

A Virus Response From Inkman {:-}

As COVID continues to run rampant and paralyze sectors of the world with fear (or at least great precaution), I start thinking:

God sometimes used incurable illnesses.

For example:

– Against the evil King Jehoram in ancient Israel:

2 Chronicles 21:18 “The Lord struck him in his intestines with an incurable disease. 19 Then it happened in the course of time, after the end of two years, that his intestines came out because of his sickness; so he died in severe pain. And his people made no burning for him.... 20 ... He reigned in Jerusalem eight years and, to no one’s sorrow, departed.”

– As part of the curses of the Old Covenant against the disobedient:

Deuteronomy 28:15 “It shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

27 The Lord will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed.

35 The Lord will strike you in the knees and on the legs with severe boils which cannot be healed, and from the sole of your foot to the top of your head.

– God is ultimately in control of life and death!

Deuteronomy 32:39 ‘Now see that I, even I, am He, And there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.

Compare and Contrast SIN vs. COVID

– **Infection rate:** 100% (**Romans 3**; personal experience) regardless of age (except those who are not responsible for their actions before God)

– **Symptoms:** Variable, from asymptomatic to blatant and raging

– **How it spreads:** Contact (**1 Corinthians 15:33**) and carelessness (**1 Corinthians 10:12**).

– **Source:** Our own desires (**James 1**)

– **Mortality rate:** 100% if left untreated. “The wages of sin is death.” (**Romans 6:23**)

– **Treatment:** There is a “vaccine” against sin. It is found in the Word of God and is put into action in how we think and how we behave:

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore (i.e., salvation) gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.” 17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was

[h]manifest in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Think on heavenly things (**Colossians 3:1**) and resist the Devil (**1 Peter 5:9**).

But, more importantly, there's an actual ...

— **CURE** for sin, **God's forgiveness**.

Acts 2:38 Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 2:11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

And Christians remember and appreciate that cure when we take the Lord's Supper:

Matthew 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Did God send COVID-19?

I don't know. Surely **God** has plenty of reason - and every right! - to use any means at His disposal to remind us of His power and even to punish people. But **sometimes Satan** sent catastrophes, too (e.g., against Job). Also, we live in a cursed world, and the wise King Solomon would say that "**time and chance** happen" to everyone.

So maybe it's from God. Maybe it's from Satan. Maybe it's a natural phenomenon. I just hope people will spend more time "looking up" – in good times, as well as in times of trouble and stress – with a fearful and obedient heart. Turn from your sins. Confess Jesus as the Son of God and Lord of *you*. Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins. Then worship and serve with other followers of Jesus till He returns.

Someone said, "We won't make it out of this world alive!" The Bible is meant to give us **direction** and **comfort** in the here-and-now, and **hope** for the hereafter. Christians are sprinkled the world over and stand ready to help you find God, find Jesus, and find peace and hope.