

## COVID-19: Preparedness: Video Sharing

By Yirmeyah Tan, Shabbat, 28 March 2020

### Text

*Mar 4:35 And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.*

*Mar 4:36 And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.*

*Mar 4:37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.*

*Mar 4:38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?*

*Mar 4:39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.*

*Mar 4:40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?*

*Mar 4:41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?*

### I. Last Week's Video Sharing

Last week I shared with you from home that, in times of crisis like COVID-19, we are assured by the words given to Isaiah:

***Isa 26:20 Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.***

*Isa 26:21 For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.*

- a. Shelter ourselves at home to hide from His indignation
- b. He is punishing the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, including the shedding of blood [e.g. abortion, murders, war crimes]

***Psa 91:9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation;***

***Psa 91:10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.***

***Psa 91:1 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.***

- c. If we abide in Him, no plague like COVID-19 can come near our homes where we take shelter [quarantine]. In judgment, He remembers mercy and provides all who will listen, places of refuge.

## II. The Plagues of History

[<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/health-and-human-body/human-diseases/the-plague/>]

### a. Justinian

*The first well-documented crisis was the Plague of Justinian, which began in 542 A.D. Named after the Byzantine emperor Justinian I, the pandemic killed up to 10,000 people a day in Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul, Turkey), according to ancient historians. Modern estimates indicate **half of Europe's population—almost 100 million deaths**—was wiped out before the plague subsided in the 700s.*

### b. Black Death

*Black Death, a multi-century pandemic that swept through Asia and Europe. It was believed to start in China in 1334, spreading along trade routes and reaching Europe via Sicilian ports in the late 1340s. The plague killed an estimated 25 million people, almost a third of the continent's population. The Black Death lingered on for centuries, particularly in cities. Outbreaks included the Great Plague of London (1665-66), in which 70,000 residents died.*

### c. 1860-1959 Plague

*The **pandemic**, which started in China in 1860 and didn't officially end until 1959 caused roughly 10 million deaths. The plague was brought to North America in the early 1900s by ships, and thereafter spread to small mammals throughout the United States.*

## III. COVID-19 Pandemic

The **coronavirus** COVID-19 is affecting **198 countries and territories** around the world and **1 international conveyance** (the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship harbored in Yokohama, Japan).

Coronavirus Cases:

**472,907**

Deaths:

**21,315**

Recovered:

**114,775**

- a. **Lockdowns [2-4 weeks] & Deep economic recessions with high unemployment.**
- b. **Singapore: in recession. For 2020 -4% to -1%**
- c. **Air-travel: global shutdown**

- d. Governments are pumping huge amounts of money to keep businesses afloat
- e. Governments are going into great deficits and debt to provide economic relief
- f. Singapore: additional spending totalling \$39.2bill [7.9% of GDP]—a huge deficit, made possible by drawing down our reserves.
- g. Question: is the world laying the foundation for the great inflation prophesied in Rev 6:6?

#### IV. C.S. Lewis “On Living in an Atomic Age”

*"In one way we think a great deal too much of the atomic bomb. 'How are we to live in an atomic age?' I am tempted to reply: 'Why, as you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when raiders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer, an age of syphilis, an age of paralysis, an age of air raids, an age of railway accidents, an age of motor accidents.'*

*"In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented: and quite a high percentage of us were going to die in unpleasant ways. We had, indeed, one very great advantage over our ancestors — anesthetics; but we have that still. It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but a certainty."*

*"This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things — praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts — not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds." [quoted by Lamb & Lion Ministries]*

#### V. Fear of Death

*Heb 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

*Heb 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

VI. Are We Prepared?

- a. To meet our Maker anytime and to face Him in judgment?
- b. For the Rapture
- c. For the testing of our faith: what if we ourselves or our loved ones get infected by the virus?
- d. What if we get unemployed because of the crisis/lockdown?

VII. Like A Thief in the Night

*1Th 5:1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.*

*1Th 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.***

*1Th 5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

*1Th 5:4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.*

*1Th 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

*1Th 5:6 **Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.***

*1Th 5:7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.*

*1Th 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, **be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.***

*1Th 5:9 **For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,***

*1Th 5:10 Who died for us, that, **whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.***

- a. Watch & be sober
- b. Put on the breastplate of faith & love, & the hope of salvation as a helmet
- c. We are not appointed to wrath but to salvation
- d. Live together with Him