

GLOBAL LIFE CAMPAIGN™

Plagues: What the Bible Reveals (Part 2)

The LORD Speaks Through Pestilence and Plagues.

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Last week, I shared the first overall realization from studying what the Bible reveals about plagues and nations; namely, that plagues are for correction, deliverance, redemption and restoration now, but are final and eternally irreversible during the Final Judgments. What that means is the door is wide open right now for redemption and restoration of relationship with God through Jesus Christ, up until the Final Judgments written about in Revelation.

For the GLC Series this week, I'm sharing another discovery, evident in the Hebrew language and history of nations recorded in the Bible, that the LORD speaks through pestilence and plagues. I welcome you to respond with your thoughts to info@GlobalLifeCampaign.com.

Definition and Origin of Words for Pestilence & Plagues: The first Hebrew word in the Bible meaning pestilence, plagues, or destruction is “deber” [H1698], which comes from the word “dâbar” [H1696]. The Hebrew word “dâbar” means “to speak, say, talk, promise, tell, commune, pronounce,” or answer, command, declare, etc., and is used 1,141 times in the Old Testament.^{1} Examples: “Then God **spoke** [H1696] to Noah” (Genesis 8:15); “So Abram went forth as the LORD had **spoken** [H1696] to him” (Genesis 12:4); and “Then she [Hagar] called the name of the LORD who **spoke** [H1696] to her, ‘You are a God who sees’” (Genesis 16:13). From its word origins, it is evident that the LORD speaks through pestilence and plagues.

Historical Examples in the Bible (3 of 48 verses with Hebrew “deber” [H1698]). The first is when the LORD was in the process of setting His people free from slavery in Egypt.

“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Go to Pharaoh and speak to him, “Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, ‘Let My people go, that they may serve Me. For if you refuse to let *them* go and continue to hold them, behold, the hand of the LORD will come *with* a very severe **pestilence** [H1698] on your livestock which are in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the herds, and on the flocks’”” (Exodus 9:1-3).

In the next passage, God gives a promise of what He will do if His people respond rightly when He sends pestilence, which was always to correct and turn them away from idolatry and sin:

“Then the LORD appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, ‘I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send **pestilence** [H1698] 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 Chron. 7:12-14).

In the next passage, the LORD tells His own people what He is doing to redirect them, but five times says, “yet you have not returned to Me . . . Therefore . . . prepare to meet your God.”

“But I gave you also cleanness of teeth in all your cities and lack of bread in all your places, yet you have not returned to Me,’ declares the LORD. ‘Furthermore, I withheld the rain from you while *there were* still three months until harvest. Then I would send rain on one city and on another city I would not send rain; one part would be rained on, while the part not rained on would dry up. So two or three cities would stagger to another city to drink water, but would not be satisfied; yet you have not returned to Me,’ declares the LORD. ‘I smote you with scorching *wind* and mildew; and the caterpillar was devouring your many gardens and vineyards, fig trees and olive trees; yet you have not returned to Me,’ declares the LORD. ‘I sent a plague [H1698] among you after the manner of Egypt; I slew your young men by the sword along with your captured horses, and I made the stench of your camp rise up in your nostrils; yet you have not returned to Me,’ declares the LORD. ‘I overthrew you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were like a firebrand snatched from a blaze; yet you have not returned to Me,’ declares the LORD. ‘Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel.’ For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind and declares to man what are His thoughts, He who makes dawn into darkness and treads on the high places of the earth, the LORD God of hosts is His name” (Amos 4:6-13).

Concluding Remarks and Application: Do you see God’s heart in these three examples. He spoke powerfully against the oppressors of His people through pestilence and plagues to set Israel free from slavery, and later to warn Israel again and again that they had forgotten Him and were being consumed by their own idolatry and sin, and to persuade them to return to Him. Ponder what God may be speaking through this global pestilence (Covid-19). Because the pestilence is global, consider what idolatries, sins and evils are common or being committed in every nation. While doing so, remember that “by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved,” but Jesus Christ came to “set us free” (2 Peter 2:19; Galatians 5:1; Luke 4:18; John 8:34-36; Romans 6:23). Remember God’s promise in 2 Chronicles 7 quoted above, that if we respond with humility, repentance, prayer, seeking Him and turning from our ways that in His eyes are “wicked,” then He “will forgive (our) sin and heal (our) land.”

SDG and for the sanctity of human life,

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Respond to: info@GlobalLifeCampain.com ; give: www.GlobalLifeCampaign.com.

{1} Strong’s Definitions; Gesenius’ Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon, and Biblical usage on www.BlueLetterBible.com.