

LESSONS ENDEMIC FROM THE PANDEMIC

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All this is but the beginning of the sorrows [birthpangs] --- Jesus (Matt. 24: 8).

Sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pangs come upon a pregnant woman -- Paul (I Thess. 5: 3).

As this present age draws to its closing climax, worldwide conditions in society and environment will mimic a woman in the throes of giving birth. The new kingdom-age will be birthed through sorrows. Jesus said so. Paul said so.

Secular commentators are observing these pangs. For instance, **Michael Snyder** on his blog called *The Economic Collapse* recently wrote;

Over the last several decades, have we ever seen a year start as strangely as 2020 has? Global weather patterns have gone completely nuts, large earthquakes are popping off like firecrackers, it looks like the plague of locusts in Africa could soon develop into the worst in modern history and a massive plague of bats is severely terrorizing parts of Australia.

On top of that, African Swine Fever is wiping out millions upon millions of pigs around the globe, the H1N1 Swine Flu is killing people in Taiwan, there have been H5N1 Bird Flu outbreaks in China and in India, and the H1N8 Bird Flu has made an appearance at a poultry facility in Saudi Arabia. And then, of course, there is the coronavirus outbreak ...

I imagine that if **Michael Snyder** was to write that piece today, he would certainly have included the latest **Black Lives Matter** protests that have gripped many nations, not to mention the senseless destruction of historic and national monuments and statues, accompanied by mass rioting and looting and thieving of property.

However, we believers do not grope around in darkness and dismay, wondering what on earth is happening. For behind the increasing number and increasing intensity of the "signs of the end" we discern fulfilled prophecy and the Hand of God. What a comfort it is to know and believe the prophetic Scriptures!

The Bible was written for our all times, and we **will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the Day dawns and the Morning Star rises in your hearts (2 Peter 1: 19f).**

So, we are not disheartened, for Jesus said that, **when these things begin to happen, we must look up and lift up our heads, because our redemption draws near (Lk. 21: 28).**

The conditions sweeping our planet are the very signs in nature we have been told to watch out for as the grand consummation, the Day of the Lord, draws ever nearer.

Our Lord plainly foretold we would **hear of wars and rumours of wars ... for nation will rise against nation** [*ethnos epi ethnos* includes racial riots!], **and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences** [pandemics], **and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows** [*ōdin* --- *lit.*= labour pains] (Matt. 24: 6ff).

Yes, the Bible indicates that, behind the scenes currently taking centre stage, God is mercifully saying something to the world, if only we would see. Yet, instead of heeding God's gracious warnings, taking stock, repenting and calling on the Name of the LORD, mankind by and large right to the very end **will not repent of their murders, nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts** (Rev. 9: 21).

Jesus said it would be "business as usual", with folks **eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage** right up **until** he comes **at an unexpected hour** (Matt. 24: 36f).

MODERN SKEPTICISM

There are a couple of reasons why most people pay little heed to these end-time signs of judgment.

Firstly, over the last fifty or so years, our generation has increasingly been brainwashed by scientific rationalism. The doctrine of naturalistic evolution dismisses our Creator. It poo-hoos any thought that behind the natural events of history there is a Sovereign God who is in control and whose kingdom-plan is on schedule.

Once there was a general Christian consensus in the West, but we are now well and truly in a post-Christian mindset. Any thought of a Sovereign Creator God is mocked.

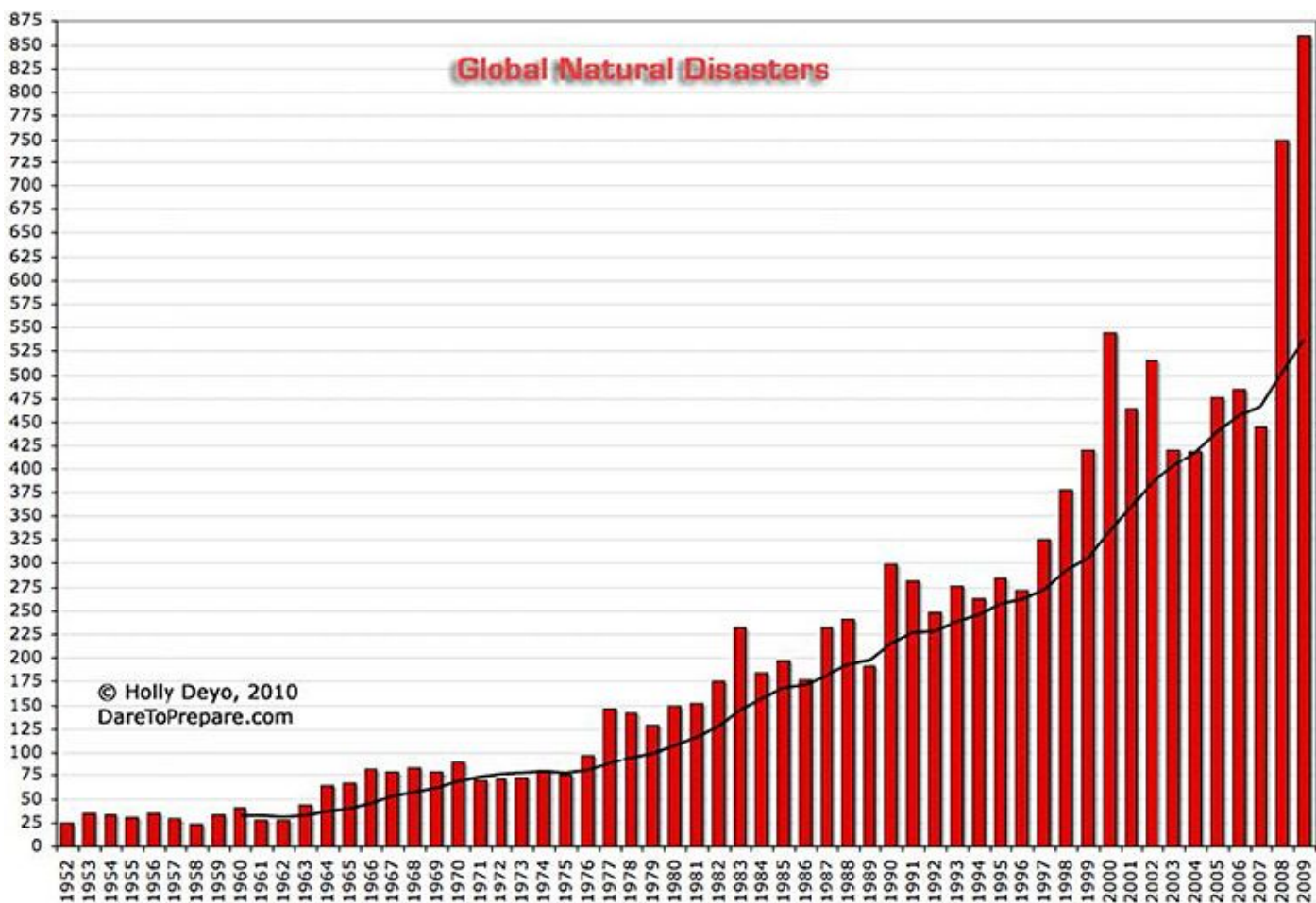
Secondly, the skeptic dismisses any pattern to the Bible's big prophetic picture with a shrug of the shoulders. They say, "But there have always been wars. There have always been racial and ethnic tensions and "cleansings. There have always been famines, droughts, floods, earthquakes, pandemics and diseases. There is nothing new to all these disasters. What's new under the sun?"

Our answer is in the graph below. **(¹)** Anybody interested in the raw scientific data, must acknowledge the exponential growth of disasters in the world in recent decades. **The Borgen Project** (a non-profit organization focusing on world poverty), has labeled

¹ **Ron Fraser**, *Why Have Natural Disasters Increased?* March 3, 2010, https://standeyo.com/NEWS/10_Earth_Changes/100305.nat.diz.increasing.warning.html, page 2.

the increase in disasters worldwide as “skyrocketing.” ^(2) Blind Freddy should see that record disasters are becoming commonplace ^(3)

Take earthquakes for example. In the decade of the 1980s, there were a total of 1,085 earthquakes worldwide that measured 6.0 or greater in magnitude. In the 1990s there were 1,492. In the first ten years of this century, the number jumped to 1,591. With regard to monster quakes of 8.0 or greater, in the 1980s there were four; in the 1990s, six; and in the first decade of this century, 13.1 ^(4)



Fraser presents convincing arguments that 1989 was the watershed year — “a threshold from which natural disasters escalated most dramatically compared to past eras in history.” ^(5)

Can any rational person fail to see in these data the “birth pangs effect” which the Bible predicts as we approach the coming of Messiah Jesus?

² The Borgen Project, “Are Natural Disasters Increasing?” June 14, 2015, <https://borgenproject.org/natural-disasters-increasing/>, page 1.

³ TrumpetBrief, “Increased ‘Natural’ and Weather Disasters,” November 6, 2017, www.thetrumpet.com/16426-increased-natural-and-weather-disasters/, page 1.

⁴ I acknowledge the source of these quotes from Lamb & Lion Ministries: <https://christinprophecy.org/>

⁵ Op Cit. Fraser, p 3

WHAT LESSONS DOES THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC TELL US ABOUT THIS BIG-PICTURE?

The Bible teaches that throughout history God has used judgment-signs in nature to call nations to turn from their godless ways. Noah's Flood, the Plagues over Egypt, the Babylonian and Roman deportations of Israel are some of the more memorable and documented ones. They were His merciful wake-up calls to take stock.

Whilst I do not think the Covid crisis engulfing the world now is specifically predicted in Scripture, it does, I think, fit into the overall bigger picture of **sorrows** heralding the end of history as we know it.

The pandemic has lessons endemic for those who want to know what's really going on. I truly believe this Covid situation is helping to set the final stages of the cosmic drama unfolding in our generation.

Of course, our humanistic governments with their doctrine that man can fix things by his own genius will be looking for the silver lining and will dismiss it as a "blip" once under control. They are already saying things like, "It's been good for the environment. With drastically reduced travel and commuting, the smog over the big cities has all but disappeared. The air is cleaner. It will slow the rate of climate change. That's gotta be good! We have learned that many of us can work just as productively from home. It's improved our family life and helped us see more of our partners and kids. In the meantime, we are working on the vaccine."

No one however, is denying that it's going to take decades to get the economy out of the Covid-induced debt. Not to mention that politicians and governments will take advantage of times of stress and uncertainty, even fear, to reign in generational changes which in good times the populace would not normally accept.

Let's get specific.

HOW THE CORONA PANDEMIC SETS THE STAGE FOR THE END TIMES (6)

1. CALLS FOR A STRONG EUROPEAN LEADER

It seems like ages ago, but remember when Italy was at the vanguard of horrible Covid statistics? Whilst the pandemic has hit many countries like the USA, Latin America, Brazil, China and others very badly, if we combine the European Union (EU) statistics, it has hit Europe harder than anywhere else.

⁶ I acknowledge much of the material that follows is from [Dr Michael Brown's](#) article *How the Coronavirus Sets the Stage for the End Times*:- **AskDrBrown** <info@askdrbrown.org>

Early on, many EU leaders pushed aback on calls to close off their borders. This inaction paved the way for infections from Italy to spread like wild fire all over Europe's open borders.

Many believe that this failure could have been avoided with a strong central EU executive. With centralised authority a single European leader could have decisively closed the borders straight away. Instead, each member state of the EU reacted with its own belated policies which are now seen as a failure.

Many students of Bible prophecy believe the Man of Sin will head up an executive branch from a United States of Europe. Perhaps this pandemic will increase this possibility?

ISLAMIC EXPECTATIONS:- Outside of Europe there are growing calls for a world leader of Messiah-type qualities to lead us out of our worsening mess. The Islamic world is increasingly talking about the imminent revealing of their "hidden Imam". In Islamic teaching, this **Mahdi** is Islam's "messiah", their end-time redeemer, who comes to usher in Allah's world-wide rule.

And here's the interesting thing. **Brian Shrauger** writing in the *Jerusalem Post* on January 20th this year explained that the Mahdi is, **the twelfth of 12 Imams who are successors to Mohammed.** Said to have been born in 879 CE, the Imam Mahdi is believed by Shi'as Muslims to still be alive, but hidden from mankind in 'occultation' until a time of such upheaval on the earth that only his reappearance will rescue mankind and, in fact, usher in an age of global peace; Islamic peace, that is; a kind of peace in which all mankind is living in submission to the Allah of the Koran.

Schrauger continues, Crazy to Western ears, this messianic creed is the *raison d'etre* for the Islamic Republic of Iran according to its founders and leaders. It is also the basis of Tehran's foreign and military policies; and it's impossible to overemphasise the Iran regime's visceral commitment to it. The Imam mahdi is invoked in every public gathering, both civil and military; he is the singular inspiration for every policy, every tactic, every mission; indeed, he is nothing less than the regime's reason for its existence, and as such, its singular and unwavering motivation for the future.

In the words of Iran's Supreme leader **Ayatollah Khamanei**, "The Iranian nation enjoys a great privilege today: the atmosphere of the country is an atmosphere of Imam Mahdi. **Khamanei** goes on to state, "Many of our great scholars have personally met with this beloved of hearts of the admirers during his occultation [time of concealment], many have made a pledge to him in person; many have heard from him some heartwarming words, many have been caressed by him and many others have received his kindness, care and love."

JEWISH EXPECTATIONS:- But it's not only Islam on heightened readiness for their mahdi to step onto the world stage. Would you be surprised to learn there is an increasing call today in Israel for the Jewish messiah?

This year, a February 20th headline in *Israel Today* stated that, [Israeli Rabbi Says He's Already Holding Meetings With Messiah](#). And, Israel's biggest rabbis are all afraid to leave the country lest they miss Messiah's coming."

[Rabbi Kanievsky](#) is now in his early 90's and is considered the leading authority in the ultra-orthodox (haredi) community in Israel. He often speaks of the nearness of Israel's Messiah's coming.

Another respected [Rabbi Zisholtz](#) has gone on public record saying, [the process of redemption is about to start happening very quickly and at a fast pace](#). It is important that people remain calm and steady to act properly in the right time. There is a potential Messiah in every generation and there are righteous men who know precisely who it is. This is, of course, true in this generation. Getting the word out now that the Messiah is closer than ever is a matter of life and death. Haven't you heard of Gog and Magog? That is what is going to happen very soon. Right now, the situation is explosive more than you can possibly imagine. Everyone needs to know whether they are on the inside or if they are going to be left out.

The rabbi went on (just like [Ayatollah Khamanei](#)) to claim that certain religious Jews knew exactly who the Messiah was and have met him.

Israel's health Minister, [Yaakov Litzman](#) was reported in *HaAretz* on March 26th this year --- with reference to Covid-19, [We are praying and hoping that the Messiah will arrive before Passover, the time of our redemption](#). I am sure that that Messiah will come and bring us out as [God] brought us out of Egypt. Soon we will go out in freedom and the Messiah will come and redeem us from all the troubles of the world.

All these calls --- whether for a leader to head up a United States of Europe, or for the Muslim Mahdi, or for the Jewish Messiah --- are calls for a gifted man to step up and save humanity from our troubles. All point, I think, to the world's desire for the one the Bible calls the counterfeit Messiah, the Antichrist, who is soon coming to deceive most of the world.

Watch this space!

2. CURRENCY MANIPULATION

Italy is the fourth largest economy in the EU. Italy has the eighth largest economy in the world. But their economy has been effectively closed since March 9th, and is just now beginning to arise from its slumber. Italy is at the epicentre of a massive debt crisis. This is not to mention that Greece is still a basket case following their debt crisis in 2010. As of late last year the Greek debt was 178% of its gross domestic product (GDP) --- the worst debt-to-GDP ratio in the EU.

Italy's economy is ten times as big as Greece's. Unlike other major countries such as the USA and Australia which can print money for business bailouts and stimulus

packages, Italy does not control its own currency. Like other EU countries, Italy uses **the euro**.

Italy currently sits at the second worst debt-to-GDP ratio at 137%. Even as I write, these numbers are out of date, and flattering. If Italy defaults, the shock waves will be enormous. Watch the economic pandemic spread with the probable collapse of global markets, not to mention the EU's.

This stark situation will likely lead to further calls for greater integration and the creation of a United States of Europe. Many students of Bible prophecy believe this is inevitably paving the way for the final world empire of **Daniel chapters 2 and 7**.

Again, watch this space!

3. CALLS FOR INCREASED SURVEILLANCE OF THE POPULATION

We are seeing increasing calls from governments to get their people back to work. But they are nervous about so-called second-waves from the virus. So, how do you get people back to work without causing new spikes in the virus?

Answer: You track them! You invite the population to join “risk-free”, “iron-clad” assurances on privacy that, if they download government-approved apps for their phones, any new community-spread can be quickly traced and chased down. Each citizen's contacts and whereabouts can be monitored for the benefit of all. Sounds harmless enough! But is it possible this is being orchestrated? Manipulated?

My guess is this latest surveillance is probably harmless, even positive in reducing the virus spread, but I can't help avoiding the suspicion that this is getting our people used to this way of thinking, and that it's potentially the thin-edge of the wedge towards the loss of individual autonomy. Is this level of Big Brother tracking pointing the way to what we read about in **Revelation 13**? Well, watch this space.

4. CALLS TO REPLACE PAPER MONEY WITH A CRYPTOCURRENCY

Have you noticed that all of a sudden paper money is dirty?

As I was standing in line at the Post Office a few days ago, a young lady was depositing a large amount of cash, complaining to the teller that nobody was taking her cash anymore! Cash has suddenly become the “bad guy” for transmission of microbes. I tried to pay cash at the Chemist and the receptionist wouldn't take it. I said, “But what's this hand sanitiser next to your register for?” She saw the sense and reluctantly agreed to take my money.

Since Corona -19, transactions with paper currency have dramatically declined. Online ordering of goods has sky-rocketed. And with governments trying to deliver social stimulus payments to large numbers quickly, this is the perfect opportunity for government-sponsored cryptocurrency and the so-called “virtual wallet”.

Once our citizenry is signed up, governments are only a hop-step-and-jump away from eliminating our “dirty cash” currencies altogether. Governments will be able to eliminate the “black market” economy, monitor their populations for efficient taxation purposes, and even control the terms and conditions of every transaction. Failure to agree with official policy will be met by “lockout” from the economy.

Think I am being alarmist? Well, there are already governments able to lock their citizens out of all economic business if and when anybody criticises the official policy of the state. The technology already exists to implement total economic control.

The Bible says it’s coming. We are forewarned that the Antichrist will implement such a system; **He required everyone --- small and great, rich and poor, free and slave --- to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. And no one could buy or sell anything without the mark ... (Rev. 13: 16-17).** Watch this space, too!

CONCLUSION

Although the word ‘Coronavirus’ does not appear in the Bible, and although the current pandemic is not part of the final Great Tribulation plagues, these *Lessons Endemic From The Pandemic*, surely indicate this current crisis is more than likely one of the general signs of the birth pangs we have been told to consider !

At the very least, this pandemic ought to give us all cause to stop and re-evaluate what we are doing with our lives. Jesus said that night comes when no one will be able to work. We must be about our Father’s affairs while it is still possible.

The “Virus” has demonstrated just how quickly the *status quo* can be overturned. The current pandemic has given us a live dress-rehearsal as to how dramatically the fortunes of whole nations, yet alone our own individual lives and families, can shift in seismic proportions in no time at all.

This current crisis has shown us how fragile the world really is, and how quickly calls from the globalists who are planning for greater one-world cooperation can rise to the fore under the guise of “it’s good for everybody”.

Lessons Endemic From The Pandemic have placed in front of our very eyes just how quickly the table can be set for the final menu of the Great Tribulation. Or, to use the metaphor we began with, this crisis shows us how the **labour pains** of this world’s sorrows are increasingly portending the imminent return of Jesus, God’s true Messiah-redeemer for the world!

