

Covid-19

At the beginning of this crisis the Lord spoke to us that He had allowed this to take place to show countries, especially the so-called developed countries, how they are not in control. In those countries there is the expectation that man made solutions can safeguard against anything with the further expectation that life will just continue with the hope of 'when I am ill the doctors will cure me'. Death has in a way been blotted out and the consequences of dying without any salvation and the guarantee for eternal life is just covered over. In the developing countries that is much less the case, a friend in Uganda wrote to me 'Africa loves God', how true. The Lord also spoke to us that the poor and needy always suffer more in crises, they don't have the resources and that the Lord knew that and would have mercy on them. It seems that is very much the case, although there has been hardship due to lockdowns and so on.

We have prayed along those lines, praying for nations and aware that on the UK and other of the wealthy countries there was a real darkness and somehow it was a little different for each county. So, we have prayed and continue to do so and would continue to encourage all of God's true people, the remnant, the '7000 who have not bowed the knee to Baal' to pray. We pray too that the mercy on the poor nations will continue.

My daily reading last night, 26th April was Leviticus 26 about God's dealings with Israel in their disobedience, these are some verses and how disobedience now across the world has its effect. Jesus Himself spoke of the things which would come on the earth in the last days.

I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it

And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you

and your high ways shall be desolate.

and when ye are gathered together within your cities, I will send the pestilence among you

I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children

I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the LORD their God

So much of it relates to our times under this plague. Terror has come over people. Men's hearts fail them for fear, Sickness of course is here. Highways are empty with the lockdown and in the UK we have pictures of empty motorways which would usually be very crowded. Problems in cities and damage to children's' lives, not physical wild beasts but often spiritual ones.

It is all there and yet in the last verse we have a God of mercy and love and grace and when my people turn to me and pray!!. Let us pray. It seems that things have change spiritually in the past few days. I want to celebrate the

change now and give thanks to the God of mercy and yet continue to pray that we will see God's power and glory worked out in this time and that many will come to the Lord Jesus. There is a difference between God's people as there was between Israel and Egypt when Israel dwelt in Goshen. May God make that difference for us now and keep us well and whole at this time to show the world that 'we were not a people are now the people of God'. Praise the Lord.

We see how where there is no faith in God that there is panic as even the experts for all their talking really don't know what to do. They disagree with each other; they are guessing and yet maintain that they know. I saw a video of a man walking through New Orleans calling on people to repent and saying it was the 'blind leading the blind'. We need to pray that the panic won't dominate the judgment of men.

'God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty'. 'How are the mighty fallen'. The word confound mean to embarrass, to put to shame. These experts are put to shame, and politicians too, as they fail to find solutions. *"He that trusts in the Lord will never be put to shame"*.

We then learned this about our prayers and the meaning of Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

"Thy Kingdom Come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". Jesus taught this when His disciples asked Him to teach them to pray. After worship to Our Father who is in heaven, "Holy is your name". The next word is about the kingdom coming, God's will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Isaiah 14 tells us what happened in heaven "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground". This is the will of God in heaven, the enemy is cast out, cut down to the ground. Praise God. Our prayers on earth and the work of the church is to do exactly what is done in heaven, to cut satan down to the ground. Jesus Christ Himself did that in His ministry to Israel with all the miracles and deliverance He brought to the needy. The kingdom of heaven was among them. At one-point Jesus says, "I saw satan as lightning fall from heaven". He was cast down to the ground as many came free.

Today this is the work of the church of Jesus Christ, we are seated with Him in heavenly places, to cast down the enemy to the ground to bring freedom and deliverance. "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God" Understand the purpose of your prayers. Your kingdom come, Your will be done in earth as it is in heaven. 'Bind the strong man and spoil His goods'. This applies not only to individual lives but to nations and to the spiritual powers which rise up to destroy lives and bring them into spiritual slavery and keep them there. "The thief comes not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly". Jesus has a Name above every name and His people, His church, His body are on the earth to cut satan to the ground, so that he cannot rise up and that Jesus is seen to be Lord of all. Pray, Pray, pray at this time.

Things have changed much in the world through this time. Christians seem to be supporting one another and in many ways communicating more. Some denominational barriers have been overcome. May they not return. Christians have much to celebrate as we have 'a hope within us' which the world does not have. Even non-Christian people are showing kindness they would not have shown before, some people's values have changed. This could be a time of harvest for Christians. Some will of course harden their hearts. It is clear from the response of Egypt to Moses and how hearts were hardened. The world will want to return to the way things were with commerce, and so on, taking over and that spirit of mammon ruling the nations again after this time when the spirit of sickness has done so in the past few months.

There have been warnings to the world before about serving money, unheeded by the rich powers. If men don't change things will come back again, and increasingly so, until the day of the return of the Lord Jesus. Leviticus 26 shows is that.

"The people imagine a vain thing", the idea that they could throw off the control of Almighty God. He laughs at them and has made His Son Lord over all. It is to Him all will bow and yet at this time all His people must bow and own Him Lord, stand before Him and pray. Look to the Lord will build His church in our times and gather in His people out of every tribe, people and nation, ready for His return. We must though fulfil our responsibility on the earth and be the salt that has so much lost its salting. Christians must stand for the truth of the gospel, the truth of the Bible and the morality of the Bible.

We must put God first in our lives and put away things which hinder the work of God and pray without ceasing. God bless you

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