

Wednesday, 20th May 2020



THE CANDLESTICK

They shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels (Mal. 3:17)

What will the world be like after coronavirus?! On the internet, someone asked, “Where will we be in six months, a year, ten years from now? I lie awake at night wondering what the future holds for my loved ones”. Another commentator wrote, “In our new reality, our loved ones choke to death in near total isolation. Outside of our hospitals, life has ground to a halt. We are trapped in our homes. We are losing our jobs. Businesses are going to the wall. The global economy is teetering on the edge of disaster”.

Imagine though, if someone had given warnings this time last year how such a pandemic would so change our lives, would they have been believed? ...

It is interesting how the fear of something no one can see, or hear, or touch has crippled human civilization! It is like how Jesus described to Nicodemus, The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth (Jn. 3:8).

What about the warnings from God’s Word? Are they to be believed? The cynic dismisses them, “There *is* no God!” The sceptic wants proof because he is not able to see God, nor touch Him. And yet, even though they cannot see or touch this coronavirus epidemic, they know *it* is real. ... Neither can God be seen or touched, and *He* is real. He has always been. He always will be. He was *before* time, and at the beginning of time, He created this world in absolute perfection ... no weeds, nor thorns, nor pollution, nor illness ... no epidemics or pandemics ... *absolute perfection*, And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good (Gen. 1:31). ... Then, afterwards, the disobedience of our first parents ruined it by sinning against Him.

Here is something to consider though ... Do you think God has given up on this world, He has had enough of us! He has had enough of the wrangling and the disobedience. He is ‘away past weary’! ... We could not blame Him if that is what He decided, but no, He has not given up for, from eternity, He has a plan to take the world back, for His glory’s sake!

He created it all *by* Himself and *for* Himself, The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork (Ps. 19:1). ... It is His, and He has decided what He will ultimately do with it ... and His plan centres upon His Son, Jesus, *He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end* (Lk. 1:31-33). ... That is what God has in store for this world!

His Word promises His Son will return and will become King of the whole earth, for the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. ... How will it happen? Simple, God will make it happen, for *the zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this* (Is. 9:6). ... His guarantee confirms it!

He keeps every promise in His Word, - our salvation depends upon it ... and when He says He’s coming back again, He *will*, the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it ... and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge *[rule]* among the nations ... and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks ... neither shall they learn war any more (Is. 2:2-4) ... with righteousness shall he judge *[rule]* ... The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for *the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD*, as the waters cover the sea. (Is. 11:4,6-9).

Instead of chaos, there will be calm. Instead of hatred, there will be harmony. Instead of confusion, there will be confidence. Instead of panic, there will be peace when the LORD shall be king over all the earth (Zech. 14:9). ... Can He do it? Yes, He can. Will He do it? Absolutely, for He has committed Himself, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it (Is. 46:11).

So, as you look out upon a world which has lost its way and is floundering in desperation, the believer in Christ can be sure of this ... *our redemption draweth nigh (Lk. 21:28)*! Don't be surprised with the plethora of fraudulent religions and pronouncements deceiving many today, for the counterfeit and spurious 'gospels' will be *abounding* as Christ's return approaches. And He also foretold how nations will be increasingly rising against nations, and kingdoms against kingdoms ... accompanied by an unprecedented upsurge in famines, and pestilences, including all kinds of natural and global pandemics. When this is happening, He announced, All these are the *beginning* of sorrows ... But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved (Mt. 24:8,13).

We are living in exciting times, and let's not forget God has it all 'in hand', the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor among the nations (Ps. 22:28). ... Therefore, we can trust in Him, *Immediately after* the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:* and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other (Mt. 24:29-31). ... As Paul put it when he wrote to Titus, Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11-13)

Yes, of course, we need to be careful in these times. We know the dangers, but we also know our hope is in the Lord Who made heaven and earth (Ps. 121:2), and He promises us, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour (Is. 43:1-3).

I'm waiting for Thee, Lord,
Thy beauty to see, Lord,
No triumph for me like Thy coming again!

