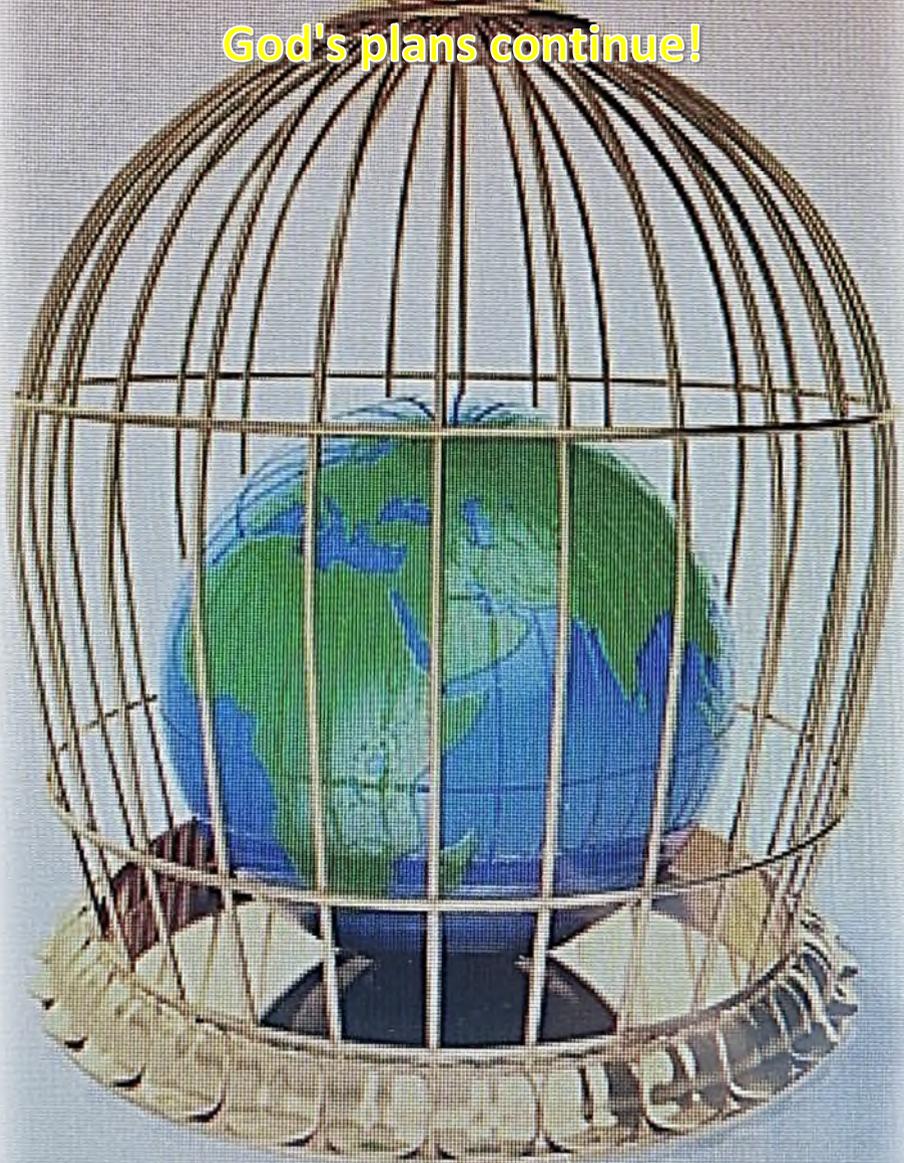


# IN QUARANTINE

God's plans continue!



UNDERSTANDING GOD'S VOICE IN A PERIOD OF ISOLATION



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*All Bible quotations are taken from the by DeepL translated Dutch Bible (SV)*

## FOREWORD

### **Covid vaccines: your body, your choice?**

*Jan Markell and guest Twila Brase (DeepL translation from English)*

Jan Markell and health expert Twila Brase discuss vaccine passports, forced vaccines and related loss of freedom issues. Fifteen days to "slow the spread" turned into more than a year of lost freedom, and it could get much worse. One newspaper article reported that in the near future you will not be able to buy or sell without a Covid vaccine and an accompanying passport stating that you have been vaccinated. *Vaccine sceptics are all said to be members of some "conspiracy movement" (!)*

### **How do we recognize the signs of the times how do we respond to them?**

All the signs of the last days are coming together at the same time. ***Biblical prophecy is happening right before our eyes and, like birth pains, the predicted events are happening more frequently and consciously.***

Never, in history around the world, have so many forces, including ***economic, scientific, technological, ecological, cultural, geopolitical, moral, spiritual, and religious***, come together to bring this world, already over the edge into the abyss, to a point of no return. The Lord Jesus said, *"When you see all these signs happening, know that I am near, even at the door."*

For more in-depth studies, commentary, and analysis of Bible prophecy and end-time events\*\*

Visit the English website: [www.prophecyupdate.com](http://www.prophecyupdate.com)

- \* Follow **Jan Markell** at: Olive Tree Ministries: <https://bit.ly/3g5qxbY>
- \* Via **YouTube**: <https://bit.ly/2Wt9jMA>
- \*\* Follow **Amir Tsarfati** at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efsMZuJ83kU>

## INTRODUCTION

### God's Voice in a Period of Seclusion

*"Now when these things begin to come to pass, look up and lift up your heads, because your salvation is near" (Luke 21:28).*

We are experiencing an exciting time in this last time just before the coming of the Lord Jesus to rapture His Church, exactly as in the time of the Lord Jesus as described in Luke chapter 21.

Jesus knew that the end was near for Him, death on the cross, for the sin of His deviated and disobedient creatures. That sin had led to death, as it had been said to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, "Of all the trees of the garden you may eat freely, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of that you must not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you will surely die" (Gen. 2:16b,17).

The Lord Jesus, according to Hebrews 1:2, was made by His Father "an Heir of all things, by Whom also He made the world; " it was the Lord Jesus Who as Creator had said to His first creatures that they would die if they did not obey His Word.

Yet the Creator provided a solution to sin and its consequences by slaughtering an innocent sacrificial animal and clothing the first humans with the skin of this animal, so that He did not need to kill them immediately, anticipating the coming of the true Lamb of God (Gen. 3:15; John 1:29).

But during the time the Lord Jesus was traveling with His disciples, the Lord proclaimed that **He Himself** as the Lamb of God would be "made sin." (Luk. 22:22; 2 Cor. 5:21). The disciples did not understand their Master's words when He announced the speedy demolition of the earthly temple. (Luk. 21:6).

But even less did the disciples understand that the Body of the Lord Jesus as Holy Temple, even before the earthly temple would be destroyed, would soon be nailed to the cross and broken (Luk. 9:44,45; 18:31-34; John 2:19-22;10:17).

## CHAPTER 1

### The times of the Gentiles

It is significant that just before His death on the cross, the Lord Jesus spoke of "the times of the Gentiles," a statement that the apostle Paul supplemented with the word "**fullness**" (Rom. 11:25). Both in the time of Jesus' disciples and thirty years later, those "times of the Gentiles," still apply to our time.

Also, the "**fullness** of the Gentiles," of which the apostle Paul wrote, has not yet been reached in our century, but is imminent, given the effects of the end-time epidemics, at least if we pay attention to the signs of the future of which the Lord Jesus and His apostles spoke.

### The coming of the Kingdom of God

We hear more preachers in these last times testify about the coming Kingdom of God, accompanied by miracles and signs. One might think here of the "powers of the age to come," which people in the days of the apostles saw happening before their eyes and had experienced personally (Heb. 6:5). That promised Kingdom would certainly have come when the Jews as a people humbled themselves, as indeed a portion had done after the penetrating preaching of the apostle Peter (Acts 2:41).

However, the Lord Jesus already warned in His day of the danger of deception that would come as early as during the preaching of the apostles. He pointed, as the apostle Paul would do later, to the **fruits** in the lives of persons who performed miracles and signs in the name of the Lord Jesus. If these were bad fruits and their lives characterized by "rapacity," then these miracle workers were compared to "predatory wolves, swaddled in sheep's clothing" who were heading for their destruction (Mat. 7:15-23).

The apostle Peter wrote of these people, "But there were also false prophets among the people, as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce pernicious deviations in doctrine. Thereby they deny even the Lord, Who has bought them, and bring swift destruction upon themselves. And many will follow them, by whom the way of truth will be blasphemed, in their pernicious ways. And they will exploit you by greed with invented words. The judgment on them has long been in operation, and **their destruction does not slumber**" (2 Pet. 1:1-3; Deut. 13:1; Matt. 24:11; Acts 20:29; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:1; Jude: 4).

The apostle Paul called these usually rich preachers, "people who have a **corrupt disposition and are deprived of the truth**, because they think that godliness is a **source of profit**" (1 Tim. 6:5).

For example, he warned the believers in Ephesus to be vigilant against "vicious wolves who do not spare the flock" and that from among them "men would rise up who distort the truth" (speak twisted things), "to draw the disciples away behind them" (Acts 20:29-31).

In Heb. 6:4-8 we read the grave warning, "For it is impossible to bring again to repentance those who once were enlightened, who tasted the heavenly gift and became partakers of the Holy Spirit, and who tasted the good Word of God and the powers of the world to come,

and who afterwards become apostates, because for themselves they crucify and publicly shame the Son of God again."

### **Warning against apostasy**

The letter writer continued his warning to those who had seen and "tasted" the "**signs of an apostle**" that those who built their faith on these signs and wonders, but were not sanctified by repentance and regeneration, "brought forth thorns and thistles." These so-called "believers" in the time of the apostles, even though they had "tasted the heavenly gift," were nevertheless "reprobate and near to the curse, the end of which leads to burning."

In Luke 17:20-37 we read that the Lord Jesus was questioned by the Pharisees *when* the Kingdom of God would come. Jesus replied that The Kingdom of God would come, **but not in a way perceptible to them**. The Lord Jesus pointed out to His disciples and His listeners that those who had been converted had thereby already received into their hearts the Kingdom of God through faith in the Messiah who had now come, or in other words, in the Person of Himself were also partakers of His kingdom (John 14:23; Rom. 10:9, excluding those described in Ephesians 5:5).

Jesus continued his speech by pointing out that there would be those who would say, "**Behold, here He is,**" but warned not to go there or to go after them. For, the Lord testified, *"as lightning flashes from one place under heaven and lights to another place under heaven, so will the Son of Man be in His day"* (Matt. 24:4-8).

### **The days of Noah repeat themselves**

When it comes to the time of the rapture of the church, which precedes the great tribulation, those days are characterized by the days of Noah, and so it will also be in the days of the Son of Man. The Lord Jesus said of this: *"For as they were in the days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, even unto the day in which Noah went into the ark; and knew it not, till the flood came, and took them all away; so also, shall be the future of the Son of man."*

So, it also happened in the days of Lot, only the words "**took to marriage**" no longer appear, aptly enough, in the citation of that Bible passage: *"Likewise also, as it was in the days of Lot; they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; But on the day that Lot went out from Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. So shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed"* (Matt. 24:38,39, Lu. 17:28-30).

The Lord Jesus continued His warning that *"In that night there shall be two on a bed; the one shall be accepted, and the other shall be forsaken. Two women shall mill together; one shall be accepted, and the other forsaken. Two shall be in the field; one shall be accepted, and the other shall be forsaken. And they answered and said unto him, Where Lord? And he said unto them, Where the body is, there shall the eagles be gathered together"* (Luke 17:34-37). And the Lord Jesus continued His speech in Luke 18 by insisting *"that one should always pray, and not delay; "*

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **Witness and pray in your inner room**

When we as believers, who have accepted the Lord Jesus as Saviour and Lord, have received the Holy Spirit during our conversion and the subsequent necessary rebirth, we are eager to go and testify of our Lord.

Yet there may be periods of time when we are instructed to withdraw ourselves into our prayer room to understand the Voice of God's Spirit more accurately. He wants to lead us in those quiet moments of meditation and prayer "into all Truth." He does so by reminding us of the words of the Lord Jesus and giving further instructions on how we may continue to walk, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath prepared, that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10, see also John 16:13-15; Phil. 2:13).

### **The Corona virus, "a storm in a glass of water"?**

Thousands of people, religious or not, were instructed by higher authorities to stay indoors as much as possible to minimize the risk of infection. Whether this will succeed is a big question, given the increasing number of infections and deaths. Many people complain that if this situation continues for a long time, they will be at risk of isolation, which will bring the economy and health care systems into serious difficulty.

### **How do we as Christians deal with the current situation?**

But how do believing Christians deal with this unique situation? Some do not draw heavily on it and expect all the news to be like a storm in a glass of water and that the virus will soon disappear.

Others see an actual storm coming that will affect many, even worse than the storms and fires that rage across various countries and cause destruction. We do not know; we are dealing with an unknown scenario with an uncertain as yet unknown outcome. For many, this disease is a kind of "calm before the storm."

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **What the Bible teaches us about signs**

Let us begin by reading some portions of the Bible that deal with diseases and pestilences that God Himself or through His prophets once announced and that often had to do with the poor spiritual condition of God's people.

Let us start at the beginning, with the very first humans, Adam, and Eve. Because of their disobedience to God's Word, they faced all kinds of events that ended in death (Gen. 2:16,17).

Later, in the days of Noah, we see the skies becoming involved and the judgment of God on sins being conducted. The Lord Jesus had said that the last days before His return would be marked by the days of Noah and the days of Abraham. Cousin Lot, who lived in the midst of ungodly people, was saved with his family just before the judgment was to be conducted (Gen. 6:5-7; Mat. 24:37; Lu. 17:28; 2 Pet. 2:7).

### **The warning of the Lord Jesus**

The Lord Jesus used these histories to warn people of the time that, after His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, would come. It would be a time of grace, of which the apostle Peter said that the Lord would deliver from temptation those godly men who took seriously the words of the Lord Jesus and sought to order their lives in the power of God's indwelling Holy Spirit as He had foretold them but would preserve the unrighteous until the day of judgment, to be punished (1 Pet. 2:21; 2 Pet. 2:9).

This also happened during the reign of King Solomon. Because of his deviation from God's words and his acceptance of all kinds of idolatry, the twelve tribes of Israel were divided and disunited. They served idols, fought among themselves and were at each other's throats. Religious life took place at various altars, with or without associated houses of worship. These altars were compared to tables, on which people brought unclean sacrifices that were not pleasing to God. The songs that were sung loudly as a kind of worship service, accompanied by all kinds of instruments and drums, could not please the Lord God (Malachi 1:7; Amos 5:23).

It was similar to the days of Paul, who had to reprimand the believers in the port city of Corinth because they too were defiling the Lord's table by a soulless walk and admitting false doctrine (1 Cor. 5:2; 11:18-20). The apostle Judas, the brother of the Lord Jesus (not Judas the traitor), also wrote about this (Judas vs. 12-16, 19).

But God's grace still gives time for repentance. In the days of Ezekiel, in those of the apostles, but also in our days, for God does not want people to be lost, even though He has said that His judgment will begin at the house of God! (2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:4; 1 Pet. 4:17-19)!

## CHAPTER 4

### Locked up in own home!

*"Then the Spirit came into me, and set me on my feet, and spake with me, and said unto me, Go, resolve to enter into thy house" (Ezekiel 3:24).*

This happened to the prophet Ezekiel in the days of the king Jehoiachin when he had been taken into exile to Babylon. It is written of him that he explicitly heard the word of the LORD while he was staying in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Kebar. He saw a storm wind coming from the north, a great cloud, flashing fire and a light shine around it. And from the centre of it came something like the brilliance of precious metal, from the centre of the fire. Out of the middle of it came a form of four living creatures. This was their appearance: they had the form of a man (Ez. 1:4,5).

We recognize in that vision something of the glory of the God-Man Jesus Christ, Who calls His people to repentance and contrition.

A wondrous appearance and even more wondrous was the word the prophet received when God's Spirit came into him: *"Then the Spirit came into me, and set me on my feet, and spake with me, and said unto me, Go, resolve thyself into thy house. For concerning thee, son of man, behold, they would put thick ropes upon thee, and they would bind thee therewith; therefore, thou shalt not go out into the midst of them" (Ez. 3:24,25).*

### Arrests when you do not lock yourself up

What the Lord God commanded the prophet not to go outside his house to warn the people of the approaching calamity, on pain of being arrested and tied up, is similar to our times. People who do not abide by agreements made around the coronavirus can be criminally prosecuted for doing so.

So warned lawyer Tjalling van der Goot in a letter to the editor, to be published in the Leeuwarden Courant; *"should people behave in such a way that public health is harmed, sanctions can be imposed,"* the advocate wrote.

For example, a person with the coronavirus may be jailed or fined heavily if he or she avoids forced isolation. He or she would be a danger to others. *"A substantial penalty, therefore, which emphasizes the seriousness of the offence,"* writes van der Goot. Even if an infected person manages their infection "carelessly or negligently", they can be prosecuted for culpable homicide. *"Death by guilt carries a maximum prison sentence of two years," the lawyer wrote."*

### Forewarned is forearmed

So there the prophet was, **locked in his own house**, like many people today. Why would the Lord God allow all that, many Christians ask themselves. The prophet's answer is cautionary and at the same time encouraging, **for there will come a time when we have the opportunity to witness again**, though we should not expect right away that people will repent en masse at our preaching, as happened on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:36; 4:10). It can even be a witness during arrest!

Ezekiel was later given the opportunity to still pass on the warning message, if it is when we pass on the prophet's message in our day, primarily digitally, whether people want to listen or not, we preachers must "deliver our souls" (Ez. 3:19).

The Lord God had said, "***But when I shall speak to thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord LORD, He that heareth, leteth him hear; and he that lieth, leteth him be for they are an obstinate house***" (Ez. 3:27, see also 2:5-7).

### **The message of God must continue to be proclaimed!**

The apostle Paul must have thought the same during his period of seclusion in prison. He wrote letters to fellow believers to encourage them to stand firm in the midst of oppressive circumstances.

He wrote from his isolation, "*According to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be ashamed in anything; but that in all boldness, as at all times, so also now, Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to live is Christ to me, and to die is gain for me.*

*But whether to live in the flesh is acceptable to me, and what I shall choose, I know not. For I am impelled by these two, desiring to be unbound, and to be with Christ; for that is the best. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary for your sake" (Phil. 1:20-24).*

## CHAPTER 5

### Praying until God's wrath passes

The prophet Isaiah also wrote about captivity in Isa. 26:20,21, where he describes how he had to say to his fellow men from God, *"Go ye, my people! Go into your inner chambers and shut your doors after you; hide yourselves as for a little while, until the wrath passes over. For, behold, the LORD shall go forth out of his place, to visit the iniquity of the inhabitants of the earth upon them; and the earth shall discover her blood, and shall no longer cover her slain."*

### Abortion and the idol Molech

How serious the words sound, *"and will no longer keep her dead beat covered."* In 2017 alone, 30,523 terminations of pregnancy were performed in the Netherlands. That is slightly more than in 2016. When we listen to the words of the deacon Stephen, where he described the idolatry of the people of Israel freed from slavery, we notice that the idol Molech was also named (Acts 7:43).

This Molech or Molek was a Canaanite-Phoenician-Carthaginian deity to whom children were sacrificed. However, sacrificing to this "idol" was strictly condemned. King Manasseh, the son of King Hezekiah (who had banished all idolatry during his reign (2 Chron. 31:1), is recorded as being guilty of this.

To Molech, the god of fire, children, including foetuses according to Ps. 139:16 and Ex. 21:22,23, were given up to the fire ([https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moloch\\_\(god\)](https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moloch_(god)))

### The prophecy about "the times of the Gentiles"

The Lord Jesus spoke of "the times of the Gentiles," a statement that the apostle Paul supplemented with the word "fullness" (Rom. 11:25). That "fullness of the Gentiles" seems to be coming soon when we pay attention to the signs of the times! Yet many believers insist that the Kingdom of God has already broken through on earth (see Royal Mission, "Miracles of the Kingdom").

***But the question is whether this is already the case in the times we are living in now, because*** for the time being the Corona virus is holding us captive in our own homes! Therefore, I think the present time is more like the signs leading up to the great tribulation and calls for repentance, repentance, and self-examination!

## CHAPTER 6

### Signs in the end times

*"Now when these things begin to come to pass, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near" (Luke 21:28).*

We are experiencing an exciting time just before the rapture of the Church, a time when many Christians are reflecting on the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus between February 26 and April 12. He died as the Lamb of God for the sin brought into the world by the disobedience and unbelief of the first human couple (Gen. 2:16-17).

We experience the consequences of that act of unbelief and disobedience daily! But how do we respond in this present time full of trials, to that message of the cross of the Lord Jesus? He Who was already announced in paradise as the promised Saviour? (Gen. 3:15, compare John 1:29; Col. 2:15). Or are we only concerned with how we can survive now that the Corona virus is around?

### The coming of the Kingdom of God

We hear much talk in these last times about *"the Kingdom of God breaking through on earth,"* in which people *become "an effective channel of God's power"* in which you can *"dispense miracle power on behalf of the King"* (Royal Mission, "Miracles of the Kingdom," see also Hans Frinsel's article on page 15).

But is that promised kingdom already here? What about the deadly Corona virus that imprisons us in our own homes? Does that belong in the promised kingdom of God, in which Christians could learn to "dispense miracle power on behalf of the King"? Time will tell.

But when we note the latest reports about the increase in the number of infections especially in the US and especially in India, how government pronouncements, and promises that look like prophecies but do not come true, we wonder why the pronouncements of these false prophets are constantly repeated in the media.

In the next pages we will read how even government leaders are inspired by these false prophets by making promises that are overtaken, contradicted, and belied by the facts.

## CHAPTER 7

### Led by false prophets\*

We read a recent message in the monthly magazine "Het Zoeklicht" July 2020 by Hans Frinsel, who wrote as a comment on the recent statements of President Trump: *"It seems unreal now, but in February we were still laughing about the corona threat. A month later, Europe and America were coloured deep red on the corona world map."*

### Scary parallels

In February 2020, a carefree government leader was still claiming that those few COVID-19 cases were nothing; everything would be under control. Nothing could be further from the truth when, one year later, we saw all kinds of dangerous mutants! When the famous Titanic was launched, they thought the same thing and so they reduced the number of lifeboats on the so-called "unsinkable ship".

What strikes me in many press reports are the reactions to the corona threat that often parallel the statements of "prophets" from the hyper-charismatic movement. It seems that these so-called prophets have also influenced government leaders.

One of them, the notorious charismatic initiator of "drunkenness in the spirit," Rodney Howard-Browne, "forbade" the virus from entering America with a "spiritual decree" in February 2020. The virus, however, did not care.

Television channel Fox News, a propaganda channel, even published a "prophecy" by Shawn Bolz (Bethel Movement) in late February, *"that the tipping point had already come, and the virus would disappear miraculously quickly"*. Around the same time, a government leader also declared that the virus would disappear quickly 'as if by a miracle'.

### 'Prophetic' Corona fight

The "miracle" did not materialize, and the situation forced all kinds of governments, including the Netherlands, to take strict emergency measures. At the end of March 2020, it was predicted that the turnaround to normal economic activity would occur around Easter.

Around the same time, some charismatic leaders declared that a vague prophecy from "apostle and prophet" Chuck Pierce, was a prediction of the end of the corona crisis. He had "prophesied" earlier in the year that Passover this year would mark a "major shift," a significant change.

### But Easter brought no change.

The king of the prosperity gospel, Kenneth Copeland, cursed the virus and *'blew it away'* in a dramatic display of *'spiritual warfare'*. It proved inadequate, so in late March he 'decreed' with 'his authority as a prophet' a heat wave for the month of April. Because the virus is bad at heat. Without success. Unusually cold weeks followed for the time of year!

In late March 2020, a government leader also predicted the virus would disappear by April due to the heat. Despite these "prophetic interventions," the U.S. developed into the hardest

growing hotbed that has continued unabated from late May 2020 to the present. How many false prophecies must these charlatans utter before it is recognized that they are false prophets? The world is laughing.

### **Mistrust**

It amazes me how many Christians uncritically support government pronouncements and deliberately ignore their swaggering leadership. Bizarre statements and lies mark some press conferences. However, our expectation should never be from those in power, but from God. But unfortunately, many Christians allow themselves to be led by false prophets. This will break down the church and actually damage its credibility. ***Will the Lord God teach us something about biblical priorities?***

*From an article by Hans Frinsel in "The Searchlight," no. 7, July 2020 \**

*\* Reprinted in part from Het Zoeklicht with written e-mail permission from Frits Boekhoff. For a comprehensive overview of false prophecies about corona, see Hans Frinsel's article "**And many shall they tempt**" on "Biblical Perspective": <http://bijbels-perspectief.nl/page16.html> and the article "False Prophets" on the Promise site.*

## CHAPTER 8

### Epidemics and economic malaise in the world and in God's house

In this chapter, we are called to practice faith trust during global disasters like the Corona-19 pandemic and whether we (re)recognize God's judgments in them. There is hope through the finished work of the Lord Jesus on the cross. By acknowledging sins and faith in the Lord Jesus there is eternal life! The wise Ecclesiastes wrote: *"There is hope only for the living. For the living at least know that they will die someday."*

#### When sickness and pestilence strike us

Saddened, the couple sat at the sickbed of their young son. It did not look good, and the doctors had not had a chance to find the right medicine for the fever that was ravaging the young man's body. Something had to be done quickly, otherwise they would see their son die before their eyes!

Although the father had always presented himself as pious and aware of his high calling as a pastor of a great nation, his fast career had certainly not been a smooth one! He had had to look for another job because his previous employer had noticed that he might be able to take over his entire power area, with staff and all!

#### Learning from Israel's history

We are talking about King Jeroboam, once one of the most powerful and esteemed men in the retinue of the famous and wise but disobedient King Solomon. In the great crisis, which arose after the death of Solomon, it had come to a schism among God's people. Israel then had to choose under which leadership they wanted to continue, under Solomon's descendant, King Rehabeam, or that intelligent Jeroboam, one of Solomon's best subjects and associates.

#### A call to revolution

Through a call to revolution and with the help of the establishment of a religious shadow service with self-chosen pastors and priests, he had managed to get the majority of the people to take his side. ***But his religious revaluation of established worship had not won God's approval, quite the contrary!***

#### Judgment announced, but no repentance followed!

And now judgment had entered his house, and his young successor lay gravely ill in bed. He remembered how a prophet from Judah had anointed him king over the ten-tribe kingdom. He remembered during this difficult time how the prophet had admonished him to still be faithful to the statutes handed down to him by God and Moses. But he had not really stored them in his heart, they had become more of a burden to him, which you had to get rid of in the long run. Still, he needed to know what his young son's future would look like, would he be able to count on a successor?

## Asking for the future

Let us listen to how he tried to get out of it according to the history from 1 Kings 14:2 and onward, *"Then Jeroboam instructed his wife, 'Disguise yourself so that no one will recognize you as the queen and go to the prophet Ahiah in Silo; that is the man who told me I would be king, ask him if the boy will get well again....'"* But the Lord had already told the old prophet that the queen would come to him in disguise to ask what would happen to her sick son.

The Lord also told him what he should answer her. Thus, when she came, he was able to say the following: *'Come in woman of Jeroboam. Why have you disguised yourself?' I have sad news for you. Give your husband this message from the Lord, the God of Israel: 'I promoted you from the ranks of the common people and made you king over Israel. I snatched the kingdom from the hands of David's family and gave it to you, but you have not obeyed My commandments, as My servant before you; you have made other gods and aroused My wrath with those golden calves of yours. And because you have so obviously ignored Me, I will bring disaster upon your family and destroy all your sons, both married and single. I will wipe out your family like a stable boy sweeps the manure from the stable'.*

## Future predictions do not help non-believers

And so, the woman had to return to her city and husband unscathed. Instead of a blessing, she received a negative message, her child would die. But there was one thing that could comfort her. Her child would be preserved forever and go to heaven just because God *had "found something good in the child!"* **And what else could that be but that God's grace had become manifest in that little boy?**

Thus, we see that God usually allows His judgments to begin from His own house, among His own people! But, that God considers people who do not want to join in the great apostasy and remain faithful to His Word! These people, young or old, will be *"snatched away from evil and will rest on their army cities"* (Isa. 57:1).

## Praying that the Lord God will grant a revival

To learn the lesson of this history we will have to listen to what the prophet Habakkuk says in chapter 3:2-6; *"Lord, I have heard of Your glorious deeds and **am filled with awe at what You are about to do.** Revive Your deeds in this age, make Your power public. Though You have become wrathful, do not forget to have compassion! God comes over the desert from Mount Sinai. His majesty covers the sky, the earth is full of His praise. He shines like the sun-light, from His hands shoot rays of light; in them is power hidden. **Before Him goes the plague and the fever follows closely behind. He stands still and surveys the earth; He looks around and makes the nations leap for joy...**"*

## Judging in God's Church

Is that why both Peter and Paul spoke of "weakness, sickness and death" in the church of God, because there is so much unconfessed evil in the Christian church? Because so many things have crept into the churches, things that do not correspond to God's holiness and honour? That therefore as believers we can no longer see the distinction between good and evil?

Peter, after pointing out the lack of sanctification and unity, the sin of slander and having an unclean conscience, wrote in that regard, *"...the time is coming when judgment **will begin at the house of God**; and if it begins first from us, what will be the end for those who disobey the Gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the wicked and sinner appear?"*

### Lack of life sanctification

The apostle Paul wrote in that regard, because of the lack of sanctification among the believers in Corinth, *"Therefore there are among you many weak and sick, and many have fallen asleep; but if we are judged, it is because we are disciplined of the Lord, **lest we be judged together with the world.**"*

### The Prophecy of Ezekiel

We also see such warnings in the Old Testament. The prophet Ezekiel speaks of a judgment that struck the holy city of Jerusalem at that time. In Ez.10:1-7 and vs. 18 he describes the departure of God's glory from the temple buildings and the city, but then he informs us:

*"Then I heard Him call in a powerful voice, 'Bring the guards of the city here, each one with his weapon in his hand.' At His call, six men appeared from the direction of the upper northern gate, each with a deadly weapon. One of them wore linen clothes and had a scribe's quiver at his waist. They entered the temple and remained standing beside the brazen altar.*

*And the glory of the God of Israel ascended from the Cherubim on which He had rested, up above the entrance to the temple. And the Lord said to the man with the scribe's quiver, "**Go through the streets of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of the people who weep and sigh for all the sins they see around them.***

*To the other men I heard the Lord say, "Run after him through the city and kill everyone who does not have a mark on his forehead. Spare no one and show no mercy. Kill them all: Old and young, girls, women, and little children; but **Do not touch anyone who bears the sign. Start here, at My sanctuary!**"*

## God wants to sanctify Himself in His converted people

We already understand, **God wants to sanctify Himself in people who call on His Name**, whether sincerely, from tradition or from the heart. But only those who bear "the sign" on their foreheads are spared the final judgment. That sign is proof that the cross of Christ controls our whole thinking. That it determines our actions and actions and that our testimony of Christ has been heard everywhere, *even in heaven!*

## God's judgment on abortion practices and hidden idolatry

We live in a shocking and exciting time. On the one hand, you hear of millions of abortions, including among Christians, but also of hidden idolatry, which I wrote about in my brochure *"Revival through repentance of modern idolatry."* \*

For example, I recently read in a July 1995 television guide that Chinese doctors eat aborted fetuses for their health and those other hospitals even offer them for sale. A journalist from the "Eastern Express" in Hong Kong reported this!

On the other hand, we hear the testimony of "Mother Theresa" at a banquet hosted by President Clinton, in which she points out to him the impossibility of holding the people accountable to the environment and reducing violence and murder, *when mothers are allowed to kill their own children!*

## God is patient, but for how long?

How great is the patience of the Lord God! Apparently, He still wants to point out the possibility of salvation to many people before the great judgment has to come for so many sins. He does this, among other things, through the modern media, such as with that enormous transmitter on Mount Ararat, where Noah's ark is supposed to be. But also, through all kinds of Christian radio and television programs. The communists had planned to offer their ideology to mankind from that radio station on the Ararat mountains, but God thought very differently about that. He allowed this powerful station to be used by a Christian organization, to send His message of repentance and repentance into the world. *God is still waiting, that is clear, for your and my repentance so that we turn away from the destruction that is also found in the midst of Christians.*

## Call to wake up and vigilance

Let us wake up and reflect, before the judgment comes and, as Isa. 57:1 puts it, *"...the righteous are snatched away, without anyone taking care that those righteous are snatched away, before the evil comes, as he enters into the peace that remains for the people of God!"*

Gone *before* the hour of temptation comes upon the whole earth! That is what the ancient apostle John on the Isle of Patmos, and the apostle Paul from prison in Rome, also wrote about (Rev. 3:10; 1 Thes. 4:16-18)!

\* <https://1drv.ms/w/s!AIYxUu2Rlw8IIFMrG0wvB42W0bNKw?e=cTghfO>

## CHAPTER 9

### Call to Repentance and Vigilance

Let us wake up and reflect, before the judgment comes and, as Isa. 57:1 puts it, "...*the righteous are snatched away, without anyone taking care that those righteous are snatched away, before the evil comes, as he enters into the peace that remains for the people of God!*"

Gone **before** the hour of temptation comes upon the whole earth! That is what the ancient apostle John on the Isle of Patmos, and the apostle Paul from prison in Rome, also wrote about (Rev. 3:10; 1 Thes. 4:16-18)!

### The sign of the beast, 666 (www)

After the rapture of the Church, **another sign will be seen, at the forehead or right hand of mankind**, the "*sign of the beast*." We already find that sign in our digital age. What that sign is? It can be found on our internet browser on the laptop, cell phone or tablet! Just look at: <https://www.hetknp.org/dna-teken-beest/>

You understand what those letters **www** means in our day, they represent the number 666! For those who carry this sign under the skin, like a small grain of rice injected on the forehead or on the hand, the time of grace will be over (Heb. 10:26,27). **But, for those who have received the sign (seal) of Christ, there will be eternal joy.** To which group does my reader belong? Still, it is time to decide to which category you want to belong, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,**" *it once sounded in a prison (Acts 16:31-34)!*

### Understanding God's voice in isolation and during problems

#### 1. How does this happen?

- 1.1 When we disengage from the voices around us and seek the silence to pray (Mat. 14:23-32)
- 1.2 The effects are encouraging, especially when we look for each other again afterwards (Mat. 14:25; Acts 4:23,24,31)
- 1.3 By asking the Lord for perseverance and courage to face life's storms (Mat. 14:28; Acts 4:24-29)
- 1.4 For the Lord Jesus hears our cry for help and grasps our outstretched hand and stills the storm (Matt. 14:30-32)
- 1.5 So that we come to worship and continue to follow Jesus, right through difficulties (Matt. 14:33-34; Acts 4:33)
- 1.6 And we again begin to experience miracles of God's gracious intervention (Matt. 14:35,36; Acts 5:12-16)
- 1.7 And the unity of the Body of Christ is experienced again (John 17:20,21; 1 Cor. 1:10; 12:12,13; 1 Pet. 3:8)

## 2. What does the Lord God show us next?

- 2.1 That which stands in the way of revival and seeing God's glory (Ez. 8:1-6)
- 2.2 But also that the Lord gives authority and influence on each one who obeys God's Word (Deut. 28:1; Acts 4:13; Ez. 9:4-6)
- 2.3 But disobedience, false motives and a critical spirit are judged (Deut. 28:15-29; Ez. 7:1-19; Isa. 58:9; Rom. 14:4)
- 2.4 For eagles come upon our flesh, our old man with his dead works (Deut. 28:26; Mat. 25:28; 1 Pet. 2:1; Eph. 4:22-24; Heb. 9:14)
- 2.5 But those who humble themselves will fly up like eagles and not be condemned (Isa. 40:31; 57:1; 1 Thes. 4:14-18; 5:9)
- 2.6 For the Lord rules and not Satan or the world leaders, who will be judged (Psalm 97:1-7; Spr. 21:1; 2 Thes. 1:6; Rev. 20:12)
- 2.7 While in the end of the age every sorcery and uncleanness will be judged (Rev. 1:3; 10:6; 11:5; 18:1-24)
- 2.8 But the overcomers will see the glory of the Lord Jesus and the heavenly Jerusalem (Ez. 43:2-12; Rev. 12:10,11; 21:1-10; 1 Tim. 1:17)
- 2.9 To stand firm in the spiritual battle (1 Tim. 1:1-2:8)
- 2.10 To share with others what we learned from God (2 Tim. 2:1,2,14-16).
- 2.11 And to preach the Word in a time of apostasy (2 Tim. 4:1-5).
- 2.11 To beg people to be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:20,21).
- 2.12 To warn people of God's judgments (Acts 17:31).
- 2.13 For the Lord Jesus gives eternal life to those who believe Him (John 11:25,26).
- 2.14 Because for God 1 day is like 1000 years, than His judgment comes! (2 Pet.3:8-13)
- 2.15 And that the Anti-Christ will come and give his sign 666 (Rev. 13:11-18)
- 2.16 See Rev. 13:15 [and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTCzKuxwJrk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTCzKuxwJrk)

### Questions:

1. When do we understand God's voice most clearly?
2. How does the Holy Spirit work in our praying and seeking God's will?
3. What is the power of coming together to the name of the Lord Jesus?
4. When do believing Christians gain spiritual authority?
5. What does it mean that eagles gather around the dead body?

*For more brochures, flyers and PowerPoint studies see: [www.adullam.nl](http://www.adullam.nl)  
Correspondence: [cbbeekhuizen@gmail.com](mailto:cbbeekhuizen@gmail.com)*

## CHAPTER 10

### Pestilences as Divine discipline for God's people and judgment on the world

**1. When God's people disobey:** Ex. 5:3; Num. 14:12; Deut. 28:21; 2 Sam. 24:15; Jer. 14:12; 21:6-9; 24:10; 34:17,18; Ez. 5:12; 12:16; Rev. 2:23.

**2. What will happen if the restrictions God gives are violated?** Plague, pestilence, disasters, wars, rumours, earthquakes, increasing atrocities as judgment when the warnings of prophets are not noticed or heeded. Judgment will begin in God's house (1 Pet. 4:17). In the Old Testament that was the Temple. In the New Testament God's house with wooden and earthen vessels (Ex. 9:3; Jer. 27:8; 28:8; Ez. 28:23; Amos 4:10; Habakuk 3:5; Mat. 24:7; 2 Tim. 2:20; Rev. 6:8; 9:6. Also read Ezekiel 5:1-17; 9:4-6, in conjunction with Job 1:20 and Acts 18:5-18; 28:23-31

**3. According to Jeremiah 7:4-15,** the Lord God gives plagues and other disasters as evidence of His judgment and holiness. *Baldness, according to the Bible, is an evidence of mourning* (Job 1:20; Acts 18:18; Ez. 5:1-12; Jer. 7:29-34. Those judgments are seen in the announced disasters, dead bodies in the streets, wars, and pestilences (see Amos 5:10-27; Ez. 5:12; 7:1-15; Rev. 2:18-23; 6:2-11 (note the Word "Crown" in verse 2, in Greek it is "Corona")!

Other places where pestilence is spoken of as a judgment of God and where He used wise men "who know the time" to give insight into how God's judgments develop and are announced (1 Chron. 12:32; 23:32; Ez. 3:19; 33:3,4; Dan. 11:13,14; Esther 1:13,14; Ezra 7:14; Rev. 3:20-23; 17:1-6; 18:1-13; 19:11-22).

### Two different marks (seals) and judgments in the end times

#### 1. The blessed mark (seal)

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Ez.9:4,6     | For people who sigh and weep because of the wickedness around them. They are sealed with God's seal (Isa.57:1-3; Ps.73:14-17; Mal.3:14-18; Micah 7:18,19) |
| Rev. 7:3,14  | The servants of God in the end times are also sealed on their foreheads and are secure in heaven (see contrast in 9:4).                                   |
| Rev. 2:17The | seal contents include God's Name and His testimony (see also Rev. 3:12; 14:1; 20:4; 22:4)   |
| 2 Cor. 1:22, | Born-again believers in our day are already sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise (Eph. 1:13; 4:30).   |
| Rev. 15:2    | They overcame the beast and his image and refused his mark, but through suffering (Mat. 24:9).  |
| Rev. 20:4    | The martyrs who refused the mark of the beast will live and reign with Christ for a thousand years. (Mat. 10:22; 1 Pet. 3:14; 2 Tim. 3:12; 4:8)           |

## 2. The cursed mark (seal).

Gen. 4:8-16	The first fratricide; the first (cursed) seal on Cain's separation from God.
Rev. 13:16	People, who are against God, receive a negative mark in their right hand, or on their forehead.
Rev. 13:18	The number of the mark of the beast is 666, a sign that those people were following cursed leaders.
Rev. 14:9,10	They will drink of the wine of the wrath of God,
Rev. 16:2Evil	sores fell on the men who had the mark.
Rev. 17:5	A woman who sits on the beast has a name on her forehead, "mystery." (Rev. 2:20-23)
Rev. 19:20	The beast, along with those who received his mark, was cast alive into the lake of fire.
2Thes.2:13-17	But, we close with encouraging words of grace, for everyone who is sealed with the Holy Spirit is saved!

## Two different judgments and the final judgment of God in the end times

### 1. God's judgment in the Old Testament

Gen. 4:15	Why Cain was cursed.
Ez. 8:1-9:11	Why judgment came upon the Temple
Isa 57:1-5	By idolatry and disobedience
Jer. 25:34-36	But also through failure of the leaders and their lack of pastoral care.
Ez. 34:2	Those leaders chose prosperity and false prophecy not caring for the poor.

### 2. God's judgment in the New Testament

**2 Thess. 2:12** That they all might be condemned, who did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

**Notes:** We are living in the last days. The coming apostasy is becoming more sharply defined. One sign of this is the waning interest in God's Word. Satan uses "all the deceit of wickedness." He will absolutely manipulate people without conscience and drag them with him into destruction. These are the people for whom the word of the cross is foolishness (1Cor 1:18).

The gospel, the truth, was offered to them, but they rejected it as foolishness. There was no love for the truth. They refuse to open their hearts to the truth; the preaching does not matter to them. They do not want to be saved. Therefore, God will cause them to believe the lie.

What will remain on earth after the rapture of the Church is a name Christianity without Christ. Christianity will then consist of people who maintain their confession as Christians, but without any connection to the Christ of God.

Therefore, during the tribulation, there will be no more opportunity for those kinds of people to return to their wrong ways (Rev. 16:9,11,21). Thus, for those who heard the Gospel but

rejected it, there will be no second chance! Because they refused to believe the truth with their whole heart, they will come to believe the lie (2 Thes. 2:11).

This is the result when the truth is not believed. They have never had an inward relationship with the Lord Jesus and His Word, but they have trusted in their own human (pious) standards and knowledge. Such a person consciously and deliberately chooses to fulfil the desires of his own "self." It does not occur to him what God wants and what is to the glory of the Lord Jesus. God's judgment on him will be just.

**1 Pet. 4:17** For the time has come, that judgment should begin in the house of God; and if it begins first with us, what shall be the end of them that obey not the gospel of God?

**Notes:** There is another reason why God uses the suffering of persecution for the benefit of His own. The time of judgment on the *whole* world is yet to come. Peter speaks of this in his second letter. We will see that as we read and examine that letter together. Peter speaks in that 2<sup>nd</sup> letter about God's judgment on *God's House*, which is the church, but seen as a whole made up of all kinds of believers, most of whom are Christians in name only.

But that house also contains believers who have a true inward relationship with the Lord Jesus, have been born again, and have been sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13; 4:30; Rom. 8:15; 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5). Both types of believers will be held accountable for their behavior. Before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10) or, for those who are Christians in name only, before the great white Throne (Rev. 6:15-17; 20:11-15).

Being a member of the church is not only a *privilege*, but also a great *responsibility*. That is what this is all about. *That responsibility is greater than that of the world*. For the church as the people of God and the house of God professes to know God and to obey Him. Therefore, God's judgment must begin here before He executes His judgment on the world (cf. Jer. 25:29; Ez. 9:6).

**God first judges what is closest to Him, what is most responsible** (Lev 10:3; Amos 3:2), to take away what is not according to His will. He wants wrong to be confessed and done away with while it is still the time of grace. These Christians have confessed their sin and judged themselves in time. They will not be judged with the world (1Cor 11:31-32; 3:13-15). But the judgment on the world is yet to come and it will be terrible and final. There will be no escape for unbelievers! See website Ger de Koning: <https://www.kingcomments.com/nl/bijbelstudies/2Th/2:10>

**2 Pet. 3:7,8** But the heavens and the earth, which are now, were given in safekeeping by the same word, preserved from the fire against the day of judgment and the destruction of ungodly men.

**Notes:** Peter refers to the final judgment. The previous world was flooded by water; the present world will be destroyed by fire. For this final judgment "the present heavens and the earth are preserved from the fire."

That day of judgment is called "the day of the Lord," that is, the entire period that includes His appearance before judgment and His reign during the millennial kingdom of peace. That

time comes after the days of the great tribulation, and those who come to faith during that time will suffer (Mt 24:22). But the Church is already in heaven and incorporated (1 Thess. 4:15-17; 5:9; 2 Thess. 2:1; Rev. 3:20,21; 4:1-4; Rom. 3:9-20; 2 Pet. 3:1-19; Jer. 17:15-18a).

*Mat 25:41-43, Then shall He also say unto them that are on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was hungry, and ye gave me not to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me not to drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in; naked, and ye clothed me not; sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.*

**Notes:** The sheep and goats in Mat. 25:33 are referred to in this verse as standing "**on the right and left hand**" of the King. The goats are the greatest possible contrast to the sheep. The sheep hear "**come**" (verse 34), the goats hear "**go away from Me**" (verse 41). The sheep are "**My Father's blessed ones**" (verse 34); the goats He calls "**cursed ones**" (verse 41). The sheep inherit the **kingdom**; the goats are referred to eternal **fire**. ***This eternal fire was originally prepared for the devil and his angels*** (Isa. 30:33; Rev. 19:20).

## CHAPTER 11

### Our final destination

The final destination of man's behavior on earth is so far tainted and divided from those who live godly lives that there is no greater contradiction imaginable: **eternal punishment** or **eternal life**. These two destinations will never converge. Eternal fire is eternal punishment for those who have conspired with the enemy against the Lord and His messengers. The righteous, those who have done God's justice, may enter the kingdom of verse 34, which is here called "eternal life" (verse 46).

The Lord Jesus says in **John 3:3,5** that one can enter the kingdom of God only if one is born again, that is, has new life. Receiving God's messengers is equivalent to receiving their message.

**However**, this special time is **NOT** the time we are living in now, for we are still living in the so-called "time of grace" specifically for the Church of Christ, seen as His holy Body (Acts 20:24). But the time as mentioned in Mat 25 is the time **AFTER** the rapture of the true Church as the Body of Christ and His Bride (1 Thess. 4:15; Rev. 3:10-12; 21:2).

**After the rapture of the Church** and at the end of the great tribulation of seven years, the Lord Jesus will return as King, having travelled to "a far country to receive for Himself a kingdom," as it is written in Luke 19:12. But those who belong to the Lord Jesus will return with Him to reign with Christ on the cleansed earth for 1,000 years.

### The persecution of converted Jews in the time of the worldwide great tribulation

It is during the great tribulation that the persecution of the true converted Jewish and sealed believers will begin (**Rev. 7:3-17**). These are those who have accepted the Lord Jesus as their Messiah, King and Saviour. Right through suffering and persecution, these believers will bear witness to their Messiah and King and be messengers of God's grace. But they will face all kinds of difficulties as these believers go against the rules of the world leaders of the day, partly because these leaders will be inspired by the spirit of the Anti-Christ.

**The true and sealed believers** who survived this tribulation period did not accept the mark of the beast, as written in Rev. 7:9; 9:4 and 12:17; 13:7-9. **But those who helped these believers during the time of tribulation and persecution are valued by the Lord in a special way (Mat. 25:31-40).**

### Rev. 20:11-15 The great white throne and the final judgment.

*Then I saw a great white throne and him who sat on it. Before him earth and heaven fled away, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged according to what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in it, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake*

of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

**Note:** It has already been said that Christians who have confessed their sin and judged themselves in time will not be judged with the world (1Cor 11:31-32; 3:13-15). But the judgment on the world is yet to come and it will be terrible and final. *There will be no escape!*

Precisely because the parables are related to the promised Kingdom that the orthodox Jews expected under the Lord Jesus, notwithstanding that they rejected Him as their promised King, we as readers must realize that the rejected King would be raised from the dead after His crucifixion, to go to His Father and receive from His hands the promised Kingdom (Luke 19:12,15).

So, we have to relate all these other parables to each other in order to understand the meaning. Only then do we notice that these parables do not have to do directly with the eternal salvation of soul and spirit of the believing people who are expecting the Bridegroom, **but with entering the promised Kingdom, which in John 3 is associated with regeneration.**

When the Holy Spirit has not been indwelt in our hearts, such a confessor does not belong to the Lord Jesus and is lost, the Scriptures warn! That confessor has not been given by the Father to the Son and is lost forever!

(John 14:16-21; 16:4-16; 17:1,2, 6, 10-12, 22,24, 25,26; Rom. 8:9b; Mat. 7:22,23; 22:1-3,8-14; 25:33; John 3:3-8, 18, 29-36; 5:24; Rev. 20:15; 21:5-8, 21-27; 22:1-5,12-21).

**Scripture mentions three court sessions held by the Lord Jesus:**

**1. The first judgment seat** takes place in *heaven* immediately following the rapture of true believers. When those believers are in heaven, they will first appear before "**the judgment seat of Christ**" sometimes called "**the judgment seat of God**" (2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10). Every believer will be shown there what he has done during his life on earth in the body and whether he did it for the Lord's sake or for his own. He will be rewarded for the good and will lose what was not worked in him or her by the Lord (1 Cor. 3:15).

**2. The second judgment seat** will take place when the Lord Jesus returns to earth with the believers to judge the wicked and establish the kingdom of peace on earth (Mt 25:31). Before that judgment seat, the "**throne of His glory**," will appear the nations who will then live on earth. They will be judged according to the attitude they took toward the messengers of the Lord Jesus during the great tribulation.

**3. The third court session** will take place at the boundary between time and eternity. Only **unbelievers** will appear before the "**great white throne**." They will be judged according to what is written about them in the books. When the time comes for this third session of the court, "earth and heaven" will flee away. ***This then refers to the old earth and heaven.***

With the court session and the judgment associated with it, the entire old state of affairs has ended. ***The old heaven and the old earth flee away to make room for the new heaven and the new earth.*** The people flee, not so much from the throne, but from the face of Him who sits on it. For on the throne sits the Lord Jesus, who as the Son of Man received the entire judgment of the Father (John 5:22,27; see also 2 Tim. 4:1).

***Are you ready to enter that new heaven and earth with the Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ?***

Now that we have come to the end of this book, Revelation 22, we can ask ourselves what impact this book has had on us, just as I must ask myself what impact it has had on me. Have we grown spiritually or advanced only in mere factual ***knowledge*** or has it deeply affected us ***inwardly***? Do we too, like John, long for the coming of the Lord Jesus? Hopefully, we too can cry out with John, ***"Amen, yes, come Lord Jesus, come quickly!"***

## CHAPTER 12

### The judgment for believers who are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

- 1 Cor. 3:10-15, The **works** are judged, so that believers suffer harm or receive a crown (1 Cor. 5:5,12)
- 2 Cor. 1:22, But true believers will never lose the seal of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13; 4:30).
- John 14:15-23, Because the Lord Jesus promised it (Matt. 28:20).
- 1 Cor. 11:29-34 They shall, however, be disciplined on earth lest they perish with the unbelievers
- Rom. 14:10, True believers do have to appear before **the judgment seat** of Christ, to be cleansed before entering heaven, but do not come before the great White Throne (2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 7:9; 20:11)!
- 1 Pet. 4:12-19, The judgment a Christian undergoes is like the discipline of a loving and caring Father.
- Heb. 12:5-14, The Father judges His own children and disciplines them, so that they may be purified and made holy in order to see the Lord Jesus and God the Father.
- 1 Thess. 5:8-11 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we awake or sleep, we should live together with him. Comfort yourselves therefore together, and edify one another, as ye also do.
- 2 Thess. 2:1-3, Be not troubled because of what is going on around you, "Be not troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter, as of us, that the day of the Lord is at hand. Let no one tempt you, for that day will not come unless first the fall comes, and the man of sin is revealed."
- 2 Cor. 5:17-21, Therefore we have hope, because Christ has taken upon Himself the full judgment which we deserved, so that through Jesus Christ we are reconciled to God, who has now given us the ministry of reconciliation.
- 2 Cor. 6:17,18, The call is made to cleanse ourselves, forsake wickedness and separate ourselves from every form of evil, at the behest of the Lord. ***"Touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you and be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty."***
- 2 Tim. 3:12-17, And be prepared, for all who live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. Therefore, remain steadfast in the faith as you have learned it, and be sure that it is the Truth (Mat.25::6,7; Rev.19:7; 2 Cor.11:2).
- Rev. 2:7, And then, at the end, when all these new things shall come, the faithful shall eat of the tree of life, and shall not experience the second death. "And they shall eat the hidden Manna, having power to rule the nations. "Having the name of God upon their foreheads, they shall sit with Christ upon His throne" (Rev. 2:11, 17, 21, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 15, 21).
- Rev. 7:9-17 For the Lamb, who is in the midst of the throne, will pasture them and lead them to springs of life; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.
- Rev. 22:3-5,12 They will see God's Face and reign with Him forever, receiving their reward from God's hands.
- Mat 25:34, Then the King at his right hand will say to them, *"Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."*

## Plague as Divine Discipline for God's People and Judgment for the World

**1. When God's people disobey:** Ex. 5:3; Num. 14:12; Deut. 28:21; 2 Sam. 24:15; Jer. 14:12; 21:6-9; 24:10; 34:17,18; Ez. 5:12; 12:16; Rev. 2:23.

**2. What will happen when restrictions God gives to men are not obeyed?** Pestilence, plagues, disasters, wars, rumours, earthquakes, increasing atrocities, under the admission of a judgmental, holy God, because the warnings of prophets are not noticed or obeyed.

**Judgment will begin within God's house** (1 Pet. 4:17). In the Old Testament, that was the Temple. In the New Testament God's house with wooden and earthen vessels (Ex. 9:3; Jer. 27:8; 28:8; Ez. 28:23; Amos 4:10; Habakuk 3:5; Mat. 24:7; 2 Tim. 2:20; Rev. 6:8; 9:6; Ezekiel 5:1-17; 9:4-6, in conjunction with Job 1:20 and Acts 18:5-18; 28:23-31.

**According to Jeremiah 7:4-15**, the Lord God gives plagues and other disasters as evidence of His judgment and holiness. **Moreover, according to the Bible, baldness is an evidence of mourning** (Job 1:20; Acts 18:18; Ez. 5:1-12; Jer. 7:29-34.

God's judgments are seen in the disasters announced, dead bodies on the streets, wars and pestilence (see Amos 5:10-27; Ez. 5:12; 7:1-15; Rev. 2:18-23; 6:2-11 (note the word "Crown" in verse 2, in Greek it is "Corona"))!

There are other places where pestilence is spoken of as a judgment of God and where He used wise men "who know the times," to give insight into how God's wars developed and were to be announced (1 Chron. 12:32; 23:32; Ez. 3:19; 33:3,4; Dan. 11:13,14; Esther 1:13,14; Ezra 7:14; Rev. 3:20-23; 17:1-6; 18:1-13; 19:11-22).

### Elaboration and assignment

**1 Tim. 1:1-20** Continue the spiritual battle to the end (compare Mat. 24:13; Mark. 13:13; Acts 2:42,46; 6:4).

**The command of God our Saviour.** 1 Tim 1:1. Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, at the command of God our Saviour, and of Christ Jesus our hope, 1Ti 1:2. To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Warning against false teachers.** 1Ti 1:3. As I exhorted you, when I went to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus, that you may charge certain persons, that they teach no other doctrine, 1Ti 1:4. nor devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculation instead of the stewardship of God, which is by faith. 1Ti 1:5. The goal of our mission is love, which comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. 1Ti 1:6. Some, in departing from this, have gone astray into vain discussions, 1Ti 1:7. desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding what they say, or the things, about which they make firm assertions.

**The reason God gave the law of Moses.** 1Ti 1:8. Now we know, that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, 1Ti 1:9. Understanding this, that the law was not instituted for the righteous, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the wicked and sinners, for the unholy and profane,

for those who beat their fathers and mothers, for murderers, 1Ti 1:10. the immoral, those who practice homosexuality, slave traders, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine,

**The Gospel of God's glory in Christ Jesus.** 1Ti 1:11. In accordance with the Gospel of the glory of the blessed God, which has been entrusted to me. Christ Jesus came to save sinners 1Ti 1:12. I thank Him Who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because He has judged me faithfully, in appointing me to His service, 1Ti 1:13.

Though formerly I was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent opponent. But I have received mercy, because I had acted ignorantly, in unbelief, 1Ti 1:14. and the grace of our Lord is overflowing for me with faith and love, which are in Christ Jesus. 1Ti 1:15. The saying is reliable and deserves to be fully accepted, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, *of whom I am the chief.*

**Hope for the greatest sinner.** 1Ti 1:16. But I have received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the chief, Jesus Christ might show His perfect patience as an example to those who would believe in Him for eternal life. 1Ti 1:17. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Fight the good fight with a cleansed conscience.** 1Ti 1:18. This commission I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies which have been spoken of you before, that by this you may fight the good warfare, 1Ti 1:19. With faith and a good conscience. In rejecting this, some have been shipwrecked in their faith, 1Ti 1:20. Among them are Hymeneus and Alexander, whom I delivered up to Satan, that they might learn not to blaspheme.

**2 Tim. 2:1-10.** Share with other believers what we have learned from God and the apostle Paul (see also verse 14-17a).

**A good soldier of Jesus Christ:** 2Ti 2:1. My child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2Ti 2:2. And what ye have heard of me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2Ti 2:3. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 2Ti 2:4. No soldier gets caught up in civilian pursuits, for his goal is to please the one who hired him. ne who hired him. 2Ti 2:5 An athlete is not crowned unless he fights according to the rules.

**The labor of a good farm labourer.** 2Ti 2:6 It is the hardworking farmer who should have the first share of the harvest. 2Ti 2:7 Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you insight into everything. 2Ti 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the descendant of David, as proclaimed in my gospel, 2Ti 2:9 for which I suffer, bound with chains like a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! 2Ti 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation, which is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

**A God-approved worker.** 2Ti 2:14. Remind them of these things and charge them before God not to argue about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. 2Ti 2:15.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one who is approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, and who manage the word of truth with justice. **2Ti 2:16.** But ***avoid irreverent talk, for it will lead men to more wickedness, 2Ti 2:17. and their talk will spread like cancer.***

**2 Tim. 4:1-5.** Always continue to preach God's Word, even in a time when religious people are abandoning the Truth.

**Preach the Word.** 2Ti 4:1. I command you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who shall judge the living and the dead, and at his appearing and his kingdom: 2Ti 4:2. ***Preach the word; be ready in time and out of time; exhort, rebuke, and exhort, with perfect patience and teaching.***

**2Ti 4:3.** For a time is coming when men will not endure sound doctrine, but will gather for themselves teachers at their will, satisfying their passions, 2Ti 4:4. They will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 2Ti 4:5. As for you, always be sober of mind, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry fully.

**2 Cor. 5:20,21.** To plead with all men as ambassadors of the Lord Jesus Christ for reconciliation with God.

**The task of an envoy of Christ.** 2Co 5:20. Therefore we are ambassadors of Christ, God makes his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 2Co 5:21. For our sake He made Him to be sin, Who knew no sin, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**Acts 17:30,31.** To warn that the Lord God will come to judge because sin reigns everywhere.

**The end of the times of ignorance.** Acts 17:30. The times of ignorance God has overseen, but now He commands all men everywhere to repent, Acts 17:31. Because He has appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by a Man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead."

**John 11:24-26.** To testify that the Lord Jesus gives eternal life to those who believe and obey Him.

**Jesus; the resurrection and the Life.** Joh 11:24. Martha said to Him, "I know that He will rise at the last day in the resurrection." Joh 11:25. Jesus said to her, "*I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he dies, yet shall he live,*" Jn 11:26. "*And everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Believest thou this?*" Joh 11:27. She said to him, "*Yes, Lord, I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, who came into the world.*"

**2 Pet. 3:7-13.** Recognize that the times are in God's hand and His judgment is coming!

**The day of the Lord is near, be prepared!** 2Pe 3:7. But by the same word the heavens and the earth, which now exist, are stored up for the fire, preserved until the day of judgment and the destruction of the wicked. 2Pe 3:8. But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 2Pe 3:9.

The Lord is not slow in fulfilling his promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

**The day of the Lord is at hand.** 2Pe 3:10. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned and dissolved, and the earth and the works done thereon will be exposed.

**2Pe 3:11.** Since all these things will thus be dissolved, what kind of people should you be in a life of holiness and godliness,

**2Pe 3:12.** Waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, by which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

**2Pe 3:13.** *But according to His promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.*

## CHAPTER 13

### The revealing of the New Heaven and New Earth.

**Rev. 21:1-7.** What God has promised to overcomers who believe the Lord Jesus and have accepted Him as their Saviour. **Rev. 21:1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

**Rev. 21:2.** And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **Rev. 21:3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, *"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."*

**Our tears and sorrows are taken away for eternity.** Rev. 21:4 *"He will wipe away all tears from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither sorrow, nor crying, nor grief shall there be any more, for the former things have passed away."* Rev. 21:5 And He Who sat on the throne said, **"Behold, I make all things new."** He also said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

**Rev. 21:6** And He said to me, *"It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning, and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the well of the water of life, without payment."* Rev. 21:7. *"The one who overcomes will have this inheritance, and I will be his God and he will be My son."*

### Satan's fall and work as a prosecutor in the Old Testament and the New Testament

- Isa 14:12                    How didst thou fall from heaven, O morning star, thou son of the dawn, who tormented the Gentiles!
- Ez. 28:13,17                He was present in Eden, God's garden; I have cast you into the earth,
- Luke 10:18                 And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning."
- John 12:31; 14:30        Now is the judgment this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.
- Rev. 12:2, 4, 9-17        And behold, a great red dragon and a third of the stars were cast upon the earth.
- 2 Thess. 2:7-9But        there is One who will restrain him until he is taken out of the midst.
- Rev. 19:11                 Then heaven opened, and I saw One on a horse, called Faithful and True.
- 1 John 2:18; 4:3           Children, it is the last hour; the Anti-Christ is coming soon, and many have already become Anti-Christ.
- Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7        Satan in the OT could get together with other angels to see who he could tempt (1 Pet. 5:8)
- 1 Kings 22:21-23        He does this by working as a spirit of lies in the minds of men (2 Cor. 11:3,14,15)
- 1 Chron. 21:1             Even Godly believers like King David he can deceive into doing things against God's will.
- Zech. 3:1,2                Satan seeks to denounce believers who are destined to do priestly work.
- 2 Chron. 18:30-31        He tempts believers with attractive offers to eventually take them captive.
- Rom. 2:1; Gal. 5:15      Satan also works in believers, setting them against each other, criticizing and judging them. (Mark 8:33; Gal. 3:1).

- 1 Cor. 4:3-6 To judge the work of believers negatively is prideful and carnal (2 Cor. 10:10)
- Rom. 14:4,10,13 Leave judgment to God, for we too must come before His judgment seat (John 8:10,11)
- James 4:11,12 When believers judge each other and their activities negatively, they are sitting on the chair of Moses.

### **Having confidence in the future \***

Despite confidence in the future, many people still become fearful when it comes to the Day of the Lord. It will be a day bursting with violence and awesome events. The world as we know it will change forever. **Nothing will remain as it will have been. Nothing?** Well, that is not true, God our Father remains our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ His Son is still our Saviour. The Holy Spirit is the One Who does not leave us. We can trust in that. **So, what are we still afraid of? Afraid that our faith is inadequate?**

To give a short and correct answer: that is right. Therefore, He does not charge us for who we are, but is gracious to us. **Not because we ourselves or our faith are tremendously good, but because He is tremendously good. We are saved by His grace.**

But you are afraid of others who may not fall on the side of God's grace? That is a fear many of us have. However, there is something we can do about it. We can continue to love these people, even if it sometimes asks a lot of us. We can enter into the conversation over and over again, mindful of the other person's sensitivities and waiting for appropriate moments.

Of course, we can continue to pray for these people and submit their lives, their souls, their hearts to our Heavenly Father. We do not have to judge; we cannot see into the heart. There is only One who can, and He knows what He is doing. We can trust in that. **Every day.**

**Prayer:** *Lord, our Father in heaven, You know us all, help us to continue to love those who until now do not want to know much or anything about You. Help us to persevere in this. Amen.*

*\* Reprinted and by DeepL translated from the January 28, 2021, Bible Guide "Guide."*

# IN QUARANTAIN

## God's plans continue!

*"Now when these things begin to come to pass, **look up and lift up your heads**, because your redemption is near" (Luke 21:28).*

### **Learning to understand God's Voice in the end times signs**

We are experiencing an exciting time just before the rapture of the Church, a time in which many people worldwide are trying to survive by taking extra nutritional supplements, keeping to the 1.5 meter distance, wearing mouth masks, and undergoing various vaccinations.

Meanwhile, between February 26 and April 12, many Christians are reflecting on the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus. **He died as the Lamb of God for sin** (2 Cor. 5:19-21; 1 John 2:2), sin that entered the world through the disobedience and unbelief of the first human couple (Gen. 2:16-17). **We experience the consequences of that act of unbelief and disobedience daily!**

But how do we respond in this present time full of trials, to that message of the cross of the Lord Jesus? **He Who had already been announced in paradise as the promised Saviour?** (Gen. 3:15, compare John 1:29; Col. 2:15). *Or are we only concerned with how to survive?*

### **The coming of the Kingdom of God**

We hear much talk in these last times about **"the Kingdom of God breaking through on earth,"** in which people *"become an effective channel of God's power"* in which you can *"dispense miracle power on behalf of the King"* (Royal Mission, "Miracles of the Kingdom").

But, if that promised kingdom is already here, what about the deadly Corona virus that holds us captive in our own homes? Does that belong in the promised kingdom of God, in which Christians could learn to *"dispense miracle power on behalf of the King"*? **Time will tell.**

*Grant the Lord Jesus that, in these days of trial, we **cleanse and sanctify** ourselves as born-again Christians (2 Cor. 7:1; 1 John 3:3), continue to trust in Him, **and expect the return of our Saviour every day!***