

A Biblical response to a national crisis!

May 1, 2020

Dear Friend:

It is important at such a crucial time to consider a Biblical response to a national crisis. Jesus warned His twelve disciples in Matthew 24:7 about what we would see in the last days, "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places." Pestilence has brought fear and sorrow to America! Amos 3:16 says, "If there is a calamity in a city will not the Lord have done it?" God judges sin, some sins more harshly than others. Shedding innocent blood carries a death penalty. Approving and promoting certain sexual sin carries a death penalty along with promoting various forms of idolatry!

Ezekiel 13 reveals the truth that sin creates breaches in God's wall of protection around covenant nations. Those breaches allow judgment through adversity to enter. Prophets are responsible for standing in the breaches to restore the wall so God can save His people! Verse 19 teaches us that a lack of obedience ends up killing people who should not die and keeping people alive who should not live leading to a culture that is speeding toward destruction. God judges perpetrators of evil to save the overall culture!

How do we move God's Hand to heal? Daniel exemplifies identificational repentance to stop killing people who should not die. Daniel knew Israel's national captivity and sorrow was rooted in rebellion! Daniel repented for his nation in Daniel 9:3-11, "Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, 'O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You. 'O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him.'" In behalf of America, now is the time to join Daniel and pray this prayer over our own nation!

Deuteronomy 28 outlines both the blessings of obedience and the curses of rebellion. Verse 22 warns us about *“consumption with fever”* where the Hebrew word refers to a disease of the lungs pursuing us until we perish as a judgment for rebelling against God. This verse describes the Wuhan virus. Could there be a message in the fact that the particular state suffering multiple times the number of coronavirus infections of any other state just allowed babies to be killed in the womb up to and including the day of birth? It is time to pray, ‘God, we repent for the rebellion of our nation! In 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 You said, *“When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”* We thank You for hearing our prayer, forgiving our sin and healing our nation by killing the coronavirus and stopping its spread! In the process, restore the fear of the Lord and visit our leaders, healing all who bend their knee and repent! Remove all who refuse. Praying judgment stops keeping people alive who should not live!

‘Lord, when You visited Egypt to redeem Your people, You said in Exodus 8:22, *“And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the land.”* In Exodus 9:4, You said, *“And the Lord will make a difference (**paw-law**) between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel.”* In Exodus 11:7 God said, *“But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue against man or beast that you may know that the Lord does make a difference (**paw-law**) between the Egyptians and Israel.”* Each Israelite had to go ask an Egyptian family for silver, gold and their best clothes—that occurred without even a dog barking! The coronavirus is barking—let’s shut it up by declaring God’s Word! In Exodus 34:10 God said, *“Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do **marvels (paw-law)** such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the Lord. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.”* God’s covenant includes a canopy of protection over His people called the Goshen-effect! In Deuteronomy 7:15 God said, *“And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, **but will lay them on all those who hate you.**”* Lord, remove the champions of antichrist hatred and rebellion in the land! Plow this nation for revival and give us a harvest by striking the rebellious with all the diseases of Egypt till they either repent or are removed!

In Psalm 91:1-3 God said, *“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.’ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence.”* Psalm 110:1-5 declares, *“‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’ The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth. The Lord has sworn And will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.’”* As priests, we are to unite, pray and stand in the gap to save our nation! **For May’s Word at Work – pray in the Spirit!**

King David temporarily lost his nation to a rebellious son and a political foe. All he had was God and his covenant. In a season where the church faces the greatest opposition in current times, Ephesians promises us our inheritance which is guaranteed by the Holy Spirit. In chapter 6 we are told to clothe ourselves with God’s armor! *“Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against all the schemes of the devil.”* The Holy Spirit makes us overcomers!

Yours in Him,



Al Houghton

PS. Try to pray in the Spirit every day! In June, the Word at Work will return to normal.