





Interesting times...

2nd Plague pandemic

Black Death/Great Bubonic Plague/Pestilence

1347 to 1351

Est. 75 – 200 million people died in Eurasia

Est. 30-60% of the European population!

3rd Plague pandemic

1855 – 1960

12 million deaths in India and China



Interesting times...

Spanish flu

(similar to H1N1/Swine Flu of 2009)

1918

500 million people around the world affected

Est. 17 million to 50 million, and possibly as high as

100 million deaths



Interesting times...

Coronavirus/Covid19

Never been in place like this!

But – mild disease? Cannot compare to
TB/Malaria/HIV?

Global, Simultaneous Fear and Panic...



Interesting times...

Global, Simultaneous Fear and Panic

- Social media
- Immediate access to information (accurate and fake...)
- How many cases of COVID 19 in SA currently?
- Province breakdown?
- Worldwide cases?
- How many people have died?



Interesting times...

This is a global healthcare and economic crisis!

HIV

32 million deaths (2018)

40 million media mentions

Coronavirus

153 503 cases and 5789 deaths worldwide (14 March)

1,1 Billion media mentions



Interesting times...

The perceived threat (without minimising the seriousness of the situation) is MASSIVELY AMPLIFIED by a media (informal/social and formal media) frenzy.

Truth is, we are going to be exposed more and more to real/exaggerated and even fabricated threats that will cause us to FEAR in the future.



Luke 21:11

11 And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven

1 Peter 4:12

12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you



What is the Biblical Response?

Romans 12:2

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.



What is the Biblical Response?

The church's response to calamity/threat and disaster is different to the world's

(Probably the most effective witness of the church to demonstrate Christ-likeness.)



Worldly responses to threat/crisis and disaster

All responses are to attempt to avoid fear amidst the storm:

1. Minimizing
2. Middle-ground/fact based
3. Catastrophizing/Exaggerating and over-reacting

Selective bias in terms of media and news.



The problem with the “world’s method”

You cannot obtain lasting and sustained peace through rationalising and your own abilities.

A time WILL come when the threat may be truly overwhelming.

(NOTE: “You will not be asked to endure more than you can manage” = Misquote of 1 Corinthians 10:13)



Do not be afraid

1. Jesus knows...

John 6: 19-20

19 So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. 20 But He said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.”



Do not be afraid

2. Jesus is present

Matthew 28:20

and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”



“Corona”

“Corona”

16th century

Latin “corona” – Literally, a wreath or crown

Usually bestowed for distinguished military service

e.g. *Coronary* vessels or *coronary* bypass

But who is the King of Kings who wears the
GREATEST “CORONA?”

“Corona”



Revelation 16:19

And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

John 19:2

2 And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe.

“Corona”



Ephesians 1:20-21

...He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.



2 Kings 6: 8-18

8 Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place." 9 And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there." 10 Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.



2 Kings 6: 8-18

11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, “Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?” 12 And one of his servants said, “None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.”

13 So he said, “Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him.” And it was told him, saying, “Surely he is in Dothan.”



2 Kings 6: 8-18

14 Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. 15 And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?”



2 Kings 6: 8-18

6 So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, “Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 18 So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, and said, “Strike this people, I pray, with blindness.” And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.



Matthew 8: 23-27

23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. 24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. 25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” 26 But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 So the men marvelled, saying, “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”



Our response is different

The presence of the King of Kings

We may however not be spared...

Peace that surpasses understanding (Phil 4:7)

Death where is your sting? (1 Cor 15:55)

Stephen the martyr



Our response is different

Revelation 12:11

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony,

and they did not love their lives to the death.



Our response is different and is modelled by Christ

Matthew 16:24

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

John 15:13

13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.



Our response is different

Not only can we be calm in the storm (peace that surpasses understanding) through His grace, in the knowledge that the King of Kings is with us always,

we need to have an eternal perspective – being willing to lay down our own lives, comforts and even be willing to perish as we serve others first. This is Jesus' example to the church.

Our witness during this time will be in our willingness to deny ourselves for the wellbeing of others.



Our response is yet different still!

2 Corinthians 10:4

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,



What is church?

Church is NOT a pretty building, awesome worship music and an eloquent speaker who brings a feel good message on a Sunday morning.

Our mandate is to see His KINGDOM come on earth as it is in Heaven – “Heaven in the Real world”

Our prayer is a VITAL response in this time.



**THE FLOWER - DIE BLOM
MEMORIAL**
FOR IN THIS PLACE, MITCHELL'S PLAIN
WE CALLED ON THE SOVEREIGN GOD OF
HEAVEN IN THE TIME OF DROUGHT
(24th MARCH 2018)
AND HE ANSWERED US, BY SENDING
THE RAINS IN ITS SEASON
(UNVEILED - 06 OCTOBER 2019)

THE GREATEST
CORONA

**The FLOWER - Die BLOM
MEMORIAL**

LEST WE FORGET AS A PEOPLE

FOR IN THIS PLACE, MITCHELL'S PLAIN
WE CALLED ON THE SOVEREIGN GOD OF
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[UNVEILED - 6th OCTOBER 2019]






THE GREATEST
CORONA

