

# GLOBAL LIFE CAMPAIGN™

## Who and What Can Protect Us From or Stop a Plague?

### Plagues: What the Bible Reveals (Part 4)

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Who or what can protect us from a plague? Who or what can stop a plague? The whole world is vulnerable to the invisible coronavirus plague. The influenza pandemic of 1918 lasted three years and took the lives of at least 20 million people worldwide. These are the questions we will briefly examine this week from the Scriptures for the *GLC Series*. What are you trusting in?

**1. God alone can ultimately protect us from and stop a plague, so put your trust in Him and obey all God-ordained and lawful authority.** The Bible reveals God's power, willingness and eagerness to protect us from and stop any plague. One of the ways that God protects is by working through church and civil authorities, and our obedience to, and not rebellion against, their good and lawful leadership. Preserving lawful leadership also may require measured disobedience to any authorities who go beyond their lawful authority, but only at the point where they act unlawfully. Examples of this include believers obeying God by continuing to assemble together and worship Him corporately, keeping churches open, while complying with wise measures to prevent the spread of the virus. May you be encouraged and your faith strengthened through King David's words inspired by the Holy Spirit:

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, 'My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!' For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly **pestilence**. He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark. You will not be afraid of . . . the **pestilence** that stalks in darkness . . . A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, *but* it shall not approach you. You will only look on with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. For you have made the LORD, my refuge, *even* the Most High, your dwelling place. No evil will befall you, nor will any **plague** come near your tent" (Psalm 91:1-10).

**2. Demonstrating love, humility and wisdom through good and wise medical and social practices that protect from transmission of and promote healing from disease.** We are to demonstrate love for one another and our own lives by taking the necessary precautions to protect ourselves and others from transmission of the virus, including if we are a medical professional, family member or friend tending to one who is ill with the virus. The practices I've previously mentioned of keeping the healthy (clean) separate from the unhealthy (unclean), and quarantine for those infected or who may have been exposed, are essential.

**3. Intercession and crying out to God by His people who reverently fear Him.** “The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous” (Proverbs 15:29). “The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much” (James 5:16). An example of this was when God brought a plague against Israel in the wilderness because of their repeated rebellion against Him and His appointed leadership.

“(T)he congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron . . . Then . . . the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Get away from among this congregation, that I may consume them instantly.’ Then they fell on their faces. Moses said to Aaron, ‘Take your censer and put in it fire from the altar, and lay incense [representing prayers] *on it*; then bring it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone forth from the LORD, the **plague** has begun!’ Then Aaron took *it* as Moses had spoken, and ran into the midst of the assembly, for behold, the **plague** had begun among the people. So he put *on* the incense and made atonement for the people. He took his stand between the dead and the living, so that the **plague** was checked. But those who died by the **plague** were 14,700” (Numbers 16:41-49).

**4. Immediately humbling ourselves before God, inviting the Spirit of God to reveal our sins, and confessing and forsaking the same with confidence of His mercy and grace.** “If I [the LORD] . . . send **pestilence** among My people, and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:13-14).

**5. Bold and righteous prayers and actions by those who fear God, that recognize and confront the root cause of the sin that made the people vulnerable to the plague.** When “the people began to play the harlot . . . sacrifices of their gods . . . and bowed down to their gods . . . the LORD was angry . . . Then behold, one of the sons of Israel came and brought to his relatives a Midianite woman, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the sons of Israel . . . When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he arose from the midst of the congregation and took a spear in his hand, and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and pierced both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman, through the body. So the **plague** on the sons of Israel was checked. Those who died by the **plague** were 24,000” (Numbers 25:1-9). Sharing this true historical event is only to show how serious God is about His people being holy and set apart to Him, living in purity with one another, and how absolutely destructive to His good purpose and to us are idolatry and immorality, which are sins we should not disregard. Not one of us is without sin, but we can all be cleansed from sin and unrighteousness if we humbly confess our sins to Him (1 John 1:8-10). God alone is our surest protection from any virus or plague, and He is our healer.

SDG and for the sanctity of human life,

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