

Preparation Before Judgment

In regards to conflict theology, the Bible refers to [The Day of the Lord](#) numerous times. Both directly and indirectly. As might be imagined, Scripture highly recommends spiritual preparation **before** judgment and [tribulation](#) strike:

- "I'm going to make a clean sweep of the earth, a thorough housecleaning." God's Decree. **"Men and women and animals, including birds and fish—Anything and everything that causes sin—will go, but especially people...** So get yourselves together. Shape up! You're a nation without a clue about what it wants. Do it **before** you're blown away like leaves in a windstorm, **Before** God's Judgment-anger sweeps down on you, **Before** God's Judgment Day wrath descends with full force. Seek God, all you quietly disciplined people who live by God's justice. **Seek God's right ways. Seek a quiet and disciplined life. Perhaps you'll be hidden on the Day of God's anger.**" Zephaniah 1:2-3, 2:1-3 MSG
- "For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. **If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.** At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. **See, I have told you ahead of time.**" Matthew 24:21-25 NIV

Even so, for most of us [blessed enough](#) to live in the [modern age](#), such concerns seem inconsequential or distant. Even in the face of ubiquitous and growing [worldliness](#) and [entitlement](#), [immortality](#) and [sin](#), few [modern Christians](#) take Scripture's [commands](#) and [conditions](#), revelations and [warnings](#) seriously.

Yet change may be coming.

By March 30, 2020 much of the U.S. government and social sector was in either mandated or voluntary shut down in reaction to the [COVID-19](#) pandemic. Shelter in place was already the new norm for many, if not most Americans. Not to mention much of the world. All but essential workers and movement was banned

or strongly discouraged. Three months later, on June 24, 2020, it was reported that globally there had been over 9 million confirmed cases causing 500,000 deaths.

The true origin and nature, impact and aftermath of [COVID-19](#) is still unknown. Its current and future ramifications on healthcare and economies, families and societies has yet to be seen. What should be clear to [wise Christians](#) is the intensity and scope of the crises.

Simply put, the [modern world](#) has *never* yet seen COVID-19's equal. Not since the [1918 Spanish Flu](#) has a pathogen killed so many. *Never* have billions been forced into extended lockdown. *Never* has the global economy been in such disarray. *Never* have non essential businesses, including religious institutions, been ordered to close their doors. *Never* have Christian churches around the world been shuttered on Easter Sunday.

During this period, direct and indirect pressure from the global pandemic continued to [stress nations both rich and poor](#). [Hardships on impoverished and war torn peoples](#) escalated. Levels of [unrest and distress continued to rise](#). The threat of present and [future global pandemics](#) was daily news. Economic tribulation [reverberated worldwide](#). [Forty three million](#) sought unemployment benefits in the U.S. alone. Coast to coast [rioting and looting](#), violence and murder over the death of [career criminal George Floyd](#) and [others](#) were prevalent from coast to coast. The partisan divide [deepened dangerously](#).

Many like [Matt Walsh](#), a cultural and political commentator, pinpointed glaring lapses in judgment and common sense. They underscored patters of extreme, if not [unconstitutional, overreach](#) by government officials. They joined with the dissenting voices of experts and [physicians](#) in highlighting needless risks and deaths, particularly [among the elderly](#).

The impact of such unprecedented global distress has been heightened by the possible alinement with not only end time Biblical prophecy, but [conspiracy theories](#) and/or possible [deep state](#) plots. Some of which appear more plausible than ever before. For example, take the previous non issue of [contract tracing](#) already implemented or being serious considered by nations around the world. Given unprecedented global economic and institutional shutdowns are now standard procedure, mandating continual monitoring of people's movements may be a foregone conclusion. While smartphones have been used, an

implanted chip or even nano technology included in a required vaccination, could close any loopholes.

This and other steps may seem all the more justified should there be a [second wave of COVID-19](#), or [future viral pandemics](#). The need for governments to manage, if not quell, [rioting and looting](#), [civil disobedience](#) and unrest provide additional compelling arguments for universal chip implantation and tracing. *An option made all the more possible with the rollout of 5G wireless networks.* Such advances may produce a plethora of [positive](#) and [negative](#) potentials. With newer and better technology, a cashless or even card-less society might lessen viral transmission and provide other benefits. From verifying immigration status to reducing tax evasion. Genuine [smart homes](#) and [self driving cars](#) could be just around the corner. Crime, from speeding to murder, may be more readily resolved.

On the other hand, there are [serious health](#) and [privacy concerns](#) with tech tracing assisted by widespread 5G distribution. More disconcerting still, for millennia the Bible's emphatically warned against receiving the impending [Mark of the Beast](#). An implant, used not only for commercial purposes, but as a control mechanism with irreversible social and spiritual ramifications:

- "The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. **It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.**" Revelation 13:15-17 NIV
- "A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: **"If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath.** They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. **And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.**" This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the

Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.” Revelation 14:9-13 NIV

It's not hard to imagine a scenario where the primary, secondary and tertiary global effects of COVID-19 play a significant role in the [beginning of sorrows](#) warned of in the gospels, epistles and [Revelation](#). Which again, [according to Scripture](#) and contrary to modern opinion, [take place before](#) rather than [after the Rapture](#).

Combined with a variety of other factors, it does seem as if the [stage is being set](#) for Revelation's final fulfillment. Consider the reemergence of the nation Israel. A key player in Revelation's drama, yet in the Apostle John's day Israel had long been ground under the boot of Rome. An imperial global empire at the time showing no signs of weakening. For John to suggest Israel would become the center of world wide attention was ludicrous. All the more so after 70 A.D. when the Romans literally wiped it off the map. *Yet in 1947 A.D. Israel reappeared in the same location. Never before or since has a nation having vanished for two millennia suddenly reemerged. Israel's resurrection as a nation, not to mention its global notoriety, is unprecedented in human history.*

Another fearful sign of the times has been the [creation and stockpiling](#) of inconceivably cataclysmic [nuclear weapons](#). Not to mention other [weapons of mass destruction](#). A large scale thermonuclear or biological war may well fulfill one or more of [Revelation's horrendous events](#). Seen from a Biblical perspective, might today's dire circumstances and looming global disasters serve in part as God warning mankind of even [greater temporal](#) and [eternal calamity](#)?

In this light, the question becomes, how much louder must Christ knock?

- Write to Laodicea, to the Angel of the church. God's Yes, the Faithful and Accurate Witness, the First of God's creation, says: **“I know you inside and out, and find little to my liking. You're not cold, you're not hot—far better to be either cold or hot! You're stale. You're stagnant. You make me want to vomit.** You brag, 'I'm rich, I've got it made, I need nothing from anyone,' oblivious that in fact you're a pitiful, blind beggar, threadbare and homeless. Here's what I want you to do: Buy your gold from me, gold that's been through the refiner's fire. Then you'll be rich. Buy your clothes from me, clothes designed in Heaven. You've gone around half-naked long enough. And buy medicine for your eyes from me so you

can see, *really* see. **The people I love, I call to account—prod and correct and guide so that they'll live at their best. Up on your feet, then! About face! Run after God! “Look at me. I stand at the door. I knock. If you hear me call and open the door, I'll come right in and sit down to supper with you.** Conquerors will sit alongside me at the head table, just as I, having conquered, took the place of honor at the side of my Father. That's my gift to the conquerors! Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches.”
Revelation 3:14-22 MSG

While many object, Laodicea would seem to be the mirror image of **modern Christianity**. We are affluent and educated, cradled by technology and pillowed in pleasure. More than **all previous generations** combined we appear "**rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.**" Up to and including doctrines laced with **easy believism** and **cheep grace**, often confusing **presumption for faith**. Bordering on **profanity**.

Jesus issued serious pronouncements, including **stern warnings**, to Revelation's seven churches. Each representing a 1st century church, a style of fellowship and a church age. Not only does Laodicea appear a carbon copy of **Churchianity**, but as the last of the seven, it may well represent the final church age destined for many of the hardships comprising the **Great Tribulation**. A theory that goes a long way in explaining why the worst of Revelation's churches is **offered the greatest reward**. By persevering through **unequaled suffering**, to the point of **overcoming the Antichrist through martyrdom**, they (we) will certainly have earned it.

In this regards, let us again consider the question, how much louder must Christ knock? Scripture explains, "**For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.**" And as the Apostle Paul reminded his beloved Corinthians, "**But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment.**"