

The Lord's Covenant With His People

2 Chronicles 7:2-16



These are but a few of the news headlines (“Handwritings On The Wall”) affecting us globally:

No rain, heaven shut up

Drought and high temperatures in Australia has caused bush fires to burn for 8 months. The land area of what was burned and still burning is 1.68 times greater than the land area of Region IV-B (Southern Tagalog provinces plus MIMAROPA, or Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) 2,500 homes were burned, 29 people killed in the fire, 1.25 million animals were killed. The news item said that long-term damage was feared. Rain brought fire under control, but flooding came with the golf ball sized hail in Melbourne.



Add a caption for your picture.

Locusts devour the land

UN warns of food crisis in East and South Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia) because of invasion of hundreds of billions of locusts and they have already arrived in Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar, and now threatening Yemen and Iran FAO says the insects are breeding so fast their numbers could grow fourfold by June this year. UN appealed for \$138 M donations but only \$52 M has been received.



Add a caption for your picture.

Pestilence

COVID-19 becomes pandemic. Italy's coronavirus death toll surges past 2,500. WHO urges governments to do more as virus infects more than 184,000 people and has killed at least 7,500 worldwide.

The European Union on Monday approved a 30-day ban on nonessential travel to at least 26 European countries from the rest of the world, adding to the list of countries and territories across the globe that in recent days have imposed strict travel restrictions to curb the spread of the coronavirus. On March 11 the United States barred the entry of all foreign nationals who had visited China, Iran and a group of European countries during the previous 14 days. The Philippines has shut down all travel into and out of the capital of Manila until April 14. On March 14, the government said it had "implemented enhanced screening and quarantine measures" and that some areas in Manila were under a curfew from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.



Looking around, you cannot avoid coming to realize that many of the news are of biblical proportions. The Bible talks about a 7-year Tribulation Period when the distress during that period has never been nor will it ever be again. But the fear that strikes the hearts of men today would be nothing compared to what it will be during the Tribulation. The Lord Jesus said "All of these are only the beginning pains [of the end]." (Matthew 24:8, GOD'S WORD Translation) The apostle Luke writes "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth" (Luke 21:26). I have previously pictured it as a walk in the park on a peaceful Sunday afternoon.

If a nano-small virus, unseen by the naked eye except by an electron microscope, can do such a havoc in our world, how much more will the cataclysmic events during the Tribulation. But just before the coming of the Son of man, people will be very busy in the world and with the world. Just as in the days of Noah when men did not discern the sign of the times until the flood took them away, so it is with our times, men do not seem to notice the news of biblical proportions. Because "when they say, 'Peace and Security', then sudden destruction shall come upon them as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." (1Thessalonians 5:3. Cf. Galatians 3:14, 29) The church or the body of true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, shall be taken out of this world in a twinkling of an eye to save His church from the Tribulation that will come upon the whole world when the Lord Jesus will deal with the unbelieving world.

When king Solomon dedicated the Temple to the Lord in 2Chronicles 7:12-15, the Lord made this covenant with king Solomon.

"And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.

If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place."

Though this covenant is in the context of the Lord's dealing with Israel, yet the verses can be applied to us, the Gentile nations as well, because the Lord said to Abraham, "in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." (Gen 12:3) Gentiles are also called by the Lord as "my people" (Romans 9:25; 1Peter 2:10) for "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34), whether Jew or Gentile (Ethiopian eunuch, Cornelius, Roman centurion).

This is the covenant of the Lord with His people: When we turn from our wicked ways and seek His face (pleased Him and delighted ourselves in the Lord), He forgives us of our sin. When we humble ourselves before the Lord accepting that without Him we can do nothing and so we pray and call upon His name, then He hears us from heaven and He heals our land.

US News Headline: President Trump declares Sunday, March 15 a National Day of Prayer amid coronavirus outbreak. We need not wait for drought, we need not wait for locusts, we need not wait for pestilence to pray. We need not wait for a national call for prayer for the Philippines during these trying times. The word of God exhorts us (1Timothy 2:1-6):

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Let us, as children of the light, children of the day (1Thessalonians 5:5) take it upon ourselves to pray for national and personal repentance of our sins, let us pray for the Lord's wisdom for our national and local leaders in tackling the corona virus pandemic, let us pray for spiritual and physical healing for the land. If the Lord spared the kingdom of Nineveh when the king and his nobles issued a decree of fasting and prayer that the whole nation turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands (Jonah 3:6-10), the Lord Jesus will also save our nation and that we as a people will see that the Lord is true to the qualifications in His covenant that we are persuaded that we need the salvation of the Lord for the Lord's coming is as a thief in the night.