

God Controls Events, and the Virus

Commentary for March 15, 2020 — Gods Rule Over Life, Nations, and You

God controls nations and their boundaries (Acts 17:26). He sometimes does this quickly, allowing entire peoples, kingdoms, and nations to be eliminated. He makes nations great and He diminishes nations through war, famine, and pestilence.¹ God does all this yet all nations and all people are of one blood: **“In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath [the spirit] of all mankind”** (Job 12:10). God is in control of you, humanity, and all creation.

“[Israel] You are an holy people unto YHWH your God: YHWH your God has chosen you to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.”

• *Deuteronomy 7:6*

Other nations are not judged by their relationship to YHWH, though He bless nations follow Him and not pagan gods. He also blesses those who bless Israel, the progeny of Abraham:

“And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

• *Genesis 12:2–3*

Without exception, rulers of kingdoms and nations are chosen by God: **“God is the judge: he puts down one, and sets up another”** (Psalm 75:6–7).

“Let them be confounded and troubled ... that men may know that You, whose name alone is YHWH, are the most high over all the earth.”

• *Psalm 83:17–18*

“[God] changes the times and the seasons: he removes kings, and sets up kings ... The king [Nebuchadnezzar] answered unto Daniel, and said, ‘Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing you could reveal this secret.’”

• *Daniel 2:20–22, 47*

Nebuchadnezzar later wrote to his subjects:

“... unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God has wrought toward me. ...

[Why?] that the living may know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever he will, and sets up over it the basest of men.” ...

That they shall drive [Nebuchadnezzar] from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and ... seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever he will.”

• *Daniel 4:12, 17, 25*

¹ See Dr. Martin’s information in the article [“God and Demographics.”](#)

Everything in Daniel chapters 2–4 occurred as God (through Daniel) predicted. God even made Nebuchadnezzar's mental capacity to be that of an animal for 7 years. No one harmed him, and God preserved the kingdom of Babylon (perhaps with Daniel's help). Nebuchadnezzar's senses recovered and he ruled again. He wrote to all his subjects:

"At the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honored him that lives for ever [olam, for the age], whose dominion is an everlasting [olam, for the age] dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he does according to his will [1] in the army of heaven, and [2] among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand ..."

• *Daniel 4:34–35*

Nebuchadnezzar's descendent Belshazzar later ruled Babylon. Daniel told him:

"... the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honor: And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him:

whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down.

But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him: And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts ... till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appoints over it whomsoever he will.

And you his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this; but have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven ..."

• *Daniel 5:18–23*

One World

There was a one-world government for a short time in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. All the kingdoms and peoples were ruled by one man, a type of the antichrist.²

"I have made the earth ... and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me. And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon

And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come ...

And ... the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, says YHWH, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.

Therefore hearken not you [1] to your prophets, nor [2] to your diviners, nor [3] to your dreamers, nor [4] to your enchanters, nor [5] to your sorcerers, which

² See Dr. Martin's articles, "[Coming: The New World Order](#)" "[Mystery Babylon the Great](#)," and "[Prophetic Birth of Our Civilization](#)."

speaking unto you, saying, 'You shall not serve the king of Babylon': For they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and you should perish.

But the nations that bring their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him, those will I let remain still in their own land, says YHWH; and they shall till it, and dwell therein."

• *Jeremiah 27:5–11*

There has not been a world ruler since Nebuchadnezzar up to the present. There will be no world government until the antichrist (a new Nebuchadnezzar) is acclaimed as the returned messiah by the people of the world. Until that time, the antichrist will have constant and powerful opposition to his rule. Note Matthew chapter 24 that most of us know well:

"Jesus answered and said unto them [His disciples, verse 1], **Take heed that no man deceive you. For**

[1] **many shall come in my name, saying, 'I am Christ'; and shall deceive many.**

[2] **And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars:**

See that you be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For [more must occur!]

[3] **nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and**

[4] **there shall be famines, and**

[5] **pestilences, and**

[6] **earthquakes, in diverse places.**

All these are [only!] the beginning of sorrows."

• *Matthew 24:4–8*

These events will not come all at once. Numbers [1] and [2] will occur before [3], [4], [5], and [6].³ Then each will continue.

Consider [1] above. God has not yet allowed Jesus to be preached and accepted as the Christ by most of the world up to now. Many will be deceived, not a few. The deception must be taught, learned, and believed by many, many people. That has not yet occurred, in spite of all the preaching by the messianic, evangelical, or orthodox Christian churches. It will be a future deception. It will be different from the usual Christian errors of the immortal soul, trinity, and an eternal hell.

Dr. Martin understood (and correctly in my opinion) that the world would be taught that Jesus was the Christ (both the Messiah of Israel and the Savior of the world), and the world would accept that information to be true. I believe it also will include the scriptural teaching of universal salvation. That also will be perverted. The deception will occur before the anti-christ proclaims himself as Christ, then he will fake the return of the true Christ Jesus.

Next come [2] **"Wars and rumors of wars,"** these come before [3], **"nation rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom."** These events also have not yet happened on a mass

³ Events 4, 5, and 6 will occur in rapid succession, one on top of another. **"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."** This will be done in the future to us today, before Christ returns.

scale. The coming antichrist will cause these wars to end for a short time. The events listed in Matthew chapter 24 will be sequential in their fulfillments. Once begun, they will occur rapidly. Earlier events will continue while the next ones occur.

Wars cause [4] famines, which in turn come before and result in [5] pestilences. This has been historically how the cause-effect sequences occur.⁴ They both come before [6] earthquakes. These earthquakes will be truly massive. As Jesus said, all these things are **“the beginning of sorrows,”** even though present upsets of economic disruptions, wars, famines, plagues, earthquakes, other natural disasters in the world may directly affect YOU.

No one wants to experience hard times or evils, yet God may require it of us, just as he has required it from saints throughout history, who sometimes suffered hard trials again and again. God still loves you — even if you die — which will likely happen before Christ returns.

The Virus Is Now; the End Times Are Future!

Believe as you will, and make your own decisions, but what is occurring in the world now with the COVID-19 CoronaVirus⁵ is not an event of Matthew chapter 24 (or Mark chapter 13 or Luke chapter 21). They are not directly related to the tribulation or the End Times.

Many will die from the COVID-19 Virus. There will be social disruption, but society will recover and will not break down. There are 7.8 billion people in the world.⁶ Even a death toll of tens of millions is an infinitesimal percentage. A great human tragedy, but God is in control.

This may be disappointing to many of you reading this. If things turn very bad, if society does break down now (which is unlikely until just before Christ returns), and I am totally wrong, remember what the apostle Paul said: **“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come”** (2 Timothy 3:1).⁷ We are not yet **“in the last days.”**

Few if any of you reading this today will live to Christ’s return. But ... the moment you die, you will immediately experience a resurrection (hopefully to glory), without any knowledge of time passing, even though many decades will have transpired since your death. You will be resurrected without pain, without suffering. You will immediately praise God. He will fulfill His promises to His children. From that time forward, only good things will be in your future.

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⁴ Read [“Disease Epidemics and Bible Prophecy.”](#)

⁵ See [“Coronavirus,”](#) from the World Health Organization, 3/9/2020:

“Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a new strain that was discovered in 2019 and has not been previously identified in humans.”

Note the underlined text, the common cold is a Coronavirus.

⁶ See <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/>.

⁷ Many mistaken predictions were made about the prophetic scenarios for the period around “1975 in Prophecy,” or that the time of the end began toward the end of the 20th century (Y2K). Other wrong “biblical” predictions were made about “blood moons.” Read the Scriptures for yourself.