

## THE CORONA PANDEMIC



### How should we respond?

Panic? Shock? Indifference? Anger? Unbelief? Doomsday?

My description would be **Alarming!** I don't need to tell you that the world is undergoing a severe and critical time that is affecting nearly all the world. The words **Coronavirus**, and Covid-19, are the most used expressions on the news media these days.

And every day the news seems to get worse, so that we are bound to think that it is indeed,

## **DOOMSDAY.**

But this is not a time to surrender to fear and depression. Some have warned:



**“FEAR IS A WEAPON OF THE DEVIL TO ROB US OF OUR PEACE.”**

There are many reports out there! There's conspiracy theories and bleak reports, and false information. But we cannot doubt that there **is** a vicious pestilence sweeping over the planet – an unseen enemy.

We hope and pray that a cure will be found that will stem the plague.

The laws and restrictions that are being put into place by governments to bring the plague to a standstill, are seeking to stimulate recovery. But all these events are causing so many shops and companies to lose customers, and thousands of workers to lose their jobs.

Luxury cruise ships have been stripped of their appeal as Covid-19 outbreaks have crippled the vessels. For many this really is like doomsday! As many national borders have been closed, Airlines have been grounded, and travel and trade has been curbed.

Yes, maybe it is doomsday! ???

Testing people who have symptoms of a sore throat is underway, but a big problem is that medical workers are scarce, and those on the scene are themselves liable to infection.

And alarmingly, most nations do not have sufficient testing equipment in store, to screen a whole population. And already thousands have died due to Covid-19.

On one hand, fears are growing that the disease may wipe out millions of people around the world. On the other hand there is a hope, and expectation, that Covid-19 may be conquered and wiped out, or at least contained, within six months.



Many people around the world are praying that Almighty God will enable us to come out of this frightening situation, alive.

Well, there is a **promise** and **assurance** for us to receive and to share, in the midst of this pandemic crisis. I will share this with you shortly. But first, let's ask the question:

### **WHY IS COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAPPENING?**

In an age when the world has so much development and breakthroughs in many health issues, why is Covid-19 and many environmental disasters, striking us with fear and panic?

There are various reports and theories out there about this COVID-19 being man-made, and that evil minds are using the Virus to achieve their **nefarious** (sinister) designs. That may or may not be true. But the underlying reason for the pandemic is that it is **caused** by mankind.

Long ago when His people in Israel were in trouble, the LORD (God) declared:

**“If I shut up the heavens and there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people; and if My people who are called by My Name, humble themselves and pray, and seek My Face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and heal their land.”** (2 Chronicles 7:14)

There's the cause. At first it sounds like God created all these evils. The truth is that man has brought the disasters upon himself and his world.

But in those words there is also a remedy declared.

“If My people PRAY, and TURN from their wicked ways” then God says He will forgive their sins and will HEAL their land.



Prayer is talking to God, and seeking His will. Yes, He will hear your feeble prayers when you express your **faith in Him**; and that simply means, you’re **believing** and **trusting in Him**.

The US President Donald Trump evidently believes in prayer, as he called for a **Day of Prayer**, which was held on March 15. Some people scoffed: “What’s the use of praying? We need a genuine remedy, not a blowing of hot air into the sky.”

But many people forget (or they don’t know), that there is a Heavenly Father above all, watching the affairs of men, and that He has told us **why this pestilence is happening**. He also tells us what is ahead in the near future.

So the Scripture indicates that the Corona virus, and the many other disasters that are smiting the world, are because of our wicked ways. God is warning our rebellious world: God says emphatically, “**Turn from your wicked ways.**”

“‘As I live!’ declares the Heavenly Master, Yahweh, **‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! For why should you die?’**” (Ezekiel 33:11)

And again: “God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, the Messiah died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

“**Seek the LORD** while He may be found. **Call upon Him** while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let him return to Yahweh, and He will have compassion on him; and *return* to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” (Isaiah 55:6-7)



A news report just to hand, tells about SPAIN where masses of people are on their knees, or with their hands raised high, in public places, **praying and crying out to God to save them from their sins, and to heal their land.**

In **India**, and many other countries, people are now praying fervently, confessing their sins, and beseeching the **LORD** for forgiveness and for the healing of their land.

When we, **personally**, and **nationally**, truly turn to God the Heavenly Father, and come to Him through Jesus Christ who is “the **Way**, the **Truth** and the **Life**,” we will experience the compassion that God alone can supply.

When we understand and **believe** that Jesus Christ is indeed the only Saviour, and that **He died on the cross to pay the penalty**

**of our sins**, then He **forgives** our sins, and makes us, each one, a child of God – His child – and one of **God’s people**.

Then He prepares a place for us in Heaven.

**"He who believes (*has faith in*) in the Son has eternal life;** but he who does not believe in the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." (John 3:36)

“The LORD is not slow concerning His promise, as some understand slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but for **everyone** to come to **repentance**.” (2 Peter 3:9)

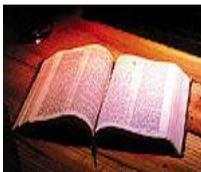
John, who was the closest disciple to Jesus of all the disciples, wrote:

“We have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son – *to be the Saviour* of the world. **Whoever confesses that Y'shua/ Jesus is the Son of God, God lives *and* remains in Him, and he, (*the believer*), *lives in God*.” (1 John 4:14--15).**

And that is fantastic news!

Now the onus, the responsibility, **rests upon us, the inhabitants** of the earth; **will we repent and turn to God?**

Not many Prime Ministers or Presidents have enough courage to call their nations to prayer like Donald Trump did.



But as well as praying, the nations must take steps to lead their nation into **righteous living and respect for our Heavenly Creator**. We must turn away from **our own personal, and national, wicked ways!**

And you don't need to look far to identify those ways. They include the crime, violence and terrorism in our cities; the modern slave trade, family violence, the corruption in government and in business; the wars that have led millions into hunger and homelessness – such as in Syria; and the blatant disregard for human life and morality, and also, the utter contempt towards our Almighty Creator and His Word and instructions.

## **MANY AMAZING PROMISES OF GOD TO HIS PEOPLE**

But not only does God rebuke the nations and call them to repent of their evils, He gives many **amazing promises to all who He calls, “My people,”** (as you have read in the 2 Chronicles quotation earlier.) **But who are those He calls “My people” ?**



They are the ones who hear His Word concerning His Son, the anointed Saviour, Yeshua/Jesus, and who have responded to His invitation.

If we are included in “God’s people,” it means we have received His provisions for the forgiveness of our sins, through Jesus the Son of God who came to earth, and paid the penalty for the sins of the world; and by faith we have believed in what He promised.

Here are some of His promises.

“And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Son of Man (*Jesus*)

must be lifted up (*on the cross*), so that **whoever believes in Him will not perish** but *will* have **everlasting life**.

For *Yahweh, the Almighty* God so loved the world, that He gave His *one and only uniquely-born* Son, so that whoever believes in Him, **should not perish**, but *will* have **eternal (everlasting) life**." (John 3: 14-16).

Now in relation to the Corona issue, God has given His people this magnificent, detailed, **assurance** to His people.

### IT'S PSALM 91 : 1-16.

“He who dwells in the Secret Place of **Elyon**/God, the Most High, abides under the shadow of the Almighty - *El Shaddai*.

He says of YHWH, 'My Refuge and my Fortress, my God! I trust in Him!' **For He delivers you from the snare of a trapper, and from the destructive pestilence.**

He covers you with His feathers, and under His wings you take **refuge**.

His truth is a shield and armour, *so that* you are not afraid of the terror by night, *nor* of the

arrow that flies by day; *nor* of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, *nor* of the destruction that lays waste at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, **but it does not come near you.**

But with your eyes you look and see the recompense of the wicked.

Because you have made YHWH “my Refuge,” ELYON/God, the Most High - your dwelling place, **no evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your dwelling.**

**For He will give His angels charge concerning You to guard You in all Your ways.**

They will bear You up in their hands, lest You dash Your foot against a stone.

You will tread upon the lion and cobra, the young lion and dragon - *the serpent* - you will trample down.

Because He has delighted in Me, **I also deliver Him**; I set Him on high, because He has known My Name.

He calls upon Me, and I answer Him; **I am with Him in trouble; I rescue Him, and honour Him.**

With long life I satisfy him, and show him My salvation.”

**That’s a promise to all of God’s people.**

Dear Reader, if Jesus is your Saviour, that promise is for **you**. So right now, at this time, take the promise, thank Him for it, and hold firmly to it, and do not fear! God is the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth, and He knows full well what is good for us, and for all mankind.

Another promise of God to His people: **“For He delivers you from the snare of a trapper, and from the destructive pestilence.”** (Psalm 91:3).

“For God has **not** given us a spirit of **fear** (*cowardice and timidity*), but of **power and love and of a sound mind** - (*discipline and wise discretion*).” (2 Timothy 1:7)

But **IF YOU ARE NOT YET A CHILD OF GOD**, I ask, what holds you back from coming to God through His beloved Son - the One who died on the cross on your behalf, and paid the death penalty that you should pay.

The Son lovingly says to us all : “Come to Me, all *you* who are weary and burdened, and **I will give you rest**.

Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; **and you will find rest for your weary souls.**” (Matthew 11:28-29)

Many people just **ignore God** and His warnings and instructions, and they continue on in their own selfish way, blissfully unaware that there is a much greater tragedy than Covid-19 ahead!

It's a **mega-disaster** that's greater than the **Black Plague** that killed **25 million** people in Europe in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

God has declared: "My Spirit will not strive with man forever." (Genesis 6:3 ).

And again "**He will judge the world in righteousness.**" (Psalm 96:13)

**What is this mega-disaster?**

It's a 7-year disaster called **The Great Tribulation.**

The prophecies in the Bible, in both Old and New Testaments, give us details of the horrendous disasters that will fill those seven years.

The present disasters – earthquakes, fires, tornados, cyclones, plagues, Covit-19, pestilences and wars, are just a trailer – a **foretaste** of what is ahead in those seven years.

"Then there will be great tribulation, **such as has never occurred** since the beginning of the and world until now; and there will be nothing like it again." (Matthew 24:21)

"Men's hearts will **faint from terror**, being apprehensive of what is coming upon the

world; for the *very* powers of the heavens will be shaken.” (Luke 21:26)

Here is one description that gives some idea of what the Tribulation is like:

“I watched as He opened the sixth seal; and there was a great earthquake; and the sun turned black like sackcloth made of *dark* hair, and the moon became blood-red; and the stars of the sky fell to earth, as a fig tree drops its unripe figs when shaken by a strong wind.

“The sky vanished like a scroll being rolled up; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Then the kings of the earth, the great men, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains.

“They called to the mountains and to the rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the Presence of Him (*the Almighty*)

who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of His wrath has come; and who is able to stand (*before it*)?'” (Revelation 6:12-17)

But some will say, “All these things indicate that God is **not** a loving ruler, but a vengeful being.

How can we believe in such an angry God who evidently delights in slaughtering helpless and innocent people?" That's a **very wrong assertion**.

God is indeed our **loving creator**, and He declares His heart when He said to Israel: "As I live! declares the Sovereign Master, Yahweh, **I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked**, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live.

Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?" (Ezekiel 33:11).

Come home!

God says: "**Why should you die? I will die for you! I will give my beloved Son to save you.**"

"John (*the Baptist*) saw Jesus coming to him, and said, 'Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'" (John 1:29)

This was foretold by the great prophet, Isaiah: "All of us like sheep have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way, but YHWH (*Yahweh*) has caused **the iniquity of us all to fall on Him (Jesus)**. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He (*Jesus*) did not open His mouth." (Isaiah 53:6-7)

It is Satan who does **not** love us; and it is he who is who is continuously promoting evil and involving men, women and children in his wicked schemes.

Please don't let him blind you to the truth! Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Let's read again this Scripture in John 3:14-16: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Son of Man (*Jesus*) must be lifted up (*on the cross*), so that **whoever believes in Him will not perish** but *that they will* have **everlasting life**.

For God (*Yahweh, the Almighty*)so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten (*uniquely-born*) Son, so that whoever believes in Him, **should not perish, but have eternal (everlasting) life.**"

So dear reader, when God gave His Son to pay the penalty for your sins, and for the sins of the whole world, how can you say He does **not** love us?

If you reject the Saviour that God has provided for you, then you're on your own, not only in the midst of the Corona pandemic, but also when you face your departure from this world, which could be at any moment! And that's why I am so concerned about you, and why I write this message to you, as clearly as I can.

JESUS will give you **Peace** during the epidemic, and He will give you the **Assurance**, that when your life on earth is over, you will be safe with Him for eternity.

Your chances of dying through the Corona may be quite small; there's more chances of being over taken by a heap of other threats.

It is reported that **every day: at least** 26,000 people die of Cancer; 24,000 people die of Heart Disease: 4,000 people die of

Diabetes; Mosquitoes kill 2,740 people every day. And hundreds die with the flu.

You may escape all those diseases, but when your time is up, you will leave this world. Now I don't want to scare you with a description of Hell. But I want to show you a **better way**, and show you also why, as a believer in Jesus, I am not afraid to die. And in fact, I may even escape death.

The Lord Jesus says to all His people: "Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

In My Father's House are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you, for I am going *there* to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself**, so that you also may be where I am." (John 14:1-3)

If you ask; "And **how** is that going to happen"?

The Scripture is quiet clear.

**THIS EVENT IS CALLED "THE RAPTURE."**



"The Master Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet *call* of God.

“Then the dead in Christ - *those who died with faith in the Messiah* - shall rise first. Then we, the living *believers* who remain, will *simultaneously* be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Master in the air (sky). And so we will be with the Master forever. Therefore comfort and encourage one another with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).

Bible believers keep this promise in their hearts and minds, knowing that the Rapture may happen any day.

And that that day is drawing very near.

The Corona epidemic is just one of the “**signs of the times,**” as are the many other disasters that we see worldwide.

Jesus told us clearly:

“You will hear of wars, and rumours of wars, nations rising up against nations, earthquakes, plague, famines, terrors and great signs from heaven (in the sky, asteroids, etc.)” (see Luke 21:9-11)

And then, concerning **the Tribulation** He said,:  
“There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and upon earth despair among nations, with perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men’s hearts will faint from terror, being apprehensive of what is coming upon the world; for the *very* powers of the heavens will be shaken. **Then will they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to take place, straighten yourselves and lift up your heads,**

because your redemption is drawing near.”

(Luke 21:25-28)

The coming of the Lord to gather His people up to the Father’s House (Heaven) is not a vague hope.

It is **His assurance**. His solemn word. And even if a believer dies before the Rapture, His spirit will be caught up to heaven; and he, or she, will receive a new spiritual/resurrection body.

Tell me dear reader, if you are **not** included in **His people**; if you are “outside Christ,” do you have any assurance of a blessed future?

Or do you just hope that when you die you will sleep in peace for ever more? And if so, will the swindler, the murderer, rapist and terrorists will also sleep in peace for ever? If that were the case then God could just forget about us.

But no!

He wants to **save us from eternal misery**.



Again I quote from Ezekiel 33:11:

“As I live! declares the Sovereign Master,  
YHWH, I take no pleasure in the death of

the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! For why should you die?”

My dear reader, if you have not yet received Jesus as your Saviour, I beseech you; in view of the alarming conditions of the present time, to flee from un- belief, false hopes and despair, and come to the One who loves you and died for you – to Jesus the lover of your soul.

And if you do not know just how to do that, let me explain the way to receive His salvation.

My friend, **it is not a matter of how good or how bad you have been; it is not a matter of how you might try to make yourself presentable for God; it is not a matter of how many good works you have done!**

**Jesus came to save sinners - wretched, hell-bound sinners. And we were all included in that category.**

The question is, do you want to be saved from the penalty of your sins; and be saved from the awful Tribulation mega-disaster that is coming upon the world very soon?

Do you want to be saved from eternal doom?

If you say, “Yes, I want to be saved,” then let me show you the **ABC** about receiving the gift of God – **forgiveness, everlasting salvation; and eternal life.**

There are three steps.

**ACKNOWLEDGE** that you are a sinner and need the mercy of GOD.

And then **ASK** Him to forgive all your sins.

**BELIEVE** in your heart and mind that Jesus/Y'shua, the Son of God, came to the earth, and was crucified on the cross in your place; and that He rose again, and is waiting to be **your living and eternal Saviour**.

**CALL upon Him while He is near. Pray** (talk) to Him expressing your faith in the Lord Jesus, the loving Saviour who has already paid your death penalty, and who is now listening and waiting for your response.

**“CALL UPON HIM WHILE HE IS NEAR.”** (Isaiah 55:6)

Dear reader, if you have never received the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, or if you are not sure that you have been saved, just talk to Him right now, in simple words, thanking Him for the great sacrifice He made for you.

Express your faith in Jesus, and receive Him as your personal Saviour today!

Tell the Saviour about your concerns and express your love and faith in Him.

He is listening and waiting for your response to Him.

If you are still not sure how to pray, here is a prayer that may help you to express your desire to be saved.

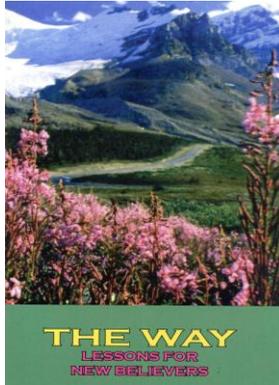
## A PRAYER FOR SALVATION

“Heavenly Father, I come to you just as I am. Be merciful to me, a sinner. As I have come to know that the Lord Jesus has already paid the penalty of my sins, I am now asking You to forgive me, and to make me Your true child, and Your faithful follower.

“Lord Jesus, thank You for paying the penalty that was due to me. I believe You are the eternal Son of God, and that You are willing to be my living Saviour from this day on. Now I believe and I trust in You, and I humbly receive Your free gift of eternal life right here and now. I commit my whole life to You, and I ask You to take me under Your wings, and make me a new person. Lead me in the days ahead and make me what You want me to be.

“Thank You, my Heavenly Father; thank You, Lord Jesus, my Saviour, for Your love and salvation. Amen! Praise Almighty God. Halleluyah. Amen.”

If this is your decision today, please drop us a line, and we will send you a booklet – “**Lessons for New Believers**,” to help you in your new life.



And I pray God will bless the rest of your life on earth, and I will look forward to meeting you in our Heavenly home.

***Blessings from Don Stanton,  
& Maranatha Revival Crusade***

## **PRAY & TAKE A STAND AGAINST THE CORONA EPIDEMIC.**

This is a time for God's people everywhere to heed God's message, and take it to heart.

***“If My people* who are called by My Name **humble themselves** and **PRAY**, and seek **My Face** and **turn from their wicked ways**, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and **heal their land.**” (2 Chronicles 7:14)**

There are, of course, many groups around the world praying against the pandemic, but can we say, “Well, let's leave it to them to do the praying.

We will cheer them on.” But God did not say, “If a **some** of my people pray.” He said, “**My people!**” And if we are included in

His people, we are must pray earnestly, every day for God to manifest His power, healing the land, and saving people who are lost and are on their way to the Great Tribulation.

We need to pray fervently in these days, and be instruments in the Master's hand to help fulfil His purposes in this crucial hour.

Here at MRC we have started a prayer chain made up of willing believers from our contact lists, and with anyone who would like to be a link in this fellowship, to pray in view of the present disastrous pandemic.

We cannot join together in one place, and we may not even be able to pray in one place, but we can pray wherever we are, at whatever time is suitable time to each one.

We just ask that those who link with us - **I call them "Linketeers"**- to commit to praying against the Corona pandemic, and against the corruption and sin in the world, at least for at least 5 minutes every day.

**If you would like to join in with us**, just let me know your name (or simply initials), location, and your **email** address.

### **Why email?**

So that we may be able to send short news items for prayer and encouragement.



If you do not have email, then your postal address will be ok.

We encourage you to include your family, and anyone else who is willing, to join you in this prayer movement.

**There is great power in unified prayer.**

Psalm 133 says: **“When brethren dwell together in unity ... there the Lord commands a blessing, even life for evermore.”**

Our email acct for this fellowship is:

**[ps91prayerchain@yahoo.com](mailto:ps91prayerchain@yahoo.com)**

### **TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS**

There is so much that we can ask the Lord to deal with, but here are a few points –

- \* that the Pandemic might be brought to an end.
- \* that church leaders will be revived and proclaim the truth with zeal;
- \* that governments will turn from their wicked legislation and embrace Biblical principles; that many souls will seek the Lord, and turn from anti-God attitudes and actions;

\* for the victims of the virus pandemic who are suffering from infection,

\* for those who have lost their jobs and means of livelihood; for all who are weighed down with fear and panic, and for all our family members and friends, neighbours and contacts who are not yet saved to be saved;

\* that believers who are being persecuted will be strengthened.

AMEN