



Study Guide #7

Coronavirus and the Emerging New World Order

Welcome back, friends, and thanks for your patience after a long pause. VISION 2020 was launched in early-2020 because I sensed the Lord's leading to bring concentrated focus to what was in store for this year from a Biblical perspective, and to encourage us all as Bible students to be discerning of the times. As we launched, little did we know what laid just around the bend!

The coronavirus has swept the world, leaving death and economic destruction in its path, along with promises of new medications, vaccines and technology that will revolutionize the world. According to the media, we are facing "an extreme moment...that typically comes around only once or twice a century." They tell us to forget what we've known in the past, and have the wherewithal to re-order this chaos into a "bright new future." [Politico \(5/3/2021\)](#) put it this way:

They [leaders] can build an order that actually works for our times—one that combats climate change, cyber threats and public health challenges, and that allows for the fruits of globalization and technological progress to be shared more widely. If, that is, they do it right.

Did you catch that? The "fruits of globalization and technological progress" will solve the problem...if they do it right! The question is, who decides what is "right?" Who sets the standard?

The truth is, if anyone other than our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, sets the standard, the result is death. Yet, He offers us life! Instructing the Israelites, God said:

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants,²⁰ by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him. (Deuteronomy 30:19-20a)

Our choice is key! At all times, we are faced with the ultimate, eternal choice: life or death, blessing or curse. We are to choose life by loving God, obeying His voice and holding fast to Him. Neither globalization, technology nor any other manmade or man-glorifying idea gives life.

Be in prayer as you dive into this study series. The enemy is working overtime to deceive us. He is a liar ([John 8:44](#)) who comes to steal, kill and destroy ([John 10:10](#)), and he is after all who wish to uncover truth. But have no fear. As a child of God (a born-again believer in Jesus Christ), you have already overcome, for greater is He who is in you (Jesus), than he who is in the world (devil). ([1 John 4:1-4](#))

So, look up, pray up and dig in!

Part 1: Foundation, Assumptions and Disclaimers

This is by far the most difficult study series I have ever attempted to write! Why? For at least two reasons. First, it's not a "typical" Bible study, as the current COVID-19 crisis is fraught with deception. To reveal that, I am including lots of non-Biblical references. In no way am I elevating COVID news above the importance or truthfulness of God's Word. I share those sources not as Biblical guidelines, but examples of what we see (or sometimes don't see) in our world.

Secondly, an enemy is at work pushing back against all attempts to proclaim the truth of God's Word. That interferes with his agenda! I have to be honest...this was not an easy process. So, my apologies for the delay in getting this VISISON 2020 study guide out to you!

The nature of this study leaves lots of room for misunderstanding of things we will touch on, so foundational definitions, assumptions and authority are important. Thus, Part 1 is dedicated to laying a foundation of understanding.

Of first importance is addressing false teachers. There are many who claim to speak truth, but are purveyors of false doctrine and false teaching. ***The internet is littered with them and they make a mockery of God's Word.*** Friends, it is VITAL that we discern Biblical truth from the lies of the enemy, who sends out wolves in sheep's clothing to deceive us. If we are not in God's word, we are all vulnerable and WILL be deceived. Likewise, if we are in God's Word, but enjoying the "feel good" messages of those who distort or fail to teach God's Word accurately, or if we are following a "new apostle," we are, no doubt, being deceived. If what is taught does not align with God's Word in appropriate context, it is false.

My commitment to you is to be as Biblically sound as possible, yet I encourage you to test what is written here according to the same standard you test any Bible teacher. The test is found in [2 Timothy 2:15](#). Write that verse here:

With that in mind, we are about to touch on the book of Revelation, so let's use the opportunity to clarify something. The name of the book of **Revelation** does not end with an 's.' It is singular in the original manuscript, as well as in English. It is not plural. God did not give multiple revelations to John or to others.

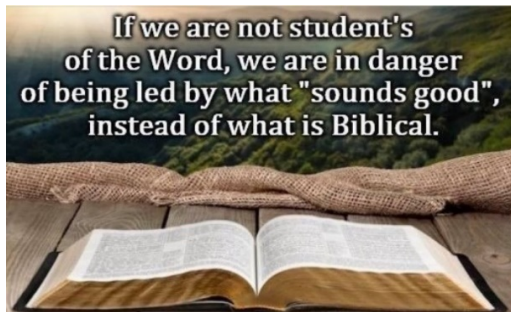
Read [Hebrews 1:1-3](#). Who did God speak to and through long ago?

Who did God speak to "in these last days?"

Now, read [John 1:1-2, 14](#). Verses 1-2 inextricably link God and the Word. They are one, and have been from the beginning. But verse 14 becomes critically important, as it teaches us that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Who is the Word?

Yes, Jesus, through whom God speaks “in these last days” (according to [Hebrews 1:1-3](#)) is the same Jesus who is the Word of God incarnate! God the Father spoke through Jesus the Son when He walked this earth. But when Jesus ascended to heaven, God the Father, who had already closed the mouths of Old Testament prophets, gave revelation only to those who had seen and been with Jesus, in order to record events, write letters to churches, and make known end time events.

Then, God closed out the book and ended all prophecy. Take a look at [Revelation 22:18-19](#). What does God say He will do to anyone who adds to or takes away from the book of prophecy?



Thus, if something does not align 100% (and in proper context) with God’s Word, it is false teaching! There are no “new revelations,” no “new prophets,” and no “new words from the Lord.” Children of God, beware of the voices you listen to! Don’t entertain false teachers. As sheep, we are to know our Great Shepherd’s voice and follow it. Now is a great time to stop and read the entire chapter of [John 10](#)! Do you know the Good Shepherd (Jesus), and are you listening to His voice? He will never lead you astray!

Now, regarding the book of Revelation, let’s accurately define terms that will be important throughout this study. In it, we find the idea of “Mystery Babylon,” taken from a phrase in [Revelation 17:5](#). That serves as an anchor point for what, in Christian circles, is called *New World Order* (or *One World Order*). Without a doubt, it refers to Tribulation events which will unfurl according to the book of Revelation. The New World Order (NWO) is “Mystery Babylon.” Here is what you need to know:

Mystery Babylon is described as a false governmental system and a false religious system. The New World Order (NWO) will consist of One World Government (one person, the Antichrist, who rules the world), One World Religion (led by the False Prophet), and One World Currency (a cashless society, dependent upon taking the mark of the beast). Most borders will likely disappear, and the world will function as one. The Bible tells us it is coming, and very clear signs all around us indicate the pieces are falling into place. Again, this idea of New World Order, correlates to what the Bible describes as Mystery Babylon, specifically in Revelation 13, 17, and 18.

Shifting gears, it is important to make a series of disclaimers to avoid as much misunderstanding as possible. It was important for me to “do my homework” before writing this study, and I have done my best to identify sound, respectable sources. However, other than Scripture references, they are not the inspired Word of God, so there is human element, and potential for deception. Every video and article has an agenda, so whether you agree or disagree with a statement or a position, be wary of “buying in” 100%. I do not endorse all that is said or written (or the speakers/writers) in source documents shared

here. When sources are cited, the goal is to provide reference to a position or idea. That information must then be put into context of what Scripture tells us to expect in these last days. That is the goal!

In and of itself, COVID-19 is not “the” apocalyptic sign, though, according to [Matthew 24:7](#) Jesus names “pestilence” among the things which will be seen in the last days. I see it as a birth pang...a warning...and an instrument the enemy is using to move us closer to the Tribulation.

Without doubt, the world has experienced extreme things before, and Jesus did not return. The message here is not that Jesus is returning because of the coronavirus. Rather to say “instruments” have been used throughout history to advance evil schemes, and we are to discern the time and season in which we live. ([Matthew 16:1-4](#), [Luke 12:54-56](#)) We are commanded to always be ready for His coming ([Matthew 25:1-13](#), for example), because no one knows the day or the hour ([Matthew 24:36](#), [Mark 13:32](#)). We are living in the time and season, but do not know the day or the hour. Jesus could return today...or the season could tarry hundreds of years, dependent upon the will of His Father.

I am neither a doctor nor a scientist!

I am a follower of Jesus Christ who happens to have questions about things I am hearing from medical and scientific “experts.” I am a believer with questions. The goal is not to “prove a doctor or scientist wrong,” but rather to say, “In some cases, I see credible evidence that contradicts what I hear from the experts. What is the truth, and how do we interpret it through the lens of Scripture?” Examining data and asking legitimate questions are appropriate. However, this study is not medical or scientific evidence of anything, simply a forum to ask questions and consider answers in light of Scripture and God-given reason. I have lots of questions, and I bet you do too! So, let’s ask them!

I am a Risk Manager, familiar with analyzing data and statistics; and my academic background includes study of physiology and kinesiology.

Any “expertise” I might lend to this study comes from almost 20 years in the field of risk management (analyzing data and validating statistics), and my academic background which includes significant understanding of body systems. That doesn’t make me an expert, it simply causes me to ask questions about things that don’t make sense to me or appear to be misapplied, according to my understanding.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19, C-19) is real.

The virus is highly contagious and has taken the lives of far too many. It was legitimately labeled a pandemic and I know some who are fighting the monster of COVID-19. In older people and/or those with underlying conditions, it is a terribly cruel disease. In no way do I trivialize those facts.

The life of every person, born or unborn, young or old, healthy or unhealthy, of every skin color is valuable.

I firmly believe and am committed to every verse of God’s Word, including [Psalm 139](#). Please read that chapter slowly, soaking in what God says about His knowledge and care for you personally. Then, from verses 13-16, summarize what God Himself says about your life:

Life is precious to God, and all are valued. However, read [Genesis 3:19](#), [Psalm 39:4-6](#), [Psalm 139:16](#), and [Ecclesiastes 3:1-2](#). From these verses, summarize what God says about life and death:

Yes, life is precious and valued. Yet, earthly bodies are not meant for eternity, and the death rate for all of humanity is 100%! Except for believers in Jesus Christ who are alive at the rapture, we will all face death. Don't get me wrong, it is not trivial. Especially when death seems unfair, unwarranted and unexpected, it is important to understand death from an eternal perspective. Read [Psalm 73:25-28](#) and [Psalm 116:15-19](#) and summarize God's heart toward those who enter His presence.

One who dies as a believer in Christ leaves a void on earth but brings rejoicing to our Lord. For that believer, death is simply the gateway that ushers us into His presence! That is a glorious moment, regardless of the difficulties life on earth threw at us! Life on earth is valuable...life in the presence of Jesus is priceless and eternal!

With assumptions and disclaimers out of the way, I pray the foundation for our study together is clear and solid. As we move through the study together, the objective is NOT that you agree with everything presented, but that you are exhorted to examine our world in light of Scripture. After all, our study is subtitled "Discerning the Time and Sharing the Hope." I pray we do both!

Take a few moments to invite the Holy Spirit to shine His light of discernment as we study together. Make this your prayer:

Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know. ([Jeremiah 33:3](#))

How do I become a Christian?

People are in fear today, and if you do not know Jesus Christ personally, you have reason to live in fear. God didn't "send the coronavirus." The virus, like every other disease, ailment and evil in the world, is a result of sin. Unfortunately, we all sin; but fortunately, we can be justified as a gift of grace through the redemptive power of Jesus Christ. ([Romans 3:23-24](#)) What does that mean? God loved you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to take your sin upon Himself, in order to free you from guilt and shame. ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#))

What lies beyond death is eternal, and it is all about location, location, location. Every person will spend eternity somewhere, either at home with our Lord, or burning in darkness in a real place called hell, meant only for Satan and his demons. God sends no one there. People choose to go there when they reject the free gift of God, the sacrifice of His Son for sin.

You can have forgiveness, freedom from guilt and an eternal home with Jesus if you are willing to accept His free gift. ([Romans 6:23](#)) A simple way to illustrate how to do that is by following the ABC's: A = Admit to yourself you are a sinner in need of a Savior, B = Believe in your heart that Jesus died and rose again to pay the price for every wrong thing you have ever done (or will do), and C = Confess to Jesus that you are a sinner, and invite Him to come live within you. ([Romans 10:9-10](#)) You do that by talking to God. That is prayer.

You can do that right now! God is listening, so just say something like this:

Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I have said and done wrong things, and I need a Savior. I believe Jesus died on the cross to forgive me and to take away my guilt and shame, and I want to be forgiven. Thank You, God, for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die for my sins, and I accept Your forgiveness right now. I want to turn from sin and walk with Jesus, and I want to spend eternity with Him. Thank You, Jesus, for coming into my life. Now help me to be the man/woman You want me to be. In Jesus' Name, Amen

If you prayed that prayer and meant it, WELCOME to the family of God! Your next step is to tell a Christian friend or a pastor. Next, get plugged into a solid, Bible-teaching church that will help you grow and stand strong in the perilous days ahead. If you need help doing that, please email me at Looking4theBlessedHope@gmail.com and I will connect you to a local church.

You are saved from eternal damnation and you no longer need to be afraid, so enjoy the study with us...your new family!

Part 2: Nature of the Crisis

No doubt, we are facing a crisis. But is it a medical crisis, a physical crisis, a political crisis or a spiritual crisis? The answer is probably a little bit of all of the above, though it seems the spiritual aspect of it is certainly at stake.

Long before the coronavirus struck, evil began its work in our world. In fact, it began in [Genesis 3](#) when the serpent (Satan) inserted himself as God's spokesman! "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" The immediate answer should have been "No, God did not say that!" Read [Genesis 2:16-17](#). What did God actually tell Adam and Eve not to eat?

Lest we forget, Lucifer ("star of the morning") was a heavenly angel, perhaps even the choir director! But it was his quest to be like God that got him cast from heaven ([Isaiah 14:12-14](#)). [We know him as Satan](#), and having failed in his own quest to be like God, he commenced hammering on mankind to doubt God ("...has God said...?"), then to become god of their own lives and of the world around them. After a few thousand years of practice, we see mankind has come a long way in attempting to be god!

Honestly, all of us are guilty to some degree. That is what sin is all about. Eve fell for it, Adam fell for it, and so did you and I!

But evil, as we discuss here reaches into a realm many of us don't know or comprehend. It is a spiritual battle that is taking place primarily in the heavenlies, but spills over on to earth. [Ephesians 2:1-3](#) tells of our sinful, evil selves before the grace of God removed the stain of guilt and shame from us. But what description is given of Satan in verse 2?

The prince of the power of the air! Have you noticed what comes across our airwaves? Evil spews forth from our movie screens, our televisions, the internet and radio. Is there any doubt Satan's hand is in

that? Humans are accessible to Satan and his minions who are alive and well, wreaking havoc on our world. Yes, that “prince” is working overtime in our world today spreading evil everywhere he can.

Two significant wellsprings of evil are humanism and globalism. In brief, here is how those terms are defined for the purposes of this study:

Humanism: a belief system assigning prime importance to human effort, intellect and ability over supernatural or divine effort, intellect and ability. It discounts or dismisses altogether the possibility that God Himself is active and sovereign in our world. For example, humanists typically advocate for evolutionary theory, as opposed to supernatural creation of the world. In contrast, Bible-believing Christians believe God supernaturally created the heavens and the earth in six literal days, about 6,000 years ago, just as the Bible teaches. Regarding the coronavirus, humanists believe human intelligence will come up with solutions apart from the providence of God.

Globalism: the idea that government, economics and foreign policy should encompass the world as a whole, rather than be left to the authority of individual nations. Globalists advocate for things such as elimination of borders, consolidation of government under one ruler and development of a single worldwide currency. At the highest levels, they wish to control the world, and are willing to go to extreme lengths to do so.

Dismissing the sovereignty of God is dangerous business. Take a look at the following passages and note what each teaches about the sovereignty of God:

[Isaiah 46:9-10](#)

[Colossians 1:16-17](#)

[Isaiah 45:5-9](#)

[Lamentations 3:37-39](#)

[1 Chronicles 29:11-12](#)

What is the basis of considering this a spiritual crisis (though certainly with medical, physical and political undertones)? Because humanism is quickly becoming more authoritative than God and His Word. To deny the sovereignty of God is to diminish the value of life and create irrational fear of death.

Fear and panic seem to have seized our nation as we suspend life in attempts to prevent death. Humanists would have us believe we have control over life if we can just figure out the magic formula. As Christians, we know death is an entry way into the presence of the Lord and, while difficult in our human state, we know we will live with our Redeemer for eternity. For the humanist, life on this planet is all there is. As death becomes the ultimate enemy, it is incredibly important to get a grip...even if we must sacrifice abundant life!

As we saw in passages above, life on earth is not meant forever. Death will usher us into the presence of the Lord, and it is up to us to choose who we trust in the days that lie between earthly birth and death. Interestingly, I have heard it said, "We have allowed fear of death to halt the joy of living. Humanism causes us to suspend life over the fear of death." (Unknown source)

Let's embrace the joy of living! Do as the psalmists did...sing praise to the Lord! Here are some psalms to help guide you:

- [Psalm 16](#)
- [Psalm 27](#)
- [Psalm 92](#)
- [Psalm 96](#)
- [Psalm 121](#)

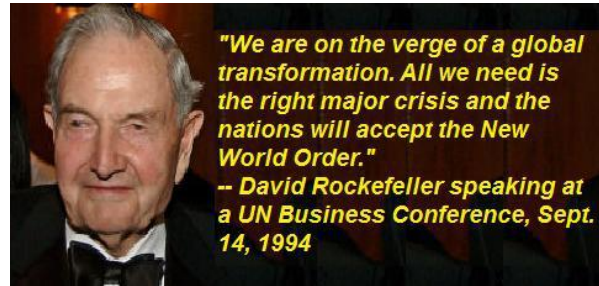
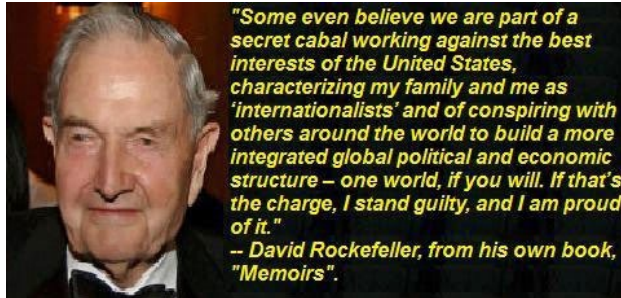
As you close out Part 2, choose one of those passages and repeat it back to the Lord as a prayer of thanksgiving and trust in Him, asking Him to give you joy in living!

Part 3: Dark Forces at Work

Though God's sovereignty will not be thwarted, there are powerful people in the world today with lofty ambitions of testing God's supreme sovereignty. Namely, they are humanists who believe human power is enough to rule the world, and globalists who are working feverishly to establish a New World Order (aka One World Order). This is a group of extremely wealthy bankers, industrialists, media moguls, tech giants and celebrities who are driving hard to form One World Government, One World Religion (humanistic) and One World Economy.

For many years, this was a secret society, but they are now boldly out in the open. This society is huge, wealthy and powerful, and includes the Rockefeller family, the Rothchild family, Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, the Clinton's, Lady Gaga, Beonce, France's President Emmanuel Macron, Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel, Henry Kissinger and many other names you would recognize. They are CEO's of the world's largest corporations, high-ranking military officers, congressional and parliamentary members from around the globe and university presidents and chancellors. Inside the US government, they are known as the Deep State, and they are many. Annually, many of these globalists meet together for the Bilderberg Conference to further their agenda of bringing about a New World Order. ([Source](#))

Much has been taught and written about this once-secret society, called the Illuminati. There are hundreds of pieces of evidence, not only of their existence (you can google "Bilderberg members" and find many of them), but of their motive. There are dozens, but here are only two quotes from David Rockefeller that clearly identify the ambition of globalists:



Is the COVID-19 pandemic the “right major crisis” to lead us a step closer to the New World Order? Today, globalists are wide out in the open, offering “solutions.” The media is widely touting Bill Gates “generous contributions” to research and development of vaccines that will cure COVID-19, and medical experts are becoming celebrities. But I have a question: What is the true motivation?

The ugly underbelly of the globalists’ agenda is described clearly in [The Illuminati and One World Government](#) by Amir Tsarfati. Carve out some time and watch this teaching. It is foundational to understanding what is going on behind the scenes in our world today, and I will refer to part of that teaching in other parts of this study.

Let’s close Part 3 with this:

*⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises;
Sing praises to our King, sing praises.
⁷ For God is the King of all the earth;
Sing praises with a skillful psalm.
⁸ God reigns over the nations,
God sits on His holy throne.
([Psalm 47:6-8](#))*

Our world may look bleak at times, but rest assured, my friends! *God has not left His throne!*

Part 4: COVID-19 as Evidence of the Globalist Agenda

Welcome to Part 4 where we look at the current madness of the C-19 pandemic in light of what was presented in [The Illuminati and One World Government](#) teaching, referenced just above, in Part 3. (Please view it if you have not done so already.)

Before we take a look at what’s going on both behind the scenes and wide open in the media, let’s build a Scriptural foundation from which to work.

God is a God of life, and as we have already studied, He instructs us to choose life and blessings rather than death and curses ([Deuteronomy 30:19](#)). When things align with Scripture, we rejoice because God’s Word is faithful and true. When things do not align with Scripture, we should denounce them as unbiblical. The agenda behind One World Order is one of death, not life. Thus, when we entertain the philosophies of even the “medical experts” whose agenda is globalist in nature, we are at risk of being led down a pathway of death physically, and death to our God-given and constitutional rights.

That is not to say that every medical expert has a globalist agenda or is leading us on a pathway of death. There are good, life-seeking physicians out there who must not be lumped together with those who hold to the New World Order. Not every physician, scientist, politician, government leader, etc is evil. But some are, and we must discern.

Ultimately, though, our trust is in God, not in medical experts, politicians, political systems, military might or earthly leaders. Yes, of course we exercise our civil responsibly and duty to vote our values, but our trust remains in the Lord.

Please read [Isaiah 31:1](#) and record what we must NOT trust in, and what we SHOULD trust in:

Did you know, in the Bible, Egypt represents a place of oppression and slavery? For believers, it also represents our old life of slavery to sin. We should not return there! Nor should we trust in chariots or horses...things of power and strength! When we begin to consider good things evil and evil things good, we have begun our return to Egypt! Stop, turn around, and put your faith back in the Lord our God!

Write out [Psalm 20:7](#) (in NIV, if possible) here:

It seems the global society (nations collectively and citizens individually) has put trust in institutions, leaders and medical authorities who have led us astray. We are overdue in searching for truth when it comes to how we are being played upon by the “medical elite” whose agendas appear to be ungodly at best, downright evil at worst. Moreover, the medical and financial elite seem to have formed a cabal, dead set on pressing forward the agenda of globalism. Here is a list of some (certainly not all) of those organizations:

- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Economic Forum (WEF)
- Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- GAVI: The Vaccine Alliance
- The World Bank
- Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB)
- Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)
- The Global Fund
- National Association of Medicine (NAM)
- Partners in Health

To be fair, I suspect the motives, goals and objectives of some of these organizations probably had noble roots. After all, a desire to build a better, healthier future for people all over the world is an honorable mission. However, over time, globalist ideas crept in, and those with globalist agendas came to hold positions of power and influence. On the other hand, some of the organizations mentioned above started out with expressed purpose of furthering the globalist agenda.

These organizations are closely interconnected, and names associated with them circulate through multiple entities. In essence, it is the same power brokers pushing the same agenda that drives all these organizations. Rather than attempt to convey the connections in writing, there is a video that fairly concisely demonstrates those connections: **The Global Health Mafia Protection Racket** ([YouTube](#), if it

hasn't been taken down, or [Google drive](#)) (**Note:** I am not a fan of the "boom" style, nor do I endorse everything that is said. However, pay close attention to the interconnectedness of entities, the repetition of names of those involved [I have fact-checked], and the actual statements made from the people involved.) The next few paragraphs will make no sense without seeing the video.

In the video, you were introduced to three important elements:

- Dr Fauci's 2017 warning of a "surprise pandemic" (~23:30 mark in the video)
- Detailed reports produced in September 2019 by the GPMB, written by the WHO, the Red Cross, John Hopkins Center for Health Security and others (~12:35, or [find the actual report here](#))
- Event 201, held in October 2019

I have questions...how about you? Here are some questions that should be asked:

- How can an event (the corona outbreak) be a "surprise" if the medical experts knew about it?
- These are really smart people and lots of research went into those reports of September 2019. If they knew of the virus, why wasn't warning given? If they did not know of the virus, is it just coincidence that everything fit together like hand-in-glove?
- Event 201 is especially concerning. Was it simply "coincidence" that it took place just as the "surprise virus" was being unleashed, or was this event the command center of operations to make sure things went off without a hitch? After all, this was called a "simulation exercise." (Bill Gates seemed to deny the exercise later. ~19:10 in the video.)
- The term "new normal" reared its head at Event 201 (perhaps even before that). If they knew nothing of an impending virus, what is the basis of predicting a "new normal?"
- "Flooding the media" is verbatim phraseology and a huge focus during Event 201. (Beginning ~20:00 in the video.) Is it any wonder our media is filled with constant reports that perpetuate fear? Virtually every news report warns us that things are really bad, but getting even worse. It has been said (not in this video) that people who live in fear are much easier to control. Is that part of their agenda?
- This group of entities is pushing hard for a vaccine, and two things are at stake: who gets what share of \$8B (tax dollars pledged by various countries), and are they going to give that money back once they sell a vaccine to every person on the planet for an incalculable profit? (BTW, to President Trump's credit, the US did not participate in that global fund-raising effort. Imagine how ticked off American companies are who are pushing for it! Who do you think their campaign contributions will go to this election year!?!)
- What exactly is the ambition of the McGill School of Population and Global Health? (~34:15) Decreasing world population is one of the "ten commandments" of globalism. Could it be that "global health," in conjunction with "population" suggests population control by these global health measures? Are they "health" measures, or are they death measures?
- One of the GPMB progress indicators identified in the September 2019 reports is: "The United Nations (including WHO) conducts at least two systemwide training and simulation exercises, including one covering the **deliberate release of a lethal respiratory pathogen.**" (~36:40, verified on page 39 of the GPMB "[A World at Risk](#)" report of September 2019.)

Far fetched? It doesn't seem to be. Just as the COVID outbreak was happening, Bill Gates stepped down from the boards of Microsoft and Berkshire Hathaway (also big-name globalist companies) to focus on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation work. Their focus: to establish a national tracking system under the guise of controlling the coronavirus! ([Source](#)) Is it just coincidental a virus breaks out just in time for Gates to wheel and deal his vaccine and tracking ambitions?

Suffice it to say, the rich and famous, including pharmaceutical executives and people like Bill Gates are promoting globalist ideology when it comes to world health. It is also no secret that globalists (aka: Illuminati) want to reduce the world's population. If the Georgia Guidestones are any indication, they want to reduce the current 7.8 billion to 500 million! (Source: [45:45 mark of this video](#)) How do you do that? You start wars and pandemics, you abort babies and "mercy kill" older people, you initiate the Holocaust and other genocides...and you finance them all! Are we seeing it?

For more on the subject, Rev Danny Jones posted a very informative video regarding the [advancement of the New World Order](#). If you are able to carve out 25 minutes, I recommend it. However, I disagree with the inference that the biometric tattoo being touted as a tracking device by the Gates Foundation is the mark of the beast. Taking the mark of the beast won't happen until the Tribulation. I'll be out of here (rapture) before then...how about you!?!

We don't know the answers to all the questions. Nor do we know who in positions of authority are asking the questions and conducting the investigation. I believe attempts are being made. However, the powers behind the evil make it difficult, if not impossible, to get to the answers, and those who do glimpse behind the veil face potential threats on their lives. God put before us life and death, blessings and curses. More and more, we seem to be living in a culture of fear and a culture of death. Not only will we see pointless physical deaths, but also the death of our human rights as individuals and citizens of our country.

Yet, God gives us life! Finish off Part 4 with these encouraging passages by jotting down the promise God makes in each:

[John 6:33-35](#)

[Romans 8:11](#)

[1 John 5:11-13](#)

Aren't you glad you don't have to dwell in that culture of fear and death! Eternal life in Jesus rescues us from every evil this world dishes out! Praise God!

Part 5: Shades of What is to Come!

We have touched on the globalist agenda and their quest to rule through One World Order, One World Government and seemingly One World Medical Order! Is the current pandemic being manipulated to fit that agenda? Though not yet proven, evidence from some of the now-missing scientists in China

suggest the virus started in the Wuhan lab. Whether it managed to get out of the lab accidentally or intentionally, and whether or not the virus was manipulated are under investigation. If found to be intentional and/or manipulated, we are certainly looking at purposeful death.

However, even if China is proven to be clean in the investigations, there is on one hand, talk of “saving the world” with vaccines. On the other hand, this same cadre of globalists push for abortion on demand. Throughout the pandemic, Governor Cuomo of New York has lamented the value of lives being lost to the coronavirus. Kudos to him for valuing life, but what about the fact he has been a staunch supporter of abortion, which takes the lives of 600,000 babies per year in America alone? He is but one example in the extensive group of vaccine proponents who, ironically, see nothing wrong with killing the innocent.

One cannot stand on the side of life in one instance, and on the side of murder in another and still maintain credibility. However, the globalist agenda is often flawed because it is humanistic. When man plays god by determining what is good and what is evil, it just does not go well! The Spirit of God is cast aside in favor of humanism.

Turn in your Bible to [1 John 4:1-3](#).

According to verse 2, how do you know the Spirit of God?

But there is another spirit at work. What spirit is that, and when does he work in the world?

When “anti-” is used as a prefix, what does it mean? ([Merriam-Webster Dictionary](#))

In what ways do you see the spirit of the antichrist working in our world today?

Many antichrists have been at work in our world throughout history, attempting to derail and defeat God’s glorious plan of redemption. Yet none have prevailed, and none will! However, one antichrist greater than all the others will one day arise and will be THE Antichrist.

Much time and effort is spent, even by believers, in trying to identify the Antichrist, yet the Bible teaches that he will not be revealed until the restrainer is taken out of the way. Let’s unpack that truth. Paul wrote letters to the Thessalonians who were confused about the coming of the Lord. False teachers suggested the Lord’s Second Coming had already taken place, so Paul set the record straight. Please read [2 Thessalonians 2:1-12](#). According to verse 3, what things must happen first?

Who do you think the man of lawlessness is, and what are his attributes, according to verse 4?

Indeed, this is a man setting himself in opposition to God, with ambition to sit upon the seat of Jesus Christ Himself! Opposing Christ...this is the Antichrist!

Verse 6 indicates he is being restrained until he is revealed. Restrained...then revealed. So, what restrains and when will he be revealed? First, let's consider what it takes to restrain the Antichrist. It must be something all powerful, as neither humans nor earthly institutions have the power to take on the Antichrist. The restrainer is none other than the Holy Spirit.

Hold your place in 2 Thessalonians 2, but go to [1 Corinthians 6:19](#) and [2 Timothy 1:14](#). According to those passages, where does the Holy Spirit live?

Now, back to [2 Thessalonians 2:7](#), where Paul says, "...only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way." Knowing the Restrainer lives within us as believers, how do you supposed He will be taken out of the way?

If you think it is via the Rapture, I agree with you! The Holy Spirit's restraining power departs when we are taken up to meet Jesus in the air! Remember, though, that is the Rapture, not Jesus' Second Coming. Jesus doesn't step foot on the earth again until after the Tribulation, when Jesus will slay the Antichrist with the breath of His mouth, according to verse 8!

How do verses 9-10 describe the lawless one (Antichrist)?

According to verses 11-12, what happens to those who do not believe the truth, but who take pleasure in wickedness?

So, we see a glimpse of the spirit of the antichrist taking pleasure (and getting rich) in wickedness, even amidst the C-19 pandemic. The stage is being set for the villain, the Antichrist, to make his appearance and rule over the New World Order!

However, what we are seeing are only shades of what is to come once the Restrainer is taken away. The Tribulation will commence, the Antichrist will rule, and evil will result not only in horrible consequences, but also tremendous death far beyond what we are seeing now. We're going to peak into [Revelation 6](#) and [Revelation 9](#), so pull out your Bible and bookmark those chapters!

There are series of judgments during the Tribulation, each significantly more devastating than anything we have ever experienced on planet earth. [Revelation 6](#) provides details of seven seal judgments, the first four of which are depicted as horsemen. The first horseman (verses 1-2) is a little confusing because he is riding a white horse, just as Revelation 19 says Jesus will do. However, these are two separate events, and Revelation 6 is early on in the Tribulation. Jesus doesn't make His return to earth until the end of the Tribulation, so don't get hung up here, thinking the identity of this first rider is Jesus.

The Antichrist, on the other hand, is in opposition to Christ, but mimics Him. Almost all respected evangelical Bible scholars believe this first rider on the white horse is the Antichrist making his grand entrance. With a bow and a crown, he is coming to conquer and to rule.

The other three horsemen are much easier to identify, and you get help with subtitles in most Bibles! So, for each of these passages, describe the horse the rider is riding, and each represents:

Verses 3-4

Verses 5-6

Verses 7-8

It is that fourth horse, the ashen one, upon which we hone our focus. According to verse 8, how much of the earth is wiped out by famine and pestilence?

Earth's current population is 8 billion. Because these are Tribulation events and the Rapture happens prior to that, let's assume half the world's population is raptured. (That is incredibly high wishful thinking, but we'll use that percentage for the purpose of illustration.) Half of 8 billion is 4 billion, who remain on the earth during the Tribulation. Of those, "over a fourth of the earth" are killed in this famine/pestilence event in verses 7-8. What is the total of those who lose their lives?

How many are left?

COVID-19 is a pestilence, and at this writing, just over 1 million people worldwide have died. We're also seeing the potential of famine with our food supply chain so dramatically impacted. But it holds no candle to **at least 1 billion** or so people who will die as the fourth horseman delivers a blow during the Tribulation.

But that's not all. Jump over to [Revelation 9](#). We are now past the seven seal judgments and are on to the second set of seven judgments, called trumpet judgments. We will key in on the sixth trumpet judgment described in verses 13-19. Read those verses, paying particular attention to verses 15 and 18. What happens to mankind when those four angels are released?

Earth's population takes another hit. Assuming none died after our previous calculation (which is not likely, but let's keep our numbers simple!), 1/3 of the remaining 3 billion perish. Even I can do this math! That means another billion are wiped out! So, in the stroke of a seal judgment and a trumpet

judgment a total of half the people left on the planet during the Tribulation are wiped out. Imagine the devastation!

Now, consider the potential ambitions of the spirit of antichrist that is at work in our midst today. Consider the stated ambition to reduce earth's population. Consider the push to develop "global solutions for global problems." Consider the burning desire to move the world toward One World Order.

Get the picture? This is not sensationalism, we are reading about what God Himself inspired the writer of Revelation to record, and we are seeing manifestations of it. It is not "the real thing" yet. The coronavirus is not the "end all," but is a very mild dress rehearsal for what lies ahead.

But let's end Part 5 on a high note, because we know how the story ends! Go all the way to the last chapter of Revelation. There ([Revelation 22](#)), we find God giving John a revelation of LIFE! Take a deep breath and read verses 1-7 slow and deliberately...and out loud! Consider our Lord Jesus, the mighty Victor who brings healing and peace. Enjoy...

Part 6: The Big Guys Might Run the Show, but Little Guys are Seeing the Flaws!

Two basic tenants of the globalist agenda are: "Never let a good crisis go to waste" and "A global crisis demands a global solution." In years gone by, the secret society met privately, disguised their intentions and silently laid a foundation to advance One World Order. When Event 201 convened in New York City in October 2019 to "game out" the response to a global pandemic (perform a dress rehearsal), there was nothing secret about it. The organizations involved left no doubt of their global mindedness, they were preparing for the pandemic, and their event was out in the open.

Event 201 put forth many troubling ideas and agenda items, but here are three key objectives:

1. Control the narrative – control how the pandemic is covered, what is said and when it is said
2. Centralize the flow of information – all information must flow through one funnel (theirs) to keep the narrative consistent
3. "Flood the media" – make sure there is negative news about the pandemic constantly to drive fear (People are much easier to control when they are afraid.)

It appears their dress rehearsal went off without a hitch. ([Source: Gary Kah at the Great Lakes Bible Conference – April 24, 2020](#))

There are literally dozens of physicians and scientists who have either written articles or posted videos exposing what is truly going on behind the scenes in this COVID-19 pandemic. Some are risking their license to practice medicine, and at least one is risking her very life in throwing back the curtain to reveal the ugly truth.

I've seen more of them than I can count, and I offer this exhortation: It is critically important to remember that every person, for or against the globalist agenda, has an agenda of their own. Please do not believe everything you read or hear on the internet. In fact, believe very little of it. Check facts and do your research before you "buy in" to what is said, and certainly check facts before re-posting.

As stated already, it is important to focus on facts that can be verified (direct quotes from those involved, biographic information found on organization websites, etc). Just because someone says that someone said something does not make it true!

With that as backdrop, we will hear from a few physicians, scientists and funeral home operators, not “big dog enough” to be included in elite-level discussions, but with unique insight. These are frontline people, working with COVID patients and casualties and seeing the actual impact in society.

Why do they see a different picture than the one painted by the elite? Could it be there are conflicting agendas? **I do not believe either side is necessarily 100% correct in every way.** The truth is somewhere in the middle, which again leads inquisitive minds to have very legitimate questions.

Remember the globalist “Flood the Media” objective? We see it and hear it on mainstream media constantly. But here are examples of those speaking out against the narrative currently flooding our media:

[Perspectives on the Pandemic](#) – YouTube (5/4/2020) – Clarification and follow up response to criticism of previous video.

- Dr Dan Erickson and Dr Artin Massihi are physicians in Bakersfield CA who have done lots of COVID-19 testing in their clinics and they were asked by a local TV station to present their data/findings. Using their data, they made the case that perhaps herd immunity is less harmful in the long run than continued lockdown and isolation. Following that video, they were absolutely castigated by “experts,” accusing them of political and financial motives, and YouTube removed the video for disagreeing with WHO’s “official” position. (So much for freedom of speech.) [Perspectives on the Pandemic](#) is the follow up interview.
- Of all the argumentative videos I have seen, this one is the most sensible and civil, and these two doctors make very logical arguments.

[Dr Ngozi Ezike – IL Director of Public Health – Directive Regarding C-19 Deaths](#) – YouTube (4/24/2020)

- This is a high-ranking public health official clearly stating that anyone who dies WITH COVID-19 (not just FROM COVID-19) is counted as a COVID-19 death, dramatically padding the numbers.
- Even if a person is given only days to live (for other reasons) but tests positive for COVID-19, it is counted as a C-19 death. (Others are “assumed” to die from COVID without even being tested.)
- Several states (including my home state of Arizona, week of May 3-9) saw huge jumps in death statistics after officials re-classified cause of death on death certificates to indicate COVID-19.

[NYC Funeral Directors Report Over-Reporting of COVID-19 Deaths](#) – YouTube (4/30/2020)

[Is the Press Driving Policy? – Interview with Dr Jay Bhattacharya](#) – YouTube (3/31/2020)

- A Stanford physician explains why it is not possible to know the true numbers related to COVID-19. Yet the press broadcasts statistics. Where are they coming up with such numbers, and without a known common denominator, how can they possibly be valid and reliable? (Two measures of statistical veracity.)
- Key need is availability of hospital resources. Flatten the curve = prevent hospitals from being over-run. It does not diminish numbers of cases and deaths, but strings them out over time, “...slowing the economy to a crawl, to slow the rate of a thing happening that will have to happen anyway.” In other words, continued stay-at-home orders simply delay the inevitable.
- Return to work is not “money vs lives,” but lives vs lives. Economic collapse will cause huge loss of life.
- These viruses are “part of the cost of globalization.” (~27:00)

[Texas Doctor Speaks Out on COVID Treatment](#) – YouTube (5/12/2020) and [Dr Jeffrey Barke Speaks Out](#) – YouTube (5/8/2020)

- Both are more political in nature, but illustrate the sentiment, even of physicians who are treating COVID-19.
- Key points: rights being taken away, big pharm cover-ups, and the need for herd immunity (while focusing on care of the vulnerable).

Many questions remain unanswered, continue to be debated, and often the goal posts seem to move:

- Is shelter in place any more or less effective than herd immunity? No one is questioning the need to protect and care for the vulnerable, but are suggesting quarantine, masks, etc should be focused on that group, while the least vulnerable return to work to revive the economy.
- Doctors and police departments are reporting spikes in depression, suicide, domestic violence, child abuse, human sex trafficking and “grooming” by online sexual predators. Is the timing simply a coincidence or the ramifications of isolation and economic freefall?
- Research suggests that isolation potentially weakens our immune systems by disallowing our bodies to build up necessary “good germs” to ward off bad ones. ([Source](#), [Source](#)) Has our time in isolation made us more vulnerable to illnesses? Might we see a spike, not only in coronavirus, but in other illnesses as well? Will all those ailments also be counted as C-19-related?
- Researchers indicate strong probability that UV rays reduce the lifespan of virus droplets. ([Source](#), [Source](#)) Likewise, being outdoors in fresh air and sunlight is said to have positive effects on people. Is there a reason not to open parks and beaches and get people outdoors and into the sunlight? (Yes, there is a balance, and people should wear sunscreen when out in the sun.)
- There is virtually no argument that active people are generally healthier than inactive people. Is requiring people to stay at homes for long periods of time conducive to better or worse health?
- If we know the demographics of those most vulnerable (older adults and those with underlying health concerns), why not focus our resources and effort there and allow the healthy population to return to work? Would that not allow us to address both the health and economic arms of this monster?

Those seem to be legitimate questions, and we all seem to have our opinions about the best way to handle the crisis. But I am reminded of One who handles not only crises but is also sovereign over all!

Let’s discover a valuable lesson about God’s sovereignty in the midst of pestilence. King David faced such a crisis and the account is found in [2 Samuel 24](#). We will jump around a bit, but let’s begin in verse 15. According to that verse, what catastrophe befell Israel and how many perished?

Seems this coronavirus is nothing new to our Lord! Nothing takes Him by surprise, and even Israel in King David’s day had to deal with some tough stuff! We will come back to this portion, but I want you to get the context of what’s happening here, so let’s examine this chapter from the beginning. Describe the conflict, according to [2 Samuel 24:1](#).

An obvious question that arises is, “Why is the Lord angry with Israel?” That is a fair question, but not one easily answered, and not one that is key to where we’re going for now. Several possible explanations are found [here](#), but the take away for this study is that the Lord’s anger was aroused. In verses 2-9, we find David issuing a command to his military leaders to take a census in Israel, which they did.

Now, we are set for verses 10-14. What changed in verse 10, and how did David respond?

In verse 13, the prophet Gad delivers three options to David:

- Seven years of famine (in which Israel would likely have to rely upon neighboring nations),
- Three months of pursuit by enemies (again, dependent upon the mercy of men), or
- Three days of pestilence (whereby Israel would be at the mercy of God)

David makes a choice in verse 14. According to that verse, and using the clues in the bullet points above, what was David’s choice, and why?

As we have already read (verse 15), the Lord sent a pestilence and 70,000 of the 1.3 million (see verse 9) died. (Ironically, that is roughly the same death rate as today’s coronavirus pandemic, though I don’t believe it is a “sign” of anything or bears any significance.)

Friends, the pestilence we encounter today is nothing God has not seen before. God’s got this, and we are wise to learn the lessons of it. Here are some of them:

- God is sovereign and throughout history He has demanded obedience from His people.
- Sometimes the natural consequences of sin are dramatic.
- At times sin hurts more than those who committed it.

We live in a sin-cursed world, though God has been abundantly gracious to us in America. However, the sin of mankind brings consequences. The evil (globalist agenda) we see lurking behind the pandemic brings consequences. God is sovereign and He will not be mocked. Write out [Galatians 6:7-8](#):

God knows all evil plans, and they will ultimately reap their just reward.

But, let’s get to the good news in [2 Samuel 24](#)! Read verses 15-17. After David pled for mercy in verse 14, how did the Lord respond? (Include the angel’s specific words from verse 16.)

“It is enough!” The Lord relented! Why? Because David interceded, pleading mercy for his people. Furthermore, the chapter goes on to describe the victory, culminating in David building an altar to the

Lord. Verse 25 says, *“Thus the Lord was moved by prayer for the land, and the plague was held back from Israel.”*

Might we do as David did? What if every believer confessed the sins of their nation and pled with God for mercy? Would He relent? How will we know if we don't try? Will you make it a prayer effort?

Malachi 4:1-2: *“For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” says the Lord of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”² “But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.”*

Part 7: So, What Lies Ahead?

As we near the close of our study together, let's assess what lies ahead. When I look around, I see a stage being set. Believers throughout the ages, even in New Testament days, have longed for and have seen signs of Christ's Second Coming. But never in the history of the world have we seen so many signs of Christ's return come together so vividly at the same time.

Having the advantage of hindsight, many mysteries have been revealed. For example, Jesus' return could not have happened unless and until Israel was back in the land. From 70 AD – 1948 AD Jews were dispersed around the world. The Bible tells us the Tribulation (which follows the Rapture) is all about God finishing His plan with Israel. When they were scattered and there was no Jewish homeland, Jesus had nowhere in which to deal with His people and, ultimately, could not return to step foot on the Mount of Olives. (His Second Coming, following the Tribulation.)

Since Israel's re-birth in 1948, though, we have seen the Lord protect and defend the Jewish state against all odds, we have seen them take back Jerusalem as their capital (it has to be theirs if the Antichrist is going to confirm a covenant with them and allow them to re-build their Temple), we are watching Damascus crumble (per Isaiah 17:1, still to come), we are seeing the pieces of the Ezekiel 38-39 prophecy falling into place, and we are seeing the spirit of antichrist make way for specific things that will be carried out by THE Antichrist.

Take a quick look at [Luke 21:29-33](#) and [Matthew 24:32-35](#). These are the familiar fig tree accounts in which Jesus is equating the fig tree in bloom to Israel's re-birth. But there is a very key phrase in each. Find the phrase that says, “...when you see these thing...” What follows?

Notice, the passages do not say, “...when you hear about these things...” or “...when someone tells you about these things...” It says, “...when you SEE these things...”

The COVID-19 crisis is NOT a clear and undeniable sign, but rather a birth pang. But we SEE the outcroppings from it. Could it be a preparatory step (along with others) in paving the way for one to come on the scene to establish a New World Order? The spirit of antichrist has been working from the beginning, so this is nothing new. Perhaps it is just another well-recognized piece of the puzzle.

We must not sensationalize what we see and turn it into something it is not! If there is no Biblical basis, let's not make this crisis out to be more than it is! The attempt here has been to share what the Bible teaches about the last days, and to view this particular crisis in light of that, then to ask, "Is there evidence to suggest we are seeing pieces come together?" You can make up your own mind.

Also, we are not going to "solve" the C-19 issue, nor is this an attempt to do so. The pandemic is real, lives are being lost and we need to soberly consider how best to manage the situation. We must also be willing to change course if we find the methods and pathways we thought would work don't. Common sense...which isn't so common any more...needs to give way to guidance from the One who created and sustains us!

[Psalm 54](#) tells of a time David was pursued by the Ziphites. We don't know much about Ziphites, but we know they were an enemy of David's. Likewise, we don't know enough about COVID-19 to understand how to fix it. It is "bigger than we are." David did what he did so often: he cried out to the Lord! Read the short psalm slowly and contemplate some of David's words to the Lord. Write down some of David's plea that you might repeat to the Lord when you find yourself struggling with C-19 or any other enemy "bigger than you."

Indeed, our Creator God knows us inside and out, and He will sustain us. But the other principle at play in this crisis is that we must not let our guard down. We must be prepared.

Jesus tells a parable in Matthew 25 that has become well-known and is very apropos. But, let's capture the full context before jumping into Matthew 25. In chapter 24, Jesus answers disciples' questions regarding the sign of His coming, issues a warning of perilous times, encourages them that He will return gloriously to gather His elect, reveals the sign of Israel's return to the land prior to His coming, then teaches His disciples the importance of being ready for His coming. That must have been quite the conversation as Jesus' closest followers sat at His feet on the Mount of Olives, in view of the Temple. [Matthew 24](#) is an incredible chapter, so why not read it before moving on to chapter 25!

Now, read [Matthew 25:1-13](#). After Jesus clearly taught them about what to expect in the last days, He used a rather unusual parable to illustrate the need to be ready for that day. It is a parable of ten virgins, awaiting their wedding day. According to verses 1-4, explain the difference between the five virgins who were prudent vs the five who were foolish.

Verses 5-7 describe what should be a glorious event for a bride-in-waiting. What was it?

The scenario did not work out well for the five foolish virgins. According to verses 8-13, what occurred and what was their fate?

Sorry guys, but in Scripture, the body of Christ is known as His bride! I know you may have a hard time considering what a wedding day might mean as a bride, but perhaps you recall your wife's excitement on your wedding day. (Or if you are unmarried, try to conjure up how exciting it would be for a young bride to arrive at her wedding day, prepared to exchange vows with her beloved Bridegroom.)

Jesus is our heavenly Bridegroom and He is coming for us! Record what Jesus said in [John 14:1-3](#):

Jesus, our Bridegroom, has gone to prepare a place for us...and He promises to come back to take us to live with Him forever! He is preparing a place for us! Thankfully, we don't have to prepare this stinking place for Him! I can't wait to see my new dwelling, how about you!

But friends, He is coming at a day and hour we do not expect! It is difficult to imagine a bride not knowing the day or hour of her wedding, but I think God the Father likes surprises, so He's not telling anyone when He will send His Son to redeem us. Thus, we must be ready always!

Now, one more word about that. Scripture is absolutely crystal clear in telling us we will not know the day and hour of Christ's return. That is non-negotiable! **We cannot and will not know!**

However, the Pharisees and Sadducees ([Matthew 16:1-3](#)) and a crowd who followed Jesus ([Luke 12:54-56](#)) were both reprimanded for being fully capable of analyzing the sky and the weather, yet did not discern the signs of the times! Jesus stood before them, fulfilling dozens of prophecies regarding His first coming, yet they missed it. Now, we see evidence of the very things Jesus told His disciples ([Matthew 24](#)) would be signs of the end times. May we not be as the Pharisees, Sadducees and crowds, but may we discern what we see and know that we are living in the time and the season. The season may last as long as the Lord chooses, but it is at hand. Our wedding day is coming, and just like the five prudent virgins who were dressed for the occasion and had their lamps lit, so we, too, must be ready!

We know the good and the bad that lies ahead, and we can go beyond common sense to God's guidance about what to do in times of crisis. He is going to guide us all the way home to that place He is preparing! May we all be anxious for the wedding song!

Part 8: What about the Church?

It seems to me that we have traded (or certain officials have traded them for us) our basic constitutional rights as American citizens in favor of fear and "keeping us safe." In the beginning, when we knew not what we were dealing with nor the extent of it, there was reason to implement certain strategies, including staying home, in order not to overwhelm our healthcare system. That's what we were told, and it made sense to "trust the experts."

As time went by and at least parts of society realized we were not tapping out healthcare resources in most of the country, the narrative began to change, and fear of greater outbreaks and months and months of illness hogged the news cycle. We were first told masks and gloves don't help, then were told

we might be infected (or infect others) without them. Virtually the entire world was put on lockdown to some degree and economies (some already weakened) began to crash. Today, we are told the second wave is going to be worse than the first, and the death toll is going to skyrocket because restrictions have loosened.

This set us up for dependence upon the government. What one is indebted to becomes one's master, so that's dangerous ground. Not only that, we are now being told the answer to the dilemma is worldwide vaccination (which may take up to two years to develop). Beyond that, they need to track/trace every human on the planet to be sure a net can be thrown around the next virus that comes our way. Somehow, this crisis is being made to be the worst in the history of mankind. Is it, or is there an agenda?

Dennis Prager stated very eloquently in his article, [Our Dress Rehearsal for a Police State](#), that draconian laws are "depriving citizens of elementary civil rights," mass media is supporting it (and flooding the media!), police departments are being pressured to institute martial law (to various degrees), and some government leaders are encouraging "snitches." In America and elsewhere, we are being conditioned to give up freedoms and rights in the name of "save lives." The dress rehearsal seems to have gone fairly well for a first try. How long will it be before Event 202 (or something similar) convenes and globalists push the envelope a little further?

But I have a burning question that has driven this study and is critical to our response as Christians. What will the church, the body of Christ, do as the pressure mounts to conform to this world? At least a few well-respected Bible teachers are suggesting we may have just seen the opening act of the New World Order. I am not quite ready to fully jump on that band wagon in complete agreement, but it does leave us questioning just how close or far we may be to that reality. That's a question that will remain unanswered for now.

But back to the basic question: How will the body of Christ respond to the pressure to conform to the world? At what point do we as believers (individually and collectively) stand up and say, "We must bow to a Higher Authority...Jesus Christ...and what He commands, rather than what earthly rulers command."

Let's take a few moments to soberly consider the two sides. I have always held [Romans 13:1-7](#) in very high reverence. Please read it, and summarize the attitude and actions we are to have toward our governing authorities:

I understand and appreciate authority, and I take issue when believers "rant" about a president a governor or any other appointed official. I have strongly disagreed with positions taken by governing authorities, and disagreement and healthy, constructive debate can be helpful. But according to this passage, we do not have the freedom or the right to disparage them. I have spent a fair share of time repenting of times my frustration has gotten the best of me, and I believe God is grooming me to more easily turn from that sin (though I haven't "conquered it" yet). ALL authority is given by God and we are to respect it.

The difficulty comes in when blatant evil is confirmed. I'm not talking about "I really, really disagree with that government official." I'm also not talking about things they do or don't do that have no impact on their ability to govern. I am talking about consistent words and behaviors of government officials that draw us as believers in Christ to do things contrary to the Word of God.

God gave wisdom and, in America, our constitutional framers used that wisdom to include certain rights granted in the US Constitution. In fact, the very first amendment (Bill of Right) to the United States Constitution is this:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Notice, it says, "Congress shall make no law...." The amendment was not ratified to protect the government from the church, but the church from the government! By God's divine providence, the framers of our Constitution knew it would be important to protect the rights of people to freely gather and exercise their right to assemble for worship peaceably. (As well as protect freedom of speech and press.)

At this point, when people can gather in significant numbers in stores and other "essential" places, why can't God's people gather to worship, while obeying the same governmental recommendations for safety?

Furthermore, by Biblical standards, is our gathering "essential?" [Hebrews 10:23-25](#) seems to indicate a spiritually essential element:

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

For believers, God's Word is not a hodge-podge of suggestions, but a guidebook on how to live life abundantly and in accordance with the will of God. Hope is not found in this world, so here He encourages us to hold fast the confession of our hope because He who promised is faithful. He is the source of hope...not this world! Furthermore, while we can improvise to some degree, it is very difficult to maintain stimulation of others to love and good deeds if we never physically interact with them! Most vividly, we are not to forsake assembling together. That means being with one another...and doing it all the more as we see the day drawing near.

Is the day drawing near? If so, the command takes on added emphasis!

Beyond that, are there Biblical examples of God's people standing up to say, "I'm sorry, but there is One greater than you I must obey?" Yes, there is!

After Pentecost, Peter and John were "teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead." ([Acts 4:2](#)) Five thousand were saved, but the two disciples-turned-evangelists were arrested! When questioned about what power or in whose name they were teaching and healing, they

declared, "...let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ...this man stands here before you in good health." (verse 10).

Though they were uneducated and untrained, they were confident, and others began to "recognize them as having been with Jesus!" The religious leaders wondered what to do with them, and finally commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. (verses 13-18)

Now it is your turn! Write out Peter and John's response in verses 19-20:

Wow! Peter and John stood up for a Higher Authority, their Lord Jesus Christ. Yet, it didn't "stick." They were arrested again in chapter 5 for virtually the same thing, but with an added twist. Once imprisoned, the Lord set them free, so they went out to teach once again. When confronted by the religious council, what did Peter and the apostles say, according to [Acts 5:29](#)?

Oh, that we might have the faith and courage shown by Peter and the apostles! When God calls us into mission with Him, we have the ultimate Commander in Chief! When and where He says to go, we must go. Likewise, when He does not lead, we must be still and wait. Where is He leading us right now?

I cannot finish this study without anecdotally sharing what I believe the Lord impressed upon me. Soon after Passover, I wrote a series of posts called *Looking Toward Pentecost*. ([Here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)) I certainly had Pentecost on my mind when I awakened one night with thoughts swirling through my head. That is not unusual, but typically I voice record them so I can untangle them in a greater state of consciousness!

On that night, however, I was wide awake, and I thought, "Wouldn't it be cool if God re-ignited the church on Pentecost!" Scripturally, Acts teaches us that the Holy Spirit was given on Pentecost and the church was born. Pentecost follows 50 days after Passover, putting it May 31 this year. By no means is He obligated, and by no means did He "tell me" He was going to do it. I just simply thought it would be cool and I began to ask Him what part there might be for me to undertake to join Him in His work.

I began gathering my thoughts for this study and it snowballed. Each time I sat down to write, I was reminded that the only way out of the COVID crisis is through a work of the Jesus, and at times He uses His church, the body of Christ, to do that. But the church is shutdown.

I prayed that God would perform a miracle or otherwise make it possible for the church to gather to celebrate Pentecost, and that the Holy Spirit might re-ignite the flame in the lives of believers. I prayed...and I wrote...but I wondered, "I'm one tiny person with one little voice. I have no power other than prayer." So, that's what I did.

Then on May 5, 2020, Jack Hibbs (Calvary Chapel Chino Hills), a very well-respected pastor, premiered a video entitled, [It's Time for Churches to Open Their Doors Again](#), announcing a movement of California churches to re-open on Pentecost! Praise God for His faithfulness, and all glory to Him!

On Passover and following, Peter and the disciples witnessed the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Over the next 50 days, they learned from the risen Lord and they became bold in sharing the Good News! When they saw Jesus ascend into heaven on Pentecost, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began ministering by His power! So much so, the religious leaders of the day could not shut them up or shut them down!

Christian friends, we are approaching that day on our calendar! I am not suggesting something weird, but simply that we would offer our hearts to Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to kindle the flame in our hearts individually and as the body of Christ! Perhaps your church will be open (I pray it is!), but if not, the Holy Spirit is certainly not limited by walls!

The coronavirus is here, and New World Order is emerging. But NOTHING stands in the way of the Lord our God.

³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. ([Romans 8:37-39](#))

Go forth and conquer in the Name above all Names...Christ Jesus our Lord!