

WORRIED ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS?

LUKE 21:5-11

Introduction:

1. According to the news this past week the Coronavirus has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization.
2. Thousands have become ill and some have died from this dreadful disease.
3. People have started to panic. Store shelves are being emptied, schools and businesses have shut down, and even churches have stopped their worship services.
4. People have become paranoid, not wanting to leave their homes or be around family and friends.
5. Is this the beginning of sorrows that Jesus mentioned in our text? It could very well be.

I. WARNING SIGNS. **vv. 8-11** *And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them. But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately." Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.*

- A. False Christs.
- B. Wars and instability.
 1. Nation against nation and kingdom against kingdom.
- C. Great (Gr. "megas") earthquakes in various places.
- D. Famines. (Scarcity of food)
- E. Pestilences. (lit. "the disease")
- F. Fearful sights. (frightening things)
- G. Great signs from heaven.

II. DEVASTATING DISEASES.

- A. In the history of the world there have been many devastating diseases.
 1. HIV/AIDS. Over 25 million have died and 60 million have been infected.
 2. SARS. (Severe acute respiratory syndrome) SARS may not have as many casualties as some of the other viruses, but it is quite unusual for the number of fatalities it caused in just a short amount of time. It was first noticed in 2002 when the Chinese population initially thought they had a mild case of the flu. However, the disease quickly spread, and it became apparent that it was not the flu, as it began taking patients' lives. Scientists managed to stop this devastating disease by 2004. Before it was stopped in its tracks, it had infected individuals throughout Asia, Europe, and North America. A particularly concerning problem with SARS is that there is no known cure or vaccine. Once a patient gets it, all that the doctors can do is try to provide support and care for the symptoms. In the young and healthy, there is a fatality rate of about ten percent, but among the old or ill, the fatality rate soars to over fifty percent.
 3. THE BLACK DEATH OF 1334. Also called The Great Plague, it originated in China and spread all along trade routes to Constantinople and Europe, where it claimed nearly 60% of the European population and completely wiped out many towns.

4. THE FLU EPIDEMIC OF 1918. This Great Flu epidemic has been recorded as the most devastating epidemic in history. With a death toll of somewhere between 20 million and 40 million, this disease killed more people than WWI.

5. BUBONIC PLAGUE OF 1855. The Bubonic plague pandemic started in the Yunnan province in China. Over the next 20 years it spread to Hong Kong and port cities around the world by rats that carried the infectious fleas responsible for the disease. It caused almost 10 million deaths.

- B. Now we are faced with a new disease - Coronavirus. Another that originated in China.
- C. People need to understand that Jesus told us what was to come, and that people need to be prepared.

III. WHAT IS THE ANSWER TO THE CORONAVIRUS? **Luke 21:25-28** *"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."*

- A. First of all, don't panic. Your chances of getting the coronavirus are minimal if you use your common sense.
- B. Secondly, if you're old like me, avoid going to places like the mall where there are hundreds of people, and do your grocery shopping at 7am when there are few people in the store.
- C. Believe the Word of God. When these things begin to come to pass, Jesus will return!
- D. Remember that fear comes from the devil. **2 Timothy 1:7** *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*
- E. The only real answer to the Coronavirus is JESUS! **Matthew 10:28** *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Conclusion:

1. If you haven't ever repented of your sins and received Jesus as your Savior, you need to do that today.
2. You need assurance that you will be in heaven with Him when you die. Don't put it off.
3. You need to fully trust Jesus to keep you safe, from yet another devastating disease.