as of this writing.

In short, the SARS-CoV-2 virus basically sneaks into nations undetected, unless a country is well prepared to carefully examine every single individual who crosses their border. At this current time, most countries are not capable of doing this. Furthermore, if we consider how porous some national borders are, it pretty much becomes an impossible task to test everyone. Infected people will get through one way or another.

This leads us to our next point. In addition to the fact that there are so many individuals who remain asymptomatic, the reality is that there currently exists only a limited number of COVID-19 test kits and laboratories which are even authorized to perform the required tests. Obviously, this compounds the problem even further. In fact, a recent Time Magazine article stated that prior to the end of February, 2020, in the United States, only two labs which are operated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention -- or CDC -- and a few other state labs, were authorized to test for the coronavirus. While the situation has improved since that time because the CDC has loosened up its requirements, it still remains quite dismal and inadequate compared to what other nations around the world are able to accomplish, insofar as COVID-19 lab testing is concerned.

I was also reading that some American doctors have called the current situation regarding COVID-19 testing an outright embarrassment, due to the fact that the United States is one of the most technologically advanced nations in the world. How could the CDC and other health-related institutions drop the ball in this manner? In fact, according to online info, initially, the CDC was being so stringent in regards to its testing requirements, that even though certain individuals

met all of the symptoms for having COVID-19, they were still not tested, because they had not recently visited a foreign country, or been exposed to an individual who had visited a foreign nation.

According to the latest news reports -- from both liberal as well as conservative news sources -- despite the fact that President Trump has stated that any person who desires to be tested will be tested, this still is not actually happening due to the stringent testing requirements, the shortage of labs, and the shortage of test kits. In fact, in an exchange before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, Doctor Anthony Fauci -- who heads the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases -- stated the following:

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"The system is not really geared to what we need right now, what you are asking for. That is a failing. It is a failing. I mean, let's admit it . . . The idea of anybody getting it [meaning a test] easily the way people in other countries are doing it, we are not set up for that. Do I think we should be? Yes. But we are not."

----- End Quote -----

Given the current dismal situation in regards to testing, and until it actually improves, as President Trump promised it would in his national emergency declaration speech, let me put this into proper perspective for you. In a word, with an American population of more than three hundred million citizens, it will take a very long time to test all of the people who may still require testing. As such, I would not hold my breath if I were you.

Directly related to this is another issue which I discovered a few days ago while scanning my Facebook news feed. I came across a post in which one of my friends stated that certain German doctors are claiming that wearing face masks -- or respirators, as they are called in the medical profession -- is pointless. Their recommendation was for one to simply wash their hands continuously. In fact, as I dug deeper into this issue, I discovered that other doctors and health-related institutions in other countries were recommending the very same thing, including in the United States.

Well, when I read that piece of advice, I have to say that my

jaw dropped in disbelief. While I am no conspiracy theorist, I have to say that it almost sounds like some of those folks actually WANT us to get sick. If I were a conspiracy theorist, I might even begin to think that this is some kind of crazy population control scheme. I considered that perhaps my friend had simply misunderstood, being as English is not her native language, or German, for that matter. But as I said, it turned out to be true. In fact, one of the reasons which has been given for making this suggestion is that at this current time, due to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 disease, there is a serious shortage of medical supplies, such as test kits and face masks.

In short, they want us regular folks to stop purchasing the masks, so that there are enough to go around for the medical professionals who need them in order to be able to safely treat the sick. While that seems reasonable enough, there is another way of looking at this, and that is this: If I wear a respirator in order to prevent myself from becoming infected with the coronavirus, then I will have no need to visit my doctor to begin with. Not only that, but even the current COVID-19 literature makes it clear that some people are more vulnerable to the virus than others. This is particularly true of the elderly, and people who have underlying medical conditions.

Well, in my case, I qualify to wear a respirator in several ways. First of all, yes, I am elderly, being in my late 60s. Second, I also have underlying serious medical conditions. For example, since 2017, I have been hospitalized twice for DVT -- or Deep Vein Thrombosis -- and for Acute Bilateral Pulmonary Emboli. In layman's terms, this means that I have had multiple blood clots form in my legs, which have then broken off and traveled to every node of my lungs. This is a very dangerous, life-threatening situation; because if a blood clot reaches my heart, or my brain, it can kill me on the spot. As a result, I am now forced to take a daily dose of Warfarin -- a.k.a. Coumadin -- for the rest of my life. Warfarin is an anticoagulant, or blood thinner, as such drugs are commonly known.

I am also concerned about my daughter. She has a compromised immune system, and has been a Type 1 diabetic for just under twenty years now. Likewise, my granddaughter suffers from certain allergies as well. Are these medical professionals trying to tell me that we have to forego wearing respirators so they can have more for themselves? In my view, the real

solution here isn't to rob Peter to pay Paul, it's to simply start manufacturing a lot more face masks, which is exactly what a number of countries are now doing.

Yet still, in my personal opinion, this situation regarding the respirator shortage makes a very loud statement, and that is this: Despite how many times the world has been threatened by different deadly viruses and contagions in recent decades, it is evident that national governments, global and national health care institutions, hospitals and clinics, and doctors of various persuasions are still not prepared for the "Big One". I am of course referring to a superbug which will kill millions of people across the globe, similar to the deadly 1918 influenza pandemic, which is commonly referred to as the Spanish flu. The Wikipedia website notes the following regarding the 1918 Spanish flu:

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"It infected 500 million people around the world, or about 27% of the then world population of between 1.8 and 1.9 billion, including people on isolated Pacific islands and in the Arctic. The death toll is estimated to have been anywhere from 17 million to 50 million, and possibly as high as 100 million, making it one of the deadliest epidemics in human history."

----- End Quote -----

Ironically, while in our modern day China has thus far been one of the nations most devastated by SARS-CoV-2, during the Spanish flu of 1918, it was one of the countries least affected, for reasons which remain hypothetical at best. At any rate, as I told my Facebook friend, insofar as not wearing face masks is concerned, I most certainly disagree with those doctors' advice. Furthermore, I think that it is both ludicrous and irresponsible for any medical professional to convey such a message to the public. We have a right to be protected just as much as they do. Or is this yet another manifestation of the haves versus the have-nots, the rich versus the poor, and the elite versus the oppressed working class?

Now, to add a degree of balance to my previous statement, I will say that if they are cheap, loose-fitting face masks, such as you might find at a dentist's office, then, yes, I would tend to agree with them when they say that the masks

probably offer very little real protection from the current strain of the coronavirus which is obviously quite virulent. At the same time, while I am not a medical professional by any means, in my opinion, common sense dictates that a high-quality, good-fitting respirator, in conjunction with washing one's hands regularly, eating properly, resting properly, avoiding large crowds if at all possible, etc., is the best approach to take to remaining free of the current strain of the coronavirus. Let me also add that if you are using face masks, it is important to remember to keep your hands away from your face while wearing one. Likewise, when you go to dispose of a used respirator, be very careful how you handle it, being as it may be laden with the virus you are trying to avoid.

Also of interest is the fact that one reason why the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases has grown so rapidly in recent weeks and days is because more tests are now being conducted. Not just by the United States, but by other nations as well. As a result, what we currently know regarding the extent of the novel coronavirus pandemic may still just be the tip of the ice berg. In other words, the more testing that is done, the bigger the problem becomes as more confirmed cases are revealed. Thus, it is no surprise that medical professionals around the world -- including in the United States -- are now warning that we should expect to see a spike in the number of cases as the weeks and months progress. New hot spots will continue to appear on the global map. In fact, just in the time that it has taken me to write this series over the past few days, I have had to change the statistics I include in it multiple times, because the numbers just keep rising, sometimes by the hour.

Another point worth mentioning is the fact that we may never know the actual mortality rate of COVID-19, due to the fact that there is now information on public record that a number of people have died from it, before the coronavirus was even identified as the cause of their death. In other words, such people were misdiagnosed, and were thought to have died from influenza. However, a posthumous examination revealed that such people had actually died from COVID-19. This point was revealed during a House Oversight Committee hearing on March 11, 2020 in an exchange between U.S. Representative Harley Rouda (D-Calif.) and Dr. Robert Redfield, who is the director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In that discussion, Rouda asked Redfield if it was possible

that certain flu patients could have been misdiagnosed with influenza, when in reality they had died from COVID-19. Dr. Redfield responded "The standard practice is the first thing you do is test for influenza, so if they had influenza they would be positive." Rep. Rouda then inquired if they were conducting posthumous testing, to which Redfield responded that there has been "a surveillance system of deaths from pneumonia, that the CDC has. It's not in every city, every state, every hospital." Rep. Rouda then pressed Dr. Redfield further and asked him "So we could have some people in the United States dying for what appears to be influenza, when in fact it could be the coronavirus?" Redfield answered in the affirmative stating that "some cases have actually been diagnosed that way in the United States today." While it is water under the bridge, the point remains that due to this unintentional oversight, we may never have a truly accurate figure regarding the total number of deaths which are/were caused by the coronavirus.

So exactly where does the world stand at this point in time? The following COVID-19 pandemic stats make it rather clear. Be advised that the accuracy of the figures below is based on two things:

1. The honesty and accuracy of the governments and health institutions which are submitting these statistics to the global database.
2. The level of testing which is being conducted by each nation which contributes statistics to this list.

Having said that, because some nations have been very slow to conduct tests, and/or have a very limited number of test kits in their possession, it is most probable that the figures listed below are far below reality. In short, the more tests each nation conducts, the more accurate these statistics will become over time. However, they will never be completely accurate due to these and a variety of other reasons.

CORONAVIRUS LATEST STATISTICS

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

09:05 AM ChST (Chamorro Standard Time)

Global Statistics:

184 countries affected to date

1,414,738 confirmed cases to date
81,259 dead worldwide, or 5.74% of confirmed cases
298,642 people have recovered, or 21.10% of confirmed cases

USA Statistics:

Note: When I first began sharing statistics on March 7, 2020, the United States stood at slot #10 insofar as the number of reported confirmed cases is concerned. However, with improved testing, the USA now stands at position #1 worldwide.

387,547 confirmed cases in the USA
20,395 Americans have recovered
5.26% affected Americans recovered
12,291 Americans dead in the USA
3.17% affected Americans deceased

Nations With 1000+ Confirmed Cases:

Country	Confirmed	Active	Deaths	Recovered
USA	387,547	354,861	12,291	20,395
Spain	140,618	83,498	13,912	43,208
Italy	135,586	94,067	17,127	24,392
France	110,049	80,190	10,343	19,516
Germany	107,591	69,498	2,012	36,081
China	82,718	1,973	3,335	77,410
Iran	62,589	31,678	3,872	27,039
United Kingdom	55,946	49,450	6,171	325
Turkey	34,109	31,802	725	1,582
Switzerland	22,253	12,728	821	8,704
Belgium	22,194	16,002	2,035	4,157
Netherlands	19,709	17,329	2,108	272
Canada	17,046	12,910	345	3,791
Brazil	13,831	13,023	681	127
Austria	12,639	8,350	243	4,046
Portugal	12,442	11,913	345	184
Korea, South	10,331	3,445	192	6,694
Israel	9,248	8,413	65	770
Sweden	7,693	6,897	591	205
Russia	7,497	6,945	58	494
Norway	5,953	5,832	89	32
Australia	5,895	4,770	45	1,080
Ireland	5,709	5,474	210	25
India	5,311	4,740	150	421
Denmark	5,266	3,442	203	1,621

Chile	5,116	4,175	43	898
Czechia	4,944	4,684	88	172
Poland	4,848	4,528	129	191
Romania	4,417	3,760	197	460
Pakistan	4,035	3,549	57	429
Malaysia	3,963	2,579	63	1,321
Japan	3,906	3,222	92	592
Philippines	3,764	3,503	177	84
Ecuador	3,747	3,456	191	100
Luxembourg	2,970	2,426	44	500
Peru	2,954	1,546	107	1,301
Saudi Arabia	2,795	2,139	41	615
Indonesia	2,738	2,313	221	204
Serbia	2,447	2,386	61	0
Mexico	2,439	1,681	125	633
United Arab Emrts	2,359	2,161	12	186
Finland	2,308	1,974	34	300
Thailand	2,258	1,343	27	888
Panama	2,100	2,031	55	14
Qatar	2,057	1,901	6	150
Dominican Republic	1,956	1,822	98	36
Greece	1,832	1,482	81	269
Colombia	1,780	1,630	50	100
South Africa	1,749	1,641	13	95
Argentina	1,628	1,234	56	338
Iceland	1,586	1,021	6	559
Singapore	1,481	1,098	6	377
Algeria	1,468	1,162	193	113
Ukraine	1,462	1,389	45	28
Egypt	1,450	1,080	94	276
Croatia	1,282	1,097	18	167
Morocco	1,184	1,001	90	93
New Zealand	1,160	918	1	241
Estonia	1,149	1,059	21	69
Iraq	1,122	684	65	373
Slovenia	1,059	921	36	102
Moldova	1,056	994	22	40

Based on the available evidence of all the nations which are now detecting one or more confirmed cases of the COVID-19 disease -- and with those numbers certain to grow as we move forward -- while the major world health organizations were at first cautious, and initially were very hesitant to even use the word "pandemic", it became rather evident to many of us that this is precisely what we are in the midst of. However, as you may know, with the mounting evidence, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization -- or WHO -- was finally

forced to acknowledge that COVID-19 has become a dangerous global pandemic. Furthermore, in the USA, Doctor Anthony Fauci, who is the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, candidly admitted that unless world governments quickly contain and mitigate the situation, it could result in many millions of people becoming infected with the coronavirus. Newsweek magazine notes the following:

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The number of people that are infected with the new coronavirus is entirely dependent on how America responds to the outbreak, according to Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

"If we are complacent and don't do really aggressive containment and mitigation, the number could go way up and be involved in many, many millions," Fauci told members of the House Oversight and Reform Committee on Wednesday.

----- End Quote -----

In all fairness, it should be pointed out that nobody wants to unnecessarily create a panic, even though buyers panic is already evident in a number of nations where store shelves have quickly been emptied of basic necessities. So from that perspective, the cautious position of medical professionals and government figures is understandable. Yet still, I must wonder how much we're actually being told the truth at this current time.

As my longtime friends will already know, I am not one for fear-mongering, rumor-mongering, and propagating conspiracy theories. I am very careful regarding what I write in my articles, as well as in my online commentaries on the social networks. I always strive to stick with the facts; both the Biblical facts, as well as the facts when it concerns some secular event. But as I am sure many of you have seen, until very recently, there appeared to be a concerted campaign to convince us that this COVID-19 pandemic is not really any worse than the viruses and flu strains which afflict people every year. At least that was the case.

As I said a moment ago, mounting evidence has forced public government and health officials to alter their story. Even the American president was singing that same tune, and was

contradicting the statements which were being put out by the CDC and the WHO. In short, certain individuals and entities were purposely downplaying the current situation, and that just raised my personal suspicions even more. However, with thousands of confirmed cases in the United States, including many deaths in Washington state, it was simply no longer possible to downplay the severity of what is going on. Thus, on March 14 -- our local time -- President Trump declared a national emergency in order to more effectively fight against the coronavirus pandemic in the United States.

Like many of you, when it comes to national governments, I take everything they say -- and what the mass media says -- with a grain of salt. Yes, I have a trust issue. But let me ask you something. Should we just listen to what they say, or should we look more carefully at what they are actually doing at this current time? Now, if we do the latter, then insofar as the COVID-19 disease is concerned, there seemed to be a wide gap between what we were initially being told, and what is actually being done by different nations around the world. For example, on March 13th, Fox News reported the following:

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The U.S. Capitol and nearby congressional office buildings are being closed to the general public over coronavirus concerns, with Congress announcing Thursday that it is allowing access only to lawmakers, staff, press and official business visitors.

----- End Quote -----

In addition to the above, President Trump has now blocked all human traffic coming from twenty-six European nations. Even before the American government did this, there were clear signs that the world was already in serious trouble. For example, about a week ago, Moon Jae-in -- who is the current president of South Korea -- put his country on the highest possible alert in its fight against the coronavirus. By so doing, he empowered his government to lock down entire cities, and to take certain other sweeping measures in order to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. And with good reason. As we saw earlier, South Korea is reporting many thousands of confirmed cases, and quite a few deaths, and those numbers are continuing to rise by the day.

South Korea is not alone. Following China's example, other

countries have also begun to take similar measures. They are locking down entire cities and regions where the coronavirus has surfaced. Some countries have temporarily closed their borders with other nations which have also been affected by COVID-19. As you have probably already heard, both Europe and the Middle East are on high alert. For example, in the United Kingdom, they have reportedly drafted plans to shut down the House of Commons as well as the House of Lords until September of this current year, in an attempt to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, according to a parliamentary insider.

In addition to the above, some nations are calling back and quarantining their citizens if they have been in an affected country. Hundreds of international flights have already been canceled. In some countries, school systems are being closed for a month. Likewise, certain large companies have begun to encourage their employees to start working from home for the time being. A lot of public events are also being canceled. Large public gatherings are likewise being prohibited.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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Stock Markets Are Crashing, Our Island Would Be Devastated, Incident With My Personal Physician, Are Governments Muzzling Health Officials To Avoid Panic?, Watch What Your Government Is Doing And Not Just Saying, Sensationalism And Untrustworthy Mass Media, Coronavirus Has Not Peaked Yet, Infection Rates And Death Rates Continue To Climb Daily, I Am Not A Conspiracy Theorist Fear-Monger Or Rumor-Monger, Investigate Before You Propagate, Do Not Fear And Trust The Lord For His Protection, Compare Scripture With Scripture For Sound Conclusions, Trust

God To Provide and Protect You But Also Be Wise And Prepare, Joseph In Egypt: A Prudent Man Foreseeth The Evil, Preparing Is Not Fear Or A Lack Of Faith, The Problem With Conspiracy Theorists, We Will Never Know True Origin Of COVID-19 Disease, Maintain Bible-Centric View And Understanding Of World Events, Did God Allow SARS-CoV-2 Virus To Be Released Into The World?, God Indeed Uses Plagues As Tools Of His Divine Chastisements, Moses' Stiff Warnings To Rebellious Israelites, They Backslid Anyway, God's Purpose In Chastisement Is Global National Or Personal Repentance, God's Real Desire Is Not To Destroy Us

Continuing our discussion from part one, as you've probably already heard by now, the global stock markets are likewise being very seriously affected as the coronavirus continues to spread to more countries, and as key manufacturers -- such as in China -- are forced to pull back production levels due to a lack of healthy workers, and because they are trying to contain the coronavirus outbreak. Investors are becoming increasingly alarmed as the Dow Jones Industrial Average continues to plunge. First, it dropped 3,500 points in the matter of a week's time. Then, a few days later, it tumbled yet another 970 plus points. To make matters worse, it fell again by nearly ten per cent after that, and it tumbled yet again by almost another 3,000 points. News sources are now stating that this is the worst the blue chip index has fallen since it crashed twenty-two percent almost thirty-three years ago in October of 1987. It is hard to imagine what the end result will be if the situation continues to worsen and the virus doesn't abate soon.

Here where I live, more than a hundred flights have already been canceled, and there have been over twenty thousand tourist cancellations, primarily from South Korea. This has really hurt our local economy, because it is tourism-based. But that is not all. Even our local government was forced to turn away a cruise ship a few weeks ago, due to the fact that there were infected people on board. We just couldn't take the chance with them. You see, because we are a closed environment with nowhere else to go, I am convinced that the COVID-19 disease would absolutely devastate our small island population of about 160,000 people, if it ever arrived on our shores. Our island is only about thirty-two miles long, and four to eight miles wide, depending on where you live. So if the coronavirus did surface here, it would sweep through this entire island rather quickly and overwhelm our

limited number of medical facilities. It would be terrible.

Let me share one particular incident with you. When I went in for my monthly doctor's appointment in February of this year, I shared my thoughts regarding the coronavirus, and how it would affect our island if it were to surface here, with my doctor. My doctor's reaction was to say that due to our remote location here in the Western Pacific, our chances of being infected are minimal, even though we are only three to seven hours by air from nations where the coronavirus has already struck, including China, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, the Philippines and Australia. Please understand that people from all of these places visit or live on our island. We are an airport hub more or less in the center of all of these nations, and a conduit for some flights to the U.S. mainland as well. Yet despite this fact, our risk level is low?

But the point I was getting to is this: While my doctor said that the threat to our island is minimal, when I entered his clinic, I was shocked to discover that all three front desk receptionists were wearing masks, as was my doctor himself. They never do this, which is why it immediately caught my attention and freaked me out a bit. It was as if they were sending a subtle message to everyone, without saying a word. This makes me wonder how many national governments may have already put a muzzle on their primary health officials in order to keep the situation under control, and avoid panic. Who knows. I won't take that thought any further.

But the point is, my doctor was trying to convince me that we are safe here, while his actions, and the actions of his receptionists were saying quite the opposite. Well, remember what I said a minute ago regarding not just listening to what national governments are saying, but actually looking at what they are doing? They want us to believe that we are safe, and that the risk for contracting COVID-19 is low. Yet look at all the serious steps they have been taking in recent weeks which seem to indicate otherwise. Does that seem like low risk to you? Would they be taking all of these preventative measures for something that is no worse, and way less deadly, than the annual flu? It just doesn't make sense and is highly suspect, in my opinion. Of course, I obviously cannot prove anything conclusively. But isn't that how it always is when it comes to government operations?

Now, regarding the mass media, is it possible that the news outlets are purposely exaggerating and hyping up the news

for the sake of publicity, profit and a wider viewership or readership as some people have proposed? Of course it is possible. Only a very naive person would not realize that they do it all the time. Yet still, in light of everything that so many world governments are currently doing, should we really believe that the coronavirus isn't any worse than your average winter flu? Yes, I realize that the death rate for COVID-19 isn't anywhere near the annual death rate for the common flu. But let's wait another six months and then see where we really stand. To reiterate, too many nations are on high alert to believe that COVID-19 doesn't pose a greater threat than they want us to know.

Continuing our discussion, one thing has become rather clear in my view. As I pointed out to you earlier, it is commonly agreed amongst medical professionals that the current strain of coronavirus has not yet peaked on a global scale. It has not yet reached all of the countries that it is going to invade, and it has by no means peaked yet in all the nations where it has already been detected. The infection rates and the death rates continue to climb on a daily basis, as you will see for yourself when you check out some of the links which I include at the end of this same series. As such, only time will tell the true tale and how bad it is actually going to get.

As I mentioned at the beginning of part one, when it comes to the discussion of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the COVID-19 disease which is caused by it, online comments have ranged from those people who are taking the potential threat very seriously, to more laid-back folks who are laughing it off as nothing to worry about, or claiming that it is a hoax being perpetrated by the mass media, or just another false flag situation created by the globalists and the New World Order advocates as a means to implement their devious plans for world domination.

As I also mentioned in part one, personally, I am not a crazy-eyed conspiracy theorist who spends hours each day watching questionable YouTube videos and filling my head with unprovable nonsense. Neither am I what we might refer to as a fear-monger or a rumor-monger. I am in fact very careful regarding what I write in my articles, as well as in my online commentaries on the social networks. My personal rule is "Investigate before you propagate." Thus, I always strive to stick with the facts; both the Biblical facts, as well as the facts when it concerns some secular event, such

as the current coronavirus threat.

The last thing that I want to do is to fill my readers and friends with fear and paranoia, as the world is prone to do. The world in fact thrives off of such things. So, while I have shared some alarming things in this series which may possibly unsettle you, whatever you do, please do not give in to fear. Like many of my Christian friends, no matter what happens in the days, weeks and months ahead, I remain firmly convinced that we should all continue to trust the Lord and not worry about it. We should not allow ourselves to become overcome with fear and freak out. We should claim the Lord's peace and protection, as in verses such as the following. You will find similar verses in the KJV Bible Verse Lists which I list at the end of this current series:

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Isaiah 26:3, KJV

"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday."

Psalms 91:4-6, KJV

"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."

Psalms 34:7, KJV

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Isaiah 41:10, KJV

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7, KJV

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

2 Timothy 1:7, KJV

Now, while I firmly believe in the message which is conveyed

in the previous verses, it has come to my attention that a number of my Christian friends may be misunderstanding how we should be reacting in light of the current situation with the COVID-19 disease sweeping the world one nation after another. For example, I came across one person who seemed to adopt a somewhat lackadaisical attitude. In other words, this person paraphrased Philippians 4:19, and appeared to be saying to his online friends "Don't worry about the coronavirus. Just relax. God will provide your needs." As many of you will know, Philippians 4:19 states the following:

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19, KJV

Another Bible verse which some Christians may possibly look to during this current viral threat is the following one which is found at the end of the sixth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew:

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Matthew 6:34, KJV

My friends, I have shared the previous two verses many times since I first began this ministry fifty years ago. I firmly believe in both of them. I am fully convinced that God shall indeed provide our every need according to Philippians 4:19 and other verses which are found in the Scriptures, if we are truly seeking first His Kingdom, as Jesus advised us to do. Likewise, exactly as Jesus says in the previous verse, I also believe that we should not worry about tomorrow. However, I also realize that if we don't balance the previous two verses with other verses which are found in the Scriptures, we may come away with a skewed understanding. As I have taught for many years now, we must compare Scripture with Scripture if we expect to arrive at the right conclusion.

Let me ask you something. If you have to go to work today and suddenly realize that your gas tank is almost empty, are you just going to sit there and say, "Okay, God. Philippians 4:19. Fill up my tank before I go out the door please."? Of course not. You already know from experience that God doesn't quite work in that way. So instead of just sitting there waiting for your gas tank to magically fill up, you are going to take the practical step of driving to the gas station and filling up

your tank, right?

Or what if your child comes to you and says, "Hey! I'm hungry but there is no food in the fridge!" Are you just going to say, "Okay. Just wait a minute while I pray. I am sure that the Lord will put something in there for you."? Again, of course not. Instead, you are going to take the practical step of going to the grocery store in order to buy some food for your hungry child.

Are you starting to see the point yet? In short, there are likewise many examples in both the Old and the New Testaments where the Lord expected His people to exercise their faith and to do what they could. For example, didn't Joseph advise the Egyptians to prepare for seven years of famine? What if they had not done so? Obviously, they would have all starved to death. God likewise promised the Israelites the Promised Land. But did it just miraculously happen all on its own? No. Of course not. They had to go in and fight for it. They had to exercise their faith. Otherwise, their forty-year trek in the wilderness would have never ended, and they all would have died there.

In similar fashion, today, we have to do the same thing. We have to do what we can, and then God will do the rest. We need to give the Lord a little help and cooperation, by doing what we can to keep ourselves and our families safe until the current situation passes. To suggest that we should just sit on our fannies and do absolutely nothing in the face of some impending emergency of any kind, whether it is some natural disaster, or the coronavirus, or something else, is unwise, foolhardy, shortsighted and being irresponsible, in my view. It is not exercising faith. It is exercising plain stupidity. In short, we should all prepare for the coronavirus invading our area of the world, exactly as some health agencies and institutions have been suggesting we do for some time now.

At the very least, this means purchasing good quality face masks -- meaning with a rating of N95 or higher, or of class FFP3 -- stocking up on food and water and other basic daily necessities such as toiletries, required medications, etc., in case you need to lock yourself in for some period of time, and doing whatever else the Lord shows you to do. In fact, at the end of this current series you will find a link to one of my article entitled "Y2K Preparation: Survival Items List". You can use the article as a basic guide if you need any help with stocking up within a city environment.

The simple truth is that anyone who fails to properly prepare for a potential emergency situation will have no one to blame but themselves when they -- and perhaps their family as well -- suffer due to being ill-prepared. This is precisely the lesson we see in the following verse that is found in the Book of Proverbs:

"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished."

Proverbs 22:3, KJV

So are you starting to get the message yet? Here it is again. Yes, we most definitely should not worry or be overcome with fear. We should indeed trust in the Lord. Likewise, we should not worry about tomorrow as Jesus taught. However, that does not mean that we should not make practical preparations for it, just as Joseph did in Egypt. God gave Joseph those dreams so that he would know to prepare for what was to come. So, my friends, we need to have some common sense, just like Joseph. We need to ask the Lord for His Wisdom, as in this verse:

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

James 1:5, KJV

So contrary to what some misguided Christians may think, and contrary to our Christian friends who accuse us of promoting fear because in love we advise our friends to prepare for the possible impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19), we are not demonstrating a lack of faith. We are not fear-mongering. We are not freaking out. We are not hyping up or exaggerating the situation. We are simply being smart, and being prepared, just in case the situation does deteriorate to a dangerous or even life-threatening level. I hope that those of you who hold to this erroneous view can see that now. Personally, I would rather prepare and not need it, than fail to prepare and find myself in a fix due to my own foolishness. I did the same thing two decades ago when we were threatened by Y2K, and I have no regrets. I was fully prepared then, and I will be prepared now as well. In fact, right now I am waiting for my FFP3 class respirators to arrive in the mail.

Returning to one of our previous topics, it is really so easy to entertain one conspiracy theory or another, and to try to politicize the issue, as so many people online have already

begun to do. I have seen this happen time and time again. It seems that the minute that some important local, national or global event occurs somewhere in the world, the conspiracy theorists come out of the woodwork and start to fill up the web with their quite-often-unsubstantiated ideas. Sadly, it doesn't seem to matter whether or not there is any truth to what they are saying. If it sounds good, if it results in more likes, comments and shares, well then let's just put it out there for the masses to chew on. The tragedy is when I see my online Christian friends doing the same thing as well, and some of them are indeed doing it. I mean no offense to anyone, but some of the things they are saying are outright nonsense.

To be honest, I seriously doubt that any of us regular folks will ever know with any degree of certainty exactly where or how this particular strain of the coronavirus originated. Furthermore, I do not even think that it is that important. What is important, in my view, is that we Christians have a Bible-centric view and understanding regarding world events. We need to learn to view things through the lens of God's Holy Word, and to steer clear of the conspiracy theory trap. It is my opinion that if we do the latter, we are not only missing the mark, but we may even become unwitting victims of deception ourselves. Again, I see this happening right now on the social networks. Some brethren seem to practice very little spiritual discernment, sad to say.

Having said that, those of us who have diligently studied God's Word should understand that regardless of how and where COVID-19 originated, if we truly believe that God is control of the world situation, then we have to conclude that it is He who has also allowed the coronavirus to be released into the world at this present time, in order to fulfill His divine purposes, whatever they happen to be. Of course, some Christians may argue, "How dare you say that! God doesn't do stuff like that! God loves us! It's just the Devil who does such wicked things." If that is your view, then please consider reading my article entitled "Does God Cause Natural Disasters?", as well as studying my KJV Bible Verse List called "God Creates and Uses Evil". You will find links to both of them at the end of this series. Perhaps you will have a change of mind after doing so.

Regarding the SARS-CoV-2 virus, my view is this: Surely our all-powerful God could have prevented this from happening, yet He chose not to do so. He allowed this plague to spread from

just one country -- China -- to over one hundred nations in a matter of just a few months. And as I mentioned earlier, this virus is just getting started. Even the CDC, WHO and various other medical professionals admit that we have yet to see the worst of it. So we must ask ourselves why God didn't stop it in its tracks before it became such a global threat. A clear answer can be found in God's Word.

As many of my readers no doubt already know, there is ample Scriptural evidence in both the Old and the New Testaments which indicates that God in fact uses plagues, pestilences and such as tools of His divine chastisements against a wicked and rebellious people. As I explain in articles such as "The Fruits of Disobedience", the ancient Israelites most certainly were aware of this truth. After all, Moses gave the children of Israel ample warnings time and time again of what would happen to them if they turned against the Lord, followed after the gods of the heathen, and disobeyed God's Laws. Consider the following sample verses:

"Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known."

Deuteronomy 11:26-28, KJV

"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field. Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store. Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me."

Deuteronomy 28:15-20, KJV

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive

their sin, and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14, KJV

Do you see that? The Lord very clearly said that He would curse the Israelites and in fact destroy them, if they chose to foolishly rebel against Him. Sadly, as I explain in the aforementioned series, despite so many stiff warnings from Moses, the Israelites did in fact rebel against the Lord and repeatedly fell into a state of deep apostasy, as becomes very evident in verses such as the following ones:

"And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger."

Judges 2:12, KJV

"And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him."

Judges 10:6, KJV

"For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded."

1 Kings 11:4-10, KJV

"And they transgressed against the God of their fathers, and went a whoring after the gods of the people of the land, whom God destroyed before them."

1 Chronicles 5:25, KJV

"Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them. Wherefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Amaziah, and he sent unto him a prophet, which said unto him, Why hast thou sought after the gods of the people, which could not deliver their own people out of thine hand?"

2 Chronicles 25:14-15, KJV

"For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which smote him: and he said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel."

2 Chronicles 28:23, KJV

"For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have only done evil before me from their youth: for the children of Israel have only provoked me to anger with the work of their hands, saith the LORD. For this city hath been to me as a provocation of mine anger and of my fury from the day that they built it even unto this day; that I should remove it from before my face, Because of all the evil of the children of Israel and of the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke me to anger, they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction. But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it. And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin."

Jeremiah 32:30-35, KJV

It is no wonder then that God had to deal with them time and time again, and those stiffnecked Israelites paid the price for their rebellion against the Lord. Turning to our current time, regarding COVID-19, assuming that it continues to grow worse in coming months as global health institutions have been predicting, what exactly is the endgame here? Well, as some of you will know, God's Word teaches us that Divine

Chastisement is supposed to result in global, national or personal repentance, which will ultimately lead to a full restoration of our relationship with God the Father. That is always God's goal. This point becomes rather clear in verses such as the following. As you will see, the Lord takes no pleasure in punishing His children. It is most certainly not His desire to destroy us. Rather, He just wants us to repent of our rebellion and to return to Him:

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

Ezekiel 33:11, KJV

"For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men."

Lamentations 3:31-33, KJV

"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."

Matthew 18:10-14, KJV

"And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village."

Luke 9:51-56, KJV

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Luke 19:10, KJV

"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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

John 3:16-17, KJV

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

Acts 3:19-21, KJV

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

1 Timothy 2:3-4, KJV

"The 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."

2 Peter 3:9, KJV

"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward

it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but LET IT RATHER BE HEALED."

Hebrews 12:5-13, KJV

So as Bible-believing Christians, we must all honestly ask ourselves: Is it possible then that this is the purpose of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the COVID-19 disease which has been currently spreading around the world? Are we being chastised due to our sins against the Lord? It is definitely something worth praying about, particularly as the world turns more and more against God and His holy precepts with each passing year.

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

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CORONAVIRUS: JUST THE FACTS, MA'AM : PART 3

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Is COVID-19 God's Chastisement?, Situation In Daegu South Korea, The Shincheonji Church of Jesus Cult Is Coronavirus Epicenter In South Korea, Doomsday Cult's Leader Claims To Be Second Coming Of Jesus Christ, God Is In Control Of The World And His Creations, Why Did COVID-19 Begin In Daegu?, Judgment Must Begin At The House Of God, Apostle Paul Warns Against Another Jesus False Apostles And Deceitful Workers, God's Chastisement Against A Wicked Rebellious World Lost In Sin And Apostasy, The Coronavirus Pandemic Is Far From Over, A Call To Pray Repent And Prepare, Psalm 91, Closing Remarks, BBB Suggested Reading List, Online COVID-19 Medical Resources

As I asked at the conclusion of part two, is it possible that the Lord's purpose in allowing the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the COVID-19 disease to quickly spread around the world is to chastise us due to our sins against Him? Before you just dismiss this possibility, allow me to share some info with you which I discovered about ten days ago.

As we learned in part one of this series, at this current time, the nation of South Korea has been hit particularly hard by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The epicenter for the virus outbreak in South Korea is a place called Daegu. It is located in the southeastern sector of the country, and is in fact the fourth largest city in South Korea with more than two million people in its metropolitan area. From Daegu, the coronavirus has now spread to every major city and province in that country. As a result, the South Korean government raised the nation's virus alert level to red -- the highest level possible -- for the first time since 2009.

But what I found particularly interesting is the fact that in Daegu, the epicenter for the outbreak appears to be an obscure religious group called the "Shincheonji Church of Jesus". In fact, the majority of the original infections in South Korea -- meaning literally hundreds of people -- are found within that group. According to online sources, the so-called "church" has a worldwide membership of 240,000, and Daegu is its headquarters. Furthermore, I was reading the other day that even one of the leading doctors in the fight against the coronavirus in Daegu -- who has since died -- was a member of the "church". The article I read likewise mentioned a certain police official who was also a member of the "church". I was given the impression that there are many more secret members in Daegu who don't want their identities to be revealed.

But here is the interesting part. The established churches in South Korea view the "Shincheonji Church of Jesus" as a cult. They even call it the "Doomsday Cult". When I first came upon this information, I wasn't sure why this was so. However, since that time, I have discovered that very much like so-called Reverend Sun Myung Moon of the Unification Church -- or "Moonies", as many people call them -- the charismatic leader of the "Shincheonji Church of Jesus" -- whose name is Lee Man-hee -- claims to be the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Apparently, the naive South Koreans believe in this false christ, because the man is worshipped as the messiah by many thousands of people in Daegu. In fact, the

Korean word "Shincheonji" means "new heaven and earth". Is this an indication of how deep the deception runs in that so-called "church"? Obviously, it is just another cult.

Now, as many of my readers will know, I have long believed that God is very purposeful in everything that He does, and in everything that He allows to happen. I am convinced that nothing in this world happens by mere accident, or is simply a product of random circumstances. God is in control of it all, including in control of each of our lives, as becomes evident by Bible verses such as the following ones:

"See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand."

Deuteronomy 32:39, KJV

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"

Isaiah 46:9-10, KJV

"I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things."

Isaiah 45:7, KJV

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

Proverbs 15:3, KJV

"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father."

Matthew 10:29, KJV

"Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?"

Luke 12:6, KJV

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things . . . For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring."

Acts 17:24-25, 28, KJV

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

Revelation 4:11, KJV

So, in light of all of the previous verses, I really have to ask myself the following question: Of all of the places in South Korea where the coronavirus could have struck first, why did it happen in Daegu, and why were hundreds of its very first victims members of that misguided cult who erroneously follow a false messiah who claims to be Jesus Christ? Could it possibly have something to do with the following verse?:

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

1 Peter 4:17, KJV

If ever there was a good reason for God's wrath to fall down upon a so-called "church", surely it would be for worshiping a false Jesus who claims to be the Messiah. I am reminded of what the Apostle Paul wrote in his second Epistle to the brethren at Corinth regarding preaching "another Jesus", and his warning regarding false apostles and deceitful workers. Consider the following group of verses:

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him . . . For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15, KJV

If you've already read my series "Hurricane Katrina and Other Natural Disasters", as well as the article "Does God Cause Natural Disasters?", then you will know exactly where I am going with this train of thought. Based on the Scriptural evidence, and as I explained in previous paragraphs, it would

seem that this virus, or plague, may very well be a serious chastisement from the Lord. Not only on South Korea, but on the entire world. After all, as we all know, a large part of the world has fallen into deep apostasy, and engages in many practices which seriously anger the Lord. These include such things as abortion, same-sex "marriage", the ordination of gay and lesbian pastors, priests and bishops, unending wars, the oppression of the poor, pornography, prostitution, child trafficking, rampant drug addiction and alcoholism, profound government corruption, economic slavery, and so many other societal evils.

The real tragedy is that it is just getting started. Think about it. As I have mentioned a few times now, barely three months ago, COVID-19 was only affecting China. Today, as I write this series, it is now affecting over 155 nations around the world, and that number continues to rise week after week. We can only imagine where it will be in another three to six months. As you may have heard, some medical professionals are now predicting that when all is said and done, and the COVID-19 disease has fully run its course, somewhere between 40% to 70% of the world's population will be affected by this virus strain. At a death rate of 2% to 3%, we are talking about millions of deaths occurring around the world. That is really something to think about. It is likewise something we should all be preparing for, which is exactly what the CDC says we should be doing anyway, as we have already discussed. Please make no mistake. This is now a real global threat. It is a pandemic.

As I stated earlier, my words are not meant to be taken as an invitation to fear. Rather, they are an invitation to pray, as well as a call to repent of any unconfessed sins, and to prepare, and to hope that God will be merciful to us all. My words are meant to alarm you, and to shake you up, in case you have fallen into a state of spiritual lethargy, and into a false sense of security, as some of my online friends have apparently done. Perhaps an appropriate way to conclude this series would be by sharing Psalm 91 with you in its entirety. I pray that it will encourage you and fill you with the peace of God which passes all understanding:

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee

with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation."

Psalm 91:1-16, KJV

With this beautiful Psalm, I will bring this series to its conclusion. It is my hope that you have found it to be both informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would appreciate if you would take the time to click or tap on the various sharing links that are found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which contain topics which are related to this series, and which are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server.

BBB Articles:

Are Personal Tragedies Due to Sin?

Beholding the Evil and the Good

Coronavirus: Defiant Christians, Stay Home!

COVID-19, Financial Assistance and Christian Love

Do You Want Love and Light, or Rod and Wrath?

Does God Cause Natural Disasters?

Hurricane Katrina and Other Natural Disasters

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

The Fruits of Disobedience

Y2K Preparation: Survival Items List

BBB KJV Bible Verse Lists:

"God Creates and Uses Evil" KJV Bible Verse List

"God Will Provide Our Needs" KJV Bible Verse List

"God's Divine Protection" KJV Bible Verse List

"Fear and Peace" KJV Bible Verse List

"God's Loving Chastisements" KJV Bible Verse List

"God's Desire for Healing and Repentance" KJV Bible Verse List

"Divine Curses" KJV Bible Verse List

"Famines and Other Divine Curses" KJV Bible Verse List

"Plagues of the Apocalypse" KJV Bible Verse List

BBB Blog Posts:

Coronavirus: Latest Statistics: Bill's Bible Basics Blog

Stop Joking About the Coronavirus

Coronavirus: God Will Silence the Fools

Coronavirus: Be Still and Know That I Am God

Is COVID-19 the New Normal? : Don't Freak Out! Trust the Lord!

Helpful Tips Regarding Using Face Masks and Respirators

Coronavirus: Why Do You Condemn Your Brethren?

Coronavirus: Are You Distracted?

Recording: COVID-19 Safety Tips From Doctor Negrín University Hospital, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands

Coronavirus: Wake Up, Already!

Coronavirus: 40 Bible Verse Lists Regarding God's Love, Patience, Wrath, Judgments and Repentance

Coronavirus: Where is Your Common Sense?

Coronavirus: More Useful Information

The Doctor Anthony Fauci Debate: My View

Coronavirus: How to Respond to the Pandemic

Coronavirus Kooks -- a poem by Bill Kochman

Coronavirus: Face Masks or Bandanas?

Coronavirus and Beards and Mustaches

Online Coronavirus Resources:

For anyone who may be interested, the ArcGIS Online website -- which is a cloud-based mapping and analysis service -- is tracking the global spread of the novel coronavirus. The site has live updates. There is both a desktop version as well as a mobile version of their trackers. You can access both of them at the URLs below, assuming that they are still active at the time that you read this current series:

Desktop Tracker:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

Mobile Tracker:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/85320e2ea5424dfaaa75ae62e5c06e61>

The United States-based CDC -- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention -- offers current information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic at the following URL:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

The World Health Organization -- WHO -- also offers current information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic at the following URL:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

You can learn about different types, ratings and classes of face masks -- or respirators, as they are medically called -- at the following Wikipedia URL:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Respirator>

"nCoV Monitor" is a coronavirus statistics monitoring app for both macOS and iOS. It can be downloaded at this URL:

<https://coidea.agency/products/ncov-monitor/>

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