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Dear Associates and Friends,

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Prophecy is the subject of this month's article, "[The End Time? Not Yet!](#)" In the article I do not discuss the subject of disease epidemics or plagues which are mentioned in Bible prophecy. Let me direct you to a 1994 article by Dr. Ernest Martin, "[Disease Epidemics and Bible Prophecy](#)."¹ I highly recommend you read this article at this time. Let me show some points of interest:

"And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.

But before all these, [1] they shall lay their hands on you, and [2] persecute you, [3] delivering you up to the synagogues, and [4] into prisons, [5] being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony."

• **Luke 21:11-13**

Note the different sequence of events in each passage. In Luke *above* the persecution comes first ("**but before all these ...**"), the disasters, including "**pestilences**" (plural) happen second.

Next read the Matthew passage *below*. The disasters, including "**pestilences**" (plural) come first, the persecution comes second. Are these contradictory? No. I think the answer is simple, persecution of Christian believers is constant in both passages.

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Then shall they [1] deliver you up to be afflicted, and [2] shall kill you: and [3] you shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall [4] many be offended, and shall betray one another, and [5] shall hate one another."

• **Matthew 24:7-10**

Read the larger context of all Luke chapter 21 and Matthew chapter 24. A great deal more is occurring.

There will be a lot going on; and remember, Jesus is talking about the situation in Israel, although Paul was persecuted by both Jews and Gentiles. Generally, the tribulation will occur to the Jews. We Gentile Christians (we will all be Christians after all) may be called upon to help, protect, and rescue Jews under persecution. That also will be dangerous. And all the time pestilences will be occurring "**in divers places.**"²

The Current Pestilence of Wuhan Covid-19

In ancient times pestilence often arose from famine. Today we are threatened by pestilence occurring during prosperity with medical treatments to assist us. In ancient times and even to the recent past, the sick were quarantined but the healthy went about their business, because people must continue living. I think in the future people will resort to the old ways of quarantine. The present situation is not workable even for a

¹ The term *plague* or *plagues* occurs very often in the Book of Revelation. A review of them is interesting: Revelation 9:20, 11:6, 15:1, 6, 8, 16:9, 21, 18:4, 8, 21:9, and 22:18.

² See Dr. Martin's articles: "[Personal Safety During End-Time Prophecy](#)," and "[How to Fully Escape the Great Tribulation](#)." Helping people sometimes involves great risk, but God honors those who help their brethren when circumstances get nasty.

modern society.

What happens if you become ill? Dr. Martin wrote three good articles on the subject that are biblically accurate and medically sound. The first is "[Healing and Christian Atonement](#)." Some people think we need to pray for God's grace to be healed. That is a mistaken idea. We all had God's grace before we were born, and even before the foundation of the world.

If you are ill — in any way — ask for God's mercy. Grace you have without measure. God's mercy we need in special situations. Remember though, always, God will have mercy and compassion according to His choice, not ours (Romans 9:15, 18). God is sovereign and will do as He pleases and when He pleases. Remember also that God, like any parent, appreciates being asked for favors, even though He knows our needs. Read Matthew 21:22; John 16:24; James 4:3; and 1 John 3:22 and read these verses in context. To finish, note this advice from Paul,

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

• *Hebrews 4:16*

God's grace will help us to accept God's decision, whatever that may be.

Other excellent articles are "[Healing and New Testament Teaching](#)" and "[The History and Prophecy of Miracles \(and their Failure\)](#)." The first will give you a survey of healing in general. The second will give a background on miracles and their severe limitations.

"In truth, the fewer miracles that God has to perform in a person's life to get a person to love and to have faith in Him, the more one can be assured that God is pleased with the person (Matthew 22:39)."

God is never "burdened" by having to do anything for you, but His primary goal in your life now is for you to build character. You are already saved through Christ Jesus and your future glory is secured. There is nothing you need to do to please God. However, it does please Him if you treat your neighbors, associates, family, and friends with kindness, affection, and with love, even when some are not lovable.

Thank You

This present eon, this present creation, shall cease. It will be replaced. Every problem we have, every bad experience we suffer in this life will be forgotten. Such things will not trouble us, not even as memories.

"[YHWH says] ... the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes. For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former [troubles] shall not be remembered, nor come into mind."

• *Isaiah 65:16–17*

God is not just referring to His forgetting "**the former troubles**" that we and His son went through in flesh, but we also will forget them. In our resurrected state our spirit bodies will not only contain God's Holy Spirit, our very bodies will be composed of God's Holy Spirit. We cannot comprehend the difference from our circumstances in this present creation. If you lack faith, if you lack trust, ask for faith; ask for trust during evil times (Ephesians 3:20–21).

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