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## THE BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE CORONAVIRUS

March 9, 2020 by Wayne Brewer

Sometime in January of this year the world became more aware of a strange virus that was affecting people in a negative way in Wuhan, China and quite a number of those people were actually dying from it. The virus was in the coronavirus family and since has come to be known as Covid-19. Evidently it is a virus that can be transmitted from animals to human beings and then from person to person. Science is not perfect, but is in an always learning state and so there may be much that is not known about the virus. There are always conspiracy theorists out there that have their views. Many have become paralyzed of the media's constant bombardment of the subject and stores are being depleted of various health type products over the frenzy. It is impossible to know what is going to happen in the world regarding the spread of this virus. The virus could touch the majority of the people in the world in some way or not. What perspective should we as Christians have regarding the coronavirus?

It must be remembered that the illnesses have come into this world because of sin. When Adam and Eve decided to disobey the will of God and eating of the fruit of knowledge of good and evil it was then that the consequences of sin entered the world, both death spiritually and physically (Genesis 2:15-17, 3:6-7,16-19). Adam and Eve began to die physically and being separated from the tree of life all born into this world after them would be born, mature physically to a certain point, and then begin the process of decline and death. For some death would come through calamities, accidents, and diseases (1 Corinthians 15:22). However, the hope that the Christian has is a living hope and an eternal hope in Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 20-22) in order to overcome the physical illnesses and diseases of this world and to be able to live eternally with God in heaven (John 14:1-3). What the human being needs to do in this life then is prepare spiritually for death because after that comes the judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

Over the centuries and decades there have been many diseases and calamities that have taken physical lives. Back in the year 1918 almost 50 million people worldwide died of what was called the Spanish Flu. Families were touched by death, mine included near Enola, Arkansas. Young adults that were not expecting to die, but quickly did. Christians must view all diseases and calamities such as tornadoes in the perspective of the eternal, and be prepared every day spiritually for death. Disease, tornadoes, floods, accidents, and so many other things that cause physical death bring sadness to our lives. Paul wrote; "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorry as others who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Christians sorrow as the loss of loved ones in this earth life, but not the same as a person that has no hope.

Wise Christians will take the normal precautions to protect their life and health while in the earth life. The wise Christian will think about dangers and what might cause harm to one's life. Jesus took precautions so that he would not die before it was time to complete his ministry and go to the cross; "Therefore they sought to seize him, but he escaped out of their hand" (John 10:39). Paul took certain precautions in order that he might continue to live and serve God. The Jews tried to kill him but the disciples let him escape over the wall in a basket (Acts 9:23-25). Christians will be wise without being paralyzed and always prepared spiritually for the moment of death.

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