

FEAR < LESS

WHY DID GOD ALLOW A WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC?

Valley Forge Baptist • Sunday Morning March 29th, 2020
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 Deuteronomy 28:1-6, 15-16, 21-22

“Let not your heart be troubled.” – Jesus

“Knowing the divine mind in all of its infinite complexities is not possible to us. The innumerable, incalculable, infinite complexities that function in the mind of God that cause Him to do what He does in the way He does it and where He does it are far beyond our capacity to grasp. And certainly, knowing the reasons why God does anything and knowing the future is beyond us.”

– Pastor John MacArthur

“The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

Deuteronomy 29:29

The word Deuteronomy means “second law” – it is the re-telling of God’s laws. It reminds God’s people of His faithfulness to them and an admonition to obey Him. Deuteronomy 28 is divided into two parts, the blessings, v. 1-14 and the curses, v. 15-68.

Does God have a message for you and me during this pandemic?

Why Did God Allow a Worldwide Pandemic?

The Coronavirus is in 199 countries – 600,000+ cases and over 100,000 in the US.

God is far too complex for us to understand all of His deep purposes. But He does let us know what we need to know. And what we need to know is this: Psalm 103 tells us that God is full of compassion, kindness, grace, mercy, and Fatherly love for His own children. He does NOT give us what we deserve but He forgives our sins and removes them “as far as the east is from the west.” We need to hear God saying to every one of us, “Trust Me.”

1. Why were there Pandemics in the Past?

“Righteousness exalteth a nation (any nation): but sin is a reproach to any people.”

What is a pandemic? It is something prevalent over a whole country or the world. In Deuteronomy 28, God tells the Jewish people that He will bring a blessing if they obey and a pandemic if they disobey, v. 20-22.

Pestilence is a contagion – or deadly virus.

A. *In the Bible – Divine Judgments for*

In Numbers 16, a group of leaders murmured against Moses and Aaron and God judged them by opening up the earth. The next day God sent a plague on those who followed Korah. Moses told Aaron to take his censer and go and pray for the people and the plague stopped. Aaron stood between the living and the dead.

What a picture of what we are to do! We are to go to a lost and dying world. We are to pray and share the Gospel with them.

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

John 3:14-15

Two Reasons for Pandemics for Israel:

- 1) Disobedience of God’s Laws, v. 15
- 2) Not serving the Lord with _____, v. 47

We are to keep God’s commandments AND to serve the Lord with joyfulness and gladness of heart. Don’t let anyone steal your joy in serving God.

B. *In History – the _____ of Sin*

“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.”

Romans 8:22

We live in a broken world. Tragedies happen everywhere.

Pandemics are not new.

- The Black Plague (1347-1251)

Estimated from 75-200 million people died in Europe and Asia.

- The Great Plagues of London (1348-1665)

40 outbreaks (300 years) killing 20% of the population each time.

- The Spanish Flu (1918-1920)

Infected 500 million people; death toll 50 million. 675,000 in US.

- Asian Flu/H2N2 (1957-1958)

1.1 million deaths worldwide; 116,000 in US.

- Hong Kong Flu (1968)

1 million deaths worldwide; 100,000 in US.

- Swine Flu/H1N1 (2009-2010)

700 million – 1 billion infected worldwide; 60 million Americans.

150,000-500,000 deaths; 12,000 deaths in US (87% under 65).

World Health Organization – 400,000 die annually of seasonal flu.

- Coronavirus (2019-2020)

We don't know how bad it will get, but as of today in the USA, the 2009 Swine Flu was 6 times worse; the 1957 and 1968 flu season was 50 times worse; and the Spanish Flu of 1918 was 337 times worse.

We are going to get through this!

2. What Lessons does God want to teach us?

We can learn from pandemics in the past – obey God's commandments, serve the Lord with joy, and don't complain. What lessons can we learn in the present?

A. *Don't take God's blessings for _____.*

The blessings of work, school, college, church, and freedoms.

"Just like He did with the plagues of Egypt, God has taken away everything we worship. God said, 'You want to worship athletes, I will shut down the stadiums. You want to worship musicians, I will shut down your concert halls. You want to worship actors, I will shut down theatres. You want to worship money, I will shut down the economy. You don't want to go to church and worship Me, I will make it where you can't go to church.' '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.' Maybe we need something better than a vaccine. Maybe we need to take this time of isolation from the distractions of the world and have a personal revival where we focus on the ONLY thing in the world that really matters – Jesus Christ.”
- Unknown

B. Grow your _____, not your_____.

It's not healthy to binge on bad news. It will make you worry.

What can you do to fight worry?

- 1) Pray – give your worries to God, Phil. 4:6-8
- 2) Limit “Bad News” Intake – to 1 or 2 reports a day
- 3) _____ on God's Truth
- 4) Write down your worry and make a plan!
- 5) Surrender Your Plans to God

Accept the sovereignty of God in your life, Romans 8:28.

Live for His glory, I Corinthians 10:31.

Share your faith with others, Acts 1:8.

Share the online tract – “Seeking a Cure.”

Listen to last week's sermon again on Psalm 91.

C. _____ your Life to Christ

- 1) If you are not saved, give your life to Christ today.
- 2) Surrender your selfishness, your plans, your goals to Christ.

Meditate on Romans 12:1-2.

God is in charge of _____. He's not going to reveal everything, but He is doing something in the world. He is teaching us to trust Him. And most of His lessons are much more intense and much more effective when we experience trouble in our lives or see it in the world.

Ladies on Facebook live with Jodie at 2 pm Friday.