

## Corona Crisis - The Preview

By Wayne Vasilenko

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How many times have you heard someone say, “If I had only known, I would have done some things differently.” Perhaps you yourself have said, or at least have thought something like that at some point in your life. It is fact that I personally have said this many times over the years, my particular favorite saying is, “If I knew then, what I know now...” Most people think that it would be nice to be able to see into the future and see how things will work out in the end before we take a certain path in life; nevertheless, many people go through life with one of two general attitudes... Some say, “Whatever will be – will be,” and life is all simply the luck of the draw. They claim there is no way of knowing future outcome, (what happens – happens) while some, especially those claiming to be Christians believe, life is all planned out for them by God and thus in the end, they have had no control at all over the will of God. Which of these attitudes dominate your thinking? It is obvious that these two attitudes represent opposing worldviews, the first being a “Secular” worldview and the second, a “Christian” worldview. Which, in your opinion is right, and which is wrong? Most of you familiar with my writings would assume I favor the Christian worldview in this illustration, but guess what... you would be wrong! The truth is that I disagree with both of the attitudes I just described! I most definitely do have a Christian world view however, not that particular one.

As most people acknowledge at least the concept of some kind of controlling force in the universe be it **a god** or perhaps “mother nature,” let us explore the similarities and the differences between these two viewpoints. I will first address the secular view assuming an agnostic view of God because there are few (if any) true “atheists” in the world. People with the secular worldview tend to assume that random circumstances and choices govern their lives. They “ditty-bop” through life claiming there is no master plan for them and they are relegated to, “take it as it comes.” This “hap-hazard lifestyle” seems to be prevalent these days as many young people, if asked about their goals or opinions about their lives respond with a blank stare, or some politically motivated rhetoric. Imagine taking a 600-mile trip to a specific destination in a car. However, the roads have no signs whatsoever, no warning signs, no exit signs, no stop signs, traffic lights or road signs. Your car has a range of 250 miles on a full tank but you don’t know where the gas stations are... remember no signs anywhere! Oh yeah... no G.P.S. either. What do you suppose your chances of reaching that specific destination in one day would be? Yes, it is possible but I think most would agree that it would take an incredible amount of luck. Fortunately, there are many signs on our roads; signs warning us of danger, signs telling us how far to the next gas station and most importantly were the next rest stop is. What does this illustration have to do with our walk through life? The road signs in a sense give us a glimpse into the future; they tell us what is around the bend as we drive along. For example, if you see a sign stating, “Rest Stop 3 miles,” you know relief is on the way! If you are down to a ¼ tank of gas, I am sure you’ll be looking for a sign saying, “Gas Ahead.” If you see a sign that says, “Slow-Dangerous Curve,” with a picture of a Hairpin on it, you’re probably going to slow down! All of these signs are predicting future events and future decisions during the course of your road trip. Fortunately, throughout our lives there are many signs to guide us along the way... signs from God.

I am sure that last statement ruffled a few feathers, so please, let me explain. As I mentioned at the beginning of this writing, my Christian worldview is different from the one I initially described. I absolutely believe that God has a plan for us (all of us). However, we are also free either to go along with the plan or to ignore it. How are we to know what the plan is, you may be wondering... perhaps there are signs! Just like the road signs mentioned above are there to make us aware of approaching places, events, or obstacles, the fact is, although we have these signs, they may either be heeded or they can be ignored; sometimes it is intentional but other times we are simply oblivious to the signs

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right in front of us. For example, have you ever blown through a stop sign you didn't notice until it was too late to stop? We all have done this at some point! It may not have been intentional; perhaps you simply were not paying attention! If you are "lucky" and the intersection was clear, "no harm done" and you continue on, but sometimes there are serious consequences for not paying attention. A few years ago, my next-door neighbor became a Firefighter. She was only on the job a few weeks when the Fire Truck she was in was T-Boned at a cross intersection on the way to an emergency call. My neighbor was almost killed and took months to recover from her injuries. The person at fault I believe was killed, and others were seriously injured. Think of it... a big red fire truck with sirens blaring, the buzzer horn blaring strobe lights flashing and the driver blasted right through the intersection oblivious to all the of the apparent warnings. Ironically, many people go through life this way, "zoned out" just into themselves, not paying much attention to things happening around them. I used this illustration to show that sometimes not paying attention to things going on around you can have serious ramifications, perhaps deadly ramifications, but on the other hand, if you are not paying attention you might also miss opportunities to change your life in positive ways as well. You may miss some of the signs put in your path by God to guide you towards his plan for you to have a long and abundant life.

So far, we have touched on different kinds of signs we encounter in life, some for guidance, some, to warn us of danger. What does this have to do with the current Corona Virus, and what events or dangers they could be a warning of? Up to 27% of the Bible is prophetic in nature; those of you who have read my articles and teachings in the past are well aware that I believe we are seeing prophesy unfolding before our eyes almost daily. This may seem strange, but despite the prophetic nature of the Bible and the importance of it, most churches these day do not teach prophesy! In fact, many churches avoid the subject more than the Corona Virus! Ironically, that is also a fulfillment of End Time Prophecy in itself! Before I continue, I must explain the reason why Churches avoid the subject. Some pastors feel it will frighten their flock, some because of a lack of knowledge avoid it, and a significant number will refer to people in the past that made predictions of events, setting a specific time or date only to see the date come and go without fulfillment of the prophetic event they referred to. While many prophecies do predict specific dates, as for the "End Time" prophecies Jesus warned his disciples of, He told them that they would not know the specific date and time of His second coming and the end of the age. However, He did say that there would be many obvious signs as the time drew near. He also said that as the time drew closer there would be an increase in the number of signs and increase of the intensity of the signs! There would also be a "Convergence" of signs. In other words, we would become more aware that the signs were all falling into place, and that would set up the ultimate fulfillment of all of them. We entered the start of the convergence the day Israel became a nation again in 1948! That event was a major sign that the prophetic clock was ticking once again. Since that point, even the casual observer is able to discern the relationship between prophesy and the daily news. The clock had been held back for a time, as God is merciful, and He gave humankind more time to repent... much more time than we deserved by any measure. God does not want anyone to suffer His wrath, but He is a just God and He had decreed, "The wages of Sin is Death!" God does not go back on His Word! The clock was held back as the church matured giving ample time for the Word to get out concerning the gift of salvation through grace provided by the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ!

As for the "Preview" of things to come, Jesus told the disciples that in the End Times there will be a great Tribulation far worse than anything Humankind has ever experienced or ever will. Throughout history, we have seen examples of His wrath as God has at times lifted His "Hedge of Protection" that has kept us from destroying ourselves long ago.

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God has let us see glimpse of what it would be like without His protection in order to guide us to safety only found in Him. I believe the Corona Virus is another warning sign from God of what the world will soon experience as the Hedge is lifted for the last time. It will begin by the Church being removed from the earth, (the Rapture) and it will ultimately culminate with the total cleansing of evil from the earth. Imagine the earth without the Church with its resistance to evil... imagine the earth with no divine protection from disease and famine... There will still be opportunity during the Tribulation, to repent and to attain ultimate salvation but without anything to counter the persecution you will face, with evil out of control, you will more than likely be killed for that decision! If you turn to God now, you will be taken out of this earth to be with Him and the rest of the church before the Great Tribulation begins. If you refuse to heed the warnings... it will not be a pleasant experience. This warning could very well be your last warning. One last thought on the subject of Convergence... It has been debated a long time as to the status of the United States of America in relation to End Time Events. We read about all the countries involved in the Battle of Armageddon that come against Israel but the U.S.A. seems left out of the mix. The question often asked is, "Where is Israel's greatest ally the U.S.A. in this climactic battle?" Perhaps the Corona Virus answers that question. Could it be the economic devastation the U.S. faces from this Corona pandemic, is what brings the U.S.A. down economically to a point where it is unable to help Israel? If this is the case... it will all be over soon. Are You Ready?

### Mark 13:29-32 (KJV)

<sup>29</sup> So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, *even* at the doors. <sup>30</sup> Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. <sup>32</sup> But of that day and *that* hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.