

GLOBAL LIFE CAMPAIGN™

Plagues: What the Bible Reveals (Part 1)

Plagues are for Correction, Deliverance, Redemption and Restoration Now, but are Final and Eternally Irreversible During the Final Judgments.

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I just finished reading every verse in the Bible with the Hebrew or Greek words meaning “plague” or “pestilence,” and discovered amazing truths which I’ll share with you beginning today, in subsequent weekly GLC Series emails, and in a report which you may acquire when completed. For the next one to four months, instead of the normal topics, the GLC Series will focus primarily on bringing a Biblical understanding of plagues and the global pandemic. I welcome you to respond with your thoughts to info@GlobalLifeCampaign.com.

The Bible reveals that plagues are for correction, deliverance, redemption and restoration now, but are final and eternally irreversible during the Final Judgments.

Now: From the Fall to the Final Judgments. It is true that famines, pestilence, plagues and sickness are a consequence of the Fall of mankind, which brought death upon man and nature (Genesis 2:17; 3:1-19), and are normal or recurring in this fallen world (1 Kings 8:22-23, 37). But these consequences in nature are not the predominant focus of plagues and pestilence in the history of nations recorded in Scripture. When the LORD predicts or brings—or does not intervene to protect us from—a plague or pestilence, the context clearly reveals that His purposes are some or all of the following:

- Uphold His unchanging righteousness and justice, and bring righteous judgment;
- Correction of sin, idolatry, immorality, innocent bloodshed, etc., etc., etc.;
- Deliver His people from slavery or oppressors;
- Reveal Himself to redeem at least a remnant of people who will worship and trust Him, and not their idols or themselves;
- Restore the redeemed and their nation to Him, and to righteous relationships and living.

Through every plague, God is tenaciously and relentlessly pursuing His goal to have a holy people who are His own, who will love and obey and trust Him, and among whom He will dwell. But He is holy, and only those who are cleansed from their sin and unrighteousness can be in His Presence. He is pursuing the gathering of people from every nation, tribe and tongue to be His own, and is willing to sacrifice the lives of many people to gain a righteous remnant who will be with Him for eternity, and to rescue as many people as possible from eternal hell.

This passage in Leviticus 26 reveals some of the above points. At first glance, you might think God is harsh, hostile and cruel, and getting worse and worse. But actually He loves His people so much that He hates the sin and idolatry that break relationship with Him and destroys them.

“If also after these things you do not obey Me, then I [the LORD] will punish you seven times more for your sins. I will also break down your pride of power; I will also make your sky like iron and your earth like bronze. Your strength will be spent uselessly, for your land will not yield its produce and the trees of the land will not yield their fruit.

“If then, you act with hostility against Me and are unwilling to obey Me, I will increase the plague [H4347] on you seven times according to your sins. . . .

“And if by these things you are not turned to Me, but act with hostility against Me, then I will act with hostility against you; and I, even I, will strike you seven times for your sins. I will also bring upon you a sword which will execute vengeance for the covenant; and when you gather together into your cities, I will send pestilence [H1698] among you, so that you shall be delivered into enemy hands” (Leviticus 26:18-25).

Note that the judgments, plagues and pestilence are “for your sins,” but that God is relentlessly pursuing them, pleading with them to humble themselves, repent, turn from their sinful ways, and be faithful to Him and their covenant with Him.

The Final Judgments. From the time of Jesus Christ until the Final Judgments is the ingathering of people into the Kingdom of God from every tribe, tongue, people and nation. But that door will quickly close when the Final Judgments come. The New Testament is almost silent (except for Luke 21:10-11) about plagues until the book of Revelation. Then a series of city, regional or global plagues are prophesied that will destroy most of the people on earth (see Revelation 6:7-8; 9:13-21; 11:3-6; 15:1-8; 16:1-12, 17-21; 18:1-8). Those who by faith in Jesus Christ have their names written in His book of life will live with Him eternally. But “if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire,” including “the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and liars” (Revelation 20:15; 21:8).

Glorious Future for the Redeemed After the Final Judgments. For those who have believed in Jesus Christ and been cleansed of their sins, these verses give a glimpse into our future, and what God’s plan was from Genesis to Revelation: “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain” (Revelation 21:3-4).

Closing comment by Stan John, GLC Board of Governors: “If the normal state of fallen mankind and nature are plagues, pestilence and calamity, then it is only by God’s grace that we are protected and insulated. But our unrepentant sins cause Him to withdraw that protection and grace. As such, the evil and suffering are by our own hand; yet avoiding the same is by His love and grace, which often come to the just and unjust. It is His nature to love His creation.”

SDG and for the sanctity of human life,
Thomas W. Jacobson

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