

IS THE CORONAVIRUS A PROPHETIC SIGN ANNOUNCING THE SOON RETURN OF CHRIST?

- I. The CONTEXT of Jesus' Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24:1-3)
 - A. Two days after Jesus' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY and two or three days before His CRUCIFIXION
 - B. After denouncing the Jewish LEADERSHIP and announcing coming destruction of JERUSALEM
 - C. Immediately after promising to RETURN to establish His KINGDOM
 - D. In answer to their two questions
 1. "When will THESE THINGS happen?"
 2. "What will be the SIGN of Your COMING and of the END of the age?"
- II. Jesus' ANSWERS to Their Questions (Matt. 24:4-14)
 - A. Provides three INITIAL signs that are "the BEGINNING of birth pangs" (24:4-8)
 1. Widespread international CONFLICT
 2. Widespread FAMINES
 3. Widespread EARTHQUAKES
 - B. Provides ESCALATING signs that will precede the KINGDOM (24:9-13)
 1. "Tribulation" UNPRECEDENTED in its INTENSITY
 2. Widespread DECEPTION, DISTRUST, and BETRAYAL
 3. Many will be DECEIVED by false PROPHETS
 4. Vast increase in EVIL and decrease in LOVE
 - C. Says the TIMING of His return is UNKNOWABLE (24:36)

1. Its APPROACH indicated by SIGNS
2. Those who see the SIGNS will see the KINGDOM (24:34)

III. Key FUTURE Events

A. The RAPTURE of the CHURCH (1 Thess. 4:13-17)

1. It will be SUDDEN and UNANNOUNCED
2. It will be UNEXPECTED and INVISIBLE
3. It will NOT be preceded by SIGNS

B. The TRIBULATION period

C. The SECOND COMING of Christ

IV. Coronavirus and Biblical Prophecy

A. It is NOT one of the vials of PESTILENCE from Revelation

B. I do NOT BELIEVE it is one of the SIGNS Jesus predicted

C. It MIGHT BE a tool God will use to prepare the world system

1. An apparently BENEVOLENT one-world RULER will emerge
2. He will provide temporary PEACE and SECURITY
3. He will exercise ECONOMIC and SOCIAL control

V. TRUTHS We Are Learning

A. Life is UNCERTAIN

B. The Bible is RELIABLE

C. The gospel message is URGENT

D. Christ Jesus is SUFFICIENT (John 14:1-3; 16:33)