

The New Horizons Newsletter

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January 2021
extra

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Matthew 28:19-20

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On Staying Home

Here we are again—another nationwide lockdown with all the inevitable negative consequences. The proposed ‘cure’ is the failed measures of the past, with little regard for overall national welfare.

Clearly, covid-19 is a terrible disease and spreading like wildfire. As Christians, however, we understand that we are forever in the loving care of our heavenly Father. We may not be immune to any crisis but we are in His care and we trust Him whatever the personal outcome.

Statistics and images are funnelled to our screens and headlines with the intent of scaring us into compliance with Government ‘directions’. Scant attention, however, is officially paid to context, and it becomes increasingly difficult to unearth the true facts.

Night after night the grim toll is sprayed nationwide to an increasingly restless and fearful populace and fuelling increasing fear. So many thousand new ‘cases’—but rising as more are tested. There’s a mounting death toll—yet there are, in normal pre-covid times, a daily *one thousand* deaths in the over 80’s from a variety of causes. In the UK that’s at least 300,000 elderly deaths since the first lock-down. How many die from ‘flu or pneumonia etc? We are not told.

However much we may abhor it, we expect our elderly relatives to die. No surprise, then, that the vast majority (92%) of covid fatalities are in their mid 80’s or older. (Much of our pain stems from our forced exclusion from them in their last hours.) Meanwhile, millions cower at home often in isolation in cramped flats and with deteriorating physical and mental health— and fearing the next round of draconian restrictions on our freedoms and on the economy.

The Way Out

The world has, mysteriously, reacted in tandem to this probably

man-made infection—as if someone is ‘pulling the strings’. There is, certainly, a UN ‘agenda for change’, but that fails to take account of the master ‘string-puller’, our Creator.

He has over the last few millennia given clear guidance as to how to maintain a perfect planet—guidance sadly ignored. He also spelled out the adverse consequences of failing to follow His instructions, consequences that now engulf all nations, notably modern ‘Israel’. *cf Deut 28:15ff.*

There is an escape route from this modern crisis, a route successfully taken by the exiled nation of Judah in the sixth century BC. It is described in Daniel chapter nine:

‘...to show my sorrow, I [Daniel] went without eating,,I confessed my sins and earnestly prayed to the LORD my God: Our Lord, you are a great and fearsome God, and you faithfully keep your agreement with those who love and obey you. But we have sinned terribly by rebelling against you and rejecting your laws and teachings. We have ignored the message your servants the prophets ‘spoke’ (Daniel 9:3-6).

Let us each pray for God’s deliverance from this scourge—but also that the nations will forsake our sinful ways and turn wholeheartedly to our Creator and Saviour.

What can we do?

- Pray: I Timothy 2:1-2
- Accept statistics with caution
- Don’t succumb to fear
- Build faith through Bible study
- Encourage others, especially brethren; communicate
- Focus on the positive

‘Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus’

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