

THE CORONAVIRUS

FACTS, UNCERTAINTIES, AND THE BIBLE

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Biblical Studies Productions

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וַיְהִי־הוּא הַהֹלֵךְ לִפְנֵיךָ הוּא יְהִי עִמָּךְ לֹא יִרְפָּךְ וְלֹא יַעֲזֹבֶךָ
לֹא תִירָא וְלֹא תִחַת

He, the Lord who walks before you, He will be with you, He will never leave you alone or forsake you; do not be afraid or be dismayed (Author's translation, Deut 31:8)

CONTENTS

Introduction_____	1
The Predictions of the End _____	11
Naram sin of Chaldea _____	11
Mesopotamian Prophecy _____	13
Mayan Prophecy _____	16
The Pope Gregoire the Great _____	18
The Hope of the Year 1000 _____	19
Luther and Millenium_____	21
United State of America, Land of Advent _____	22
Miller and the others _____	23
Kimbangu and the end of the World_____	28
 Dramatic Times, Times of Prophecies _____	 31
Nostradamus _____	32
Elijah Muhammad _____	34
Farrakhan and Malcolm X _____	34
End of the World in Islam _____	36
Pie XII _____	37
 Dean Koontz's Prediction of the Coronavirus_____	 39
Biblical Plagues in Chronicles _____	43
Covid-19 Puzzzling Issues _____	48
 The Origin of Covid-19 _____	 51
Weapon of Mass Destruction _____	51
Animals Coronavirus _____	53
China the Beginnings _____	54

Is Leviticus Still Relevant for the Modern Man _____	59
Health Laws _____	63
On Trichinosis _____	64
I Will put None of the Diseases _____	71
Covenant Healing _____	73
Fatal Illness _____	77
When you will see these things _____	79
God's Nearness _____	81
Perpetual Vigilance _____	86
The Reader of the Pale Horse and the Coronavirus ____	83
The Last Days _____	84
Hades and Thanatos _____	86
Pestilences as Signs of Times _____	90
Wartime at the Microbiological Level _____	92
Infectious and Communicable Diseases _____	94
Sheshin _____	96
Treatment _____	97
Vegetarian Diet _____	98
The Angel of Death _____	101
Every 100 Years' Influenza _____	104
The Years 1720 _____	104
The Year 1820 _____	105
The Year 1918-1920 _____	105
The Year 2020 _____	106
Religious Response _____	107
The Bible and the Confinement _____	109
Conclusion _____	111

Introduction¹

For over 800 years, the French Cathedral has the epicentre of Paris. She belongs to all. Her fire upset the whole world. Huge smoke that darkens the sky of the capital; French cried. Paris was built at its feet; the whole world would come to visit it. From the Hôtel-Dieu to the Hôtel de city to the Tuileries Palace, she saw everything blaze at her doors on 15th April 2019 from the weary hours of 6:50pm. As if miraculously preserved from the ravages of the history. More than the symbol of the city, at the same title as the Iron Lady, the Stone Lady is a memory of a people, one of the highest places of Christianity and the zero point of the country's road. We thought it was eternal, indestructible, although worn out over the years. Although it took 182 years to build the French Cathedral, we are witnessing a more dreadful happening to the world.

Bug of the year 2000, the return of the Halley's Comet, the arrival of the Martians in 1938. Often times the end of the world was announced. Listed are some of the most significant. It is as older than the world's civilization. Dozens of Apocalypse have been prophesied since the antiquity. The Romans, Luther, Christopher Colombus, some Popes or the modern tailor Paco Rabanne, all believed that the end of the world was on their time, and

¹ Coronaviruses cause diseases that range from the common cold to SARS and atypical pneumonia. *Britannica Illustrated Science Library* (2008), p. 702 (51)

2 Introduction

who doesn't? Trying to give fact to the public, in 2008 Silvia Celeste Brown, a medium with psychic talent, and Harrison have made a very astounding prediction on the kind of situation we are facing:

*In around 2020 a severe pneumonia-like illness will spread throughout the globe, attacking the lungs and the bronchial tubes and resisting all known treatments. Almost more baffling than the illness itself will be the fact that it will suddenly vanish as quickly as it arrived, attack again ten years later, and then disappear completely.*²

However, she was known as psychically wrong and was more inaccurate in most of her predictions, as Robert S. Lancaster has proven, amid thousands of her predictions which did not happen, make this one quite meaningless.³ Also, this is not a prophecy, it is more like an educated guesstimate or forecast based on what feels. Since the Nidovirales, a virus introduced several years

² Sylvia Browne et Lindsay Harrison, *End of Days: Predictions and Prophecies about the End of the World* (London: Piatkus, 2011), 117. Brown died in 2013, she was not an angel; she was frequently found guilty for making false predictions and convicted of theft.

³ Benjamin Robert, "Sylvia Browne's Non-Psychic, Non-Coronavirus Prediction," *Center for Inquiry* (March 12, 2020) [accessed March 16, 2020]; Jonathan C. Smith, *Pseudoscience and Extraordinary Claims of the Paranormal: A Critical Thinker's Toolkit* (John Wiley, 2011). He records exhaustively the inaccurate predictions and criminal and offensive activities of this very controversial psychic.

ago, 1967, there is still little information on how new viruses replicate the corona. The coronavirus has been categorized into three groups, with human coronavirus (group 1), porcine infectious gastroenteritis, mouse hepatitis virus (group 2), and avian transmittable bronchitis virus (group 3), which is the most prevalent coronavirus to date and one with which thorough research has been made.⁴

Take for example, global warming, and the environment rapidly impending a likely Ice Age that would eradicate most life on Earth. The world's economic system is on the edge of total failure, and the struggle has begun for most around the world.

Illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, H5 and H5N1 viruses, and other pandemics threaten the world. There are over forty conflicts happening at this moment—in addition to Afghanistan and the Arab Spring, there are many such Boko Haram in the western part of Africa (Nigeria, Cameroon and Tchad) and other wars going on worldwide that we overlook. We do not need to be a prophet in order to predict the end of the world, the only questions is when this will actually happen.

Communication men, knowing how to set up their businesses with a real advertising genius, extremely original, "its noisy originality always pays off", some of them made history, less by the content of their philosophically null doctrine only by the adventurous circumstances of their life and especially of their end.

⁴ Cf. Luis Enjuanes, éd., *Coronavirus replication and reverse genetics*, Current topics in microbiology and immunology 287 (Berlin ; New York: Springer, 2005), 57.

Among the best known are Creffield, Reidt, Dowie and Venta. In other words, (and by summons when they knew themselves): Josue the second, the great Witness of the end of the world, the Master of the Holy City of Zion, and the Messiah from the well of the world ... Surnames which are quite a program.

The Last Judgment by painter Hans Memling. In christian beliefs, the last judgment is an apocalyptic event where God makes a final judgment of all the people on Earth.

Prophecies of apocalyptic events that would result in the extinction of humanity, a collapse of civilization, or the annihilation of the earth have been made since at least the beginning of the Common Era.⁵ Most predictions are related to Monotheist religions, often established for, or comparable to the eschatological incidents portrayed in the Holy Scriptures.

Christian prophecies normally denote to events like The Rapture, The Great Tribulation, The Last Judgment, and The Second Coming of Christ. Many religious-related end-time events are predicted to occur within the lifetime of the person making the prediction, who often quote the Bible, and in particular The New Testament, as either the primary or exclusive source for the prophecies.

Often this takes the form of arithmetical computations, such as trying to calculate the point where it will have been six thousand years since the believed creation of the Earth by Yahweh which according to the Talmud, marks

⁵ Ronald Cole-Turner, "The singularity and the rapture: Transhumanist and popular Christian views of the future," *Zygon* 47, no. 4 (2012): 777–796

the deadline for the Messiah to appear.⁶ Prophecies of the end of natural events have also been theorized by various experts and scientific groups. While these calamities are generally recognized within the scientific society as reasonable “End of The World” developments, the events and occurrences are not expected to occur for hundreds of thousands or even billions of years from now.

However, the new order of things in the human world and whoever will be put in place at the end of time, such as the announcement of a prophetic way; "the Apocalypse!" Far from designing a new terrestrial paradise, this vision announces the establishment assured of a whole new absolute:

*Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. Then I, John1, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
(Revelation 21:1-2)*

Nor prophecies for that matter have been overall studied. We have never established a statistic comparative of those last, if only for the most important of them. Nevertheless, we can be persuaded that such

⁶ Eliyahu Berkowitz, Adam (August 17, 2015), “200-Year-Old ‘Messiah Clock’ Sets Last Possible Date for Final Redemption – and the Timing Will Surprise You!”

steps would suddenly lead to a surprise finding with the fact that the absolute majority of prophecies refers especially to the end of the world. The catastrophic twilight of the civilization, glimpsed precognitive for a certain end of time, concerns more than three quarters of never given in prophecy to comments from the media.

In fact; Some experts still believe that the appearance of a new pandemic is only a matter of time. The phenomenon is comparable to the influenza virus of 1918-1919, which by some estimation has killed 20 million people worldwide. Such a pandemic would be devastating and risk spreading quickly across the globe.⁷ Adler adds that the emergence of a new virulent, highly contagious human respiratory disease, for which there is no adequate treatment, could trigger a worldwide pandemic. If such a disease appears, by 2025, internal and transformational tensions and conflicts will not fail to explode. Indeed, nations will then strive - with insufficient capacity—to control the movements of populations seeking to avoid infection or to preserve their access to natural resources.⁸

So far, the new coronavirus has led to more than 115,000 infections and more than 4,000 deaths worldwide. But that's nothing compared to the flu or influenza. Only in the USA, the flu has affected an estimated 34 million persons, with over 350,000 hospitalizations and 20,000 deaths in 2020, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). However, up to date, the death rate from seasonal

⁷ Alexandre Adler, *Le rapport de la CIA: Comment sera le monde en 2020* (Paris : Robert Lafont, 2005), 250-51.

⁸ Ibid., 250.

flu is lesser than the Coronavirus in some location. It seems that we will always battle against viruses. In recent epochs, several viruses have flown from animals to humans and generated sizable epidemics, exterminating thousands of lives. One has to remember the outbreak of the West Africa virus Ebola, that killed up to 90% of those infected, making it the most lethal epidemic in the family of Ebola.⁹

What lies behind this fear and panic? The answer to this question is certainly not so simple. Part of that are the media, global risk and fake news. Hence, the coronavirus reveals our vulnerability and resilience in front of the danger. No comprehensive account of the prophets has ever been undertaken. It reveals the pandemic of fear.

The world lives proudly until something we do not understand comes to remind us that we are simply human. And the media add this spirit of fear with half information and contribute to a pandemic of fear. In this book, we will replace facts, fears and fiction to bring the world to God where one finds security. Is this virus a demonstration of power from Satan or an act of God? Who is behind the scenes? Is this fear a part of the end time prophecies? These questions are legitimate and are the goals of this book.

It's certainly a moment of calamity. The populace are getting sick and dying. We see even those who were not sick have had their lives transformed by the drastic actions the Chinese, Italian, French and American

⁹ See Rolfes, MA, Foppa, IM, Garg, S, et al. *Annual estimates of the burden of seasonal influenza in the United States: A tool for strengthening influenza surveillance and preparedness. Influenza Other Respi Viruses*. 2018; 12: 132– 137.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/irv.12486>

authorities have applied in order to contain the coronavirus spreading. Still, without ignoring the threats posed by the epidemic or ignoring the unfolding human misfortune, the vast majority of people are not in imminent danger of death or starvation. This book aims to give a theological aspect on how to consider this pandemic in particular, or any epidemic that outbreaks in the world.

Chapter 2 will look onto the prediction fevers of the end in the human arena, from ancient Mesopotamia to the modern world shows that mankind lingers for the end of the world since the paradise he has lost.

Chapter 3 shows that prophetism is at home in dramatic periods, almost everywhere people have set dates for the end of the world.

Chapter 4 presents and analyses the 1981 prediction of Dean Koontz of the modern Coronavirus.

Chapter 5 asks the question about the origin of the Coronavirus or Covid-19. Was it part of a hidden agenda to reduce the population of the world or something else?

Chapter 6 indicates how Leviticus seems relevant for the Modern Man, in the case of a pandemic, which kills so many.

Chapter 7 suggests some guidelines on the biblical promises that God is in control even during such context.

Above all, chapter 8 gives us the way forward. How to analyze “these things”? Is it an apocalyptic question that still challenges each one of us?

Chapter 9 looks into the Book of Revelation, possibly in the four horsemen who bring pestilence. The parallelism is notable and the biblical perspective is mostly needed.