in spite of the coronavirus that is

raging in epidemic proportions around

the world there is a God that is still

in control and we're going to talk about

that this morning I'm going to take a

look at this virus and its widespread

nature we're gonna raise some very

difficult and very tough questions

questions like where is God in all of

this where is God when we suffer where's

God in the sickness we're gonna look at

this virus in the prophetic sense what

does it indicate to us from the eyes of

Bible prophecy what did Jesus say how is

pestilence the word pestilence used in

the Bible and do we get any insight

there and then how can we deal with fear

at this time the virus is spreading

rapidly but in my thinking fear is

spreading more rapidly so how do you

deal with the fear and how do you help

other people in the context of that fear

so we're gonna look at some of those big

questions so let's bow our heads and

pray and then we'll study the Word of

God together father in heaven we are

thankful that in the midst of a crisis

that you've not forgotten this world

that you're there they are to comfort

and to strength strengthen us they're to

encourage us give to us a sense of the

prophetic scenario help us see things

not through the eyes of the news media

but through the eyes of the prophetic

word of God enable us to sense of God

that is in control God's that's not

caught by surprise

a God that's big enough to handle these

things situations but a God that's small

enough to live in our hearts and give us

strength we pray in Christ's name Amen

the world is in a crisis of epidemic

proportions

fast moving virus is speeding with

breakneck speed around the world country

after country has been affected it's

very difficult to keep up with the

statistics as clear as we can tell up to

this moment over 250,000 people have

been infected with the virus and at

least 18,000 have died but yet even

those numbers are incomplete because we

do not have adequate test results back

things are developing so rapidly with

kovat 19 that it really is difficult to

keep pace the numbers are expected to

rapidly increase in the next few weeks

we are seeing life changed as we know it

now the kovat 19 is a strain of the

virus that we haven't seen before

presently there are no vaccines for it

that are currently on the market and

there are no scientifically tested

remedies there are a few things that

have surfaced this week that may show

some promise but really no tested

remedies yet international borders have

been closed schools have been shut down

and students are now on online some 250

million students in the United States of

America affected other countries

affected as well movie theatres

amusement parks entertainment venues all

shut down businesses have mandated their

workers in many instances to work from

home restaurants and into centers of

social entertainment closed when you

look at really what's taking place and

when you look at really what's happening

in our society today it is unprecedented

absolutely unprecedented in our society

now the economic ramifications are

significant there are many people that

predict that unemployment levels have

been

quite low will rise dramatically in fact

the secretary of the Treasury indicated

that they may rise as high and some

economists don't think it's gonna be

this is 20% if this keeps raging as it

is reports of the coronavirus in the

news media create fear for tens of

thousands of people so here's the

question how can we be filled with hope

and not fear where's God in all this are

these judgments of God or are they just

random accidental happenings what does

the Bible actually say about pestilences

and pandemics how can we overcome fear

and be filled with hope in times of

crisis and lastly is this a sign of the

end of the world let me assure you first

that God is not the author of suffering

sickness or disease I'd like you to take

your Bible and go back to the beginnings

because we will never understand the

endings unless we go back to the book of

beginnings in the book of Genesis God

created the world and after God creates

the world in six literal days the Bible

says in Genesis chapter one and if we

never if we don't understand something

about a larger controversy between good

and evil

if we don't frame the disasters the

pestilence is the earthquakes famines

fire flood if we don't frame all of

these catastrophes in the larger context

of a great controversy in the universe

we end up confused we end up not clearly

understanding what's going on so let's

go back to the book of beginnings the

book of Genesis and later we'll go to

the book of Matthew and Jesus endtime

prophecies in Luke we'll go to the book

of Revelation but we begin in the book

of Genesis

God has created the world and at the end

of the

six days of creation verse 31 Genesis 1

God saw everything that he had made it

indeed it was very good so the evening

in the morning with a sixth day so at

the end of creation no sickness no

suffering no death no heartache no

sorrow God looks out over the world and

God says it is very good not a little

bit good but but very good so the world

that God created was not a world where

pestilence is raged it was not a world

where pandemics took the lives of people

it's not a world where human beings had

fever vomiting sickness it was a world

that God said was very good sickness was

not part of God's original plan his plan

was for earth to be populated with

people who were happy healthy and holy

sin was an intruder and it came to our

world introduced by Lucifer a fallen

angel when God created beings of vast

intelligence beings of dazzling

brightness angelic beings he gave them

the power of choice because to take away

the power of choice is to make mere

Ottomans mere robots to take away the

power of choice is to take away the

capacity to love because love must come

from choice one of those angels a rebel

angel rebelled against God that rebel

angel came to earth that was created

perfect by God with no sickness

suffering heartache or death that evil

angel led Adam and Eve into sin and to

disobedience to God he claimed that God

was unfair God was unjust that God was a

vindictive tyrant that God did not have

their best interest in view when Adam

and Eve sinned the Bible says sin is

separation from God and as the result of

that they opened a door that God wanted

forever shut the door of sickness

suffering heartache and death because

separated from God we are separated from

the source of life the source of

goodness the source of joy the source of

health so sickness came but when

Adam and Eve sinned God promised that he

would send the Messiah you see Satan

uses now don't miss this Satan uses

sickness suffering disease pestilence

natural disasters as weapons to

discredit God

so when disaster comes when pestilence

comes when earthquake comes when

heartache and famine comes what do

people do they say where is God at all

this

they say if God is all-powerful why

doesn't he stop this if God is love what

doesn't he deal with this and so Satan

uses those weapons to discredit God so

God knew this was going to happen so in

the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve

sinned God made promised them he said a

messiah will come and this Messiah will

reveal what God is like he will reveal

for a waiting world and a watching

universe what God is like so 2,000 years

go by 3,000 years go by 4000 years go by

and the Messiah comes and Christ

Tabernacles in human flesh and the Bible

says in Luke 19 verse 10 the Son of man

has come to seek and to save that which

is lost so Jesus comes and why does he

come to reveal the Father's love every

time Jesus touches blind eyes and

they're opened every time he touches

deaf ears and they're unstop every time

he touches a withered man's arm and it's

healed every time he causes the lame to

jump and run again every time he takes a

person who's died and raises them from

the dead he is saying this is what God

is like

God is like this he's not the way Satan

has made him out to be he's not this

vindictive judge he's not one inflicting

upon the human race sickness our

suffering this is the result of a planet

in rebellion so when we see Jesus when

we see Jesus healing the sick when we

see Jesus breaking the bread and Phebe

the feeding the 5000 when we see Jesus

raising the dead we see Jesus calming

the storm what's that about it's about

the God that has control over nature the

God who care

when people are hungry because he feeds

them 5000 on the hillside of Galilee

it's about the God that wants people to

be in health and the great summary of

Christ's ministry is found in John

chapter 10 so Jesus comes to show what

God is like Jesus comes to reveal that

God is not the author of sickness

suffering heartache sorrow we look here

at John chapter 10 and we start with

verse 10 one of the most magnificent

verses in all the Bible John chapter 10

and verse 10 the thief does not come

except to steal and to kill and destroy

so it is the work of Satan the thief who

has come into the human race whose

stolen Dominion the thief has not come

except to steal to kill destroy but

Jesus says I've come that they might

have life they might have it more

abundantly God created a world at the

beginning that was very good Jesus came

to reveal the character of God and God's

longing for you and me is we have life

in abundance life in super abundance

life of joy and of health you say where

is God in a pandemic like the

coronavirus where is God remember that

text in Genesis 1:21 37 he has created

the world very good where is God he's

with every physician that is ministering

at a hospital bed to somebody that's

suffering

he's with every nurse that

self-sacrificing Lee lovingly goes out

to serve he is with every grocer who

distributes food to the poor he is with

every single teacher who online teachers

or students wherever there is goodness

there is God and even if men and women

don't recognize that every good gift and

perfect gift comes from the Father of

lights

where is God in all this he's with every

neighbor who goes and unselfishly brings

food to some Widow that doesn't have

food

with every neighbor that lovingly takes

care of somebody else's can so they can

go to work where is God he is with the

goodness in the world because the human

heart does not originate that goodness

that's where God is where is God

he's with everybody that suffers he's

with there to encourage them to he'll

give them hope give them joy point them

to his goodness and his love and to a

better world where is God he is there

now you may ask the question what does

the Bible say about pestilences and we

need to delve into that as well the

Bible uses the word pestilence is 81

times it uses the word pestilences as a

as a large word the word pestilence is

in the Bible

is not a narrow word it's used in four

different ways and so let's look at some

of the ways that the word pestilence is

is used in Scripture first the word

pestilence is used in Scripture as the

natural result of living in a world

separate from God now obviously Satan is

behind all this but we live in a world

where viruses and pathogens grow God has

nothing to do with their origin but

because we live in a world of sin at a

broken world there is suffering and

disease an illustration of that in the

Bible is job did job sin to bring upon

the pestilence upon himself not at all

was Satan behind all that certainly but

was this pestilence a physical sickness

that is the natural result of germ and

etc certainly it was job lived in a

sinful world and as the result of that

suffered disease we live in a world

separated from God's original plan of

health and wholeness it's a world of

pathogens and viruses and germs

there is quite a remarkable statement

written by an author that I have great

confidence in in a book called the great

controversy if you don't have a copy of

that book the great controversy it's

worth it to go online and get one it

deals with everything from the fall of

Lucifer down through the ages and God's

eternal plan to save mankind in that

book on page 589 and I know many of you

will have it the book great converse is

in accidents and calamities by sea and

by land so a great accidents by sea in

great conflagrations what's that

conflagrations fires in fierce tornadoes

and terrific hail storms tornadoes have

we seen any of those recently

conflagrations have we seen any of those

recently fires you think of the

California fires you think of the

tornadoes in the Southeast United States

in floods cyclones we've seen those

around the world tidal waves tsunamis

earthquakes have we seen that in every

place and in a thousand forms Satan is

exercising his power why does he do this

to bring suffering upon the human race

to discredit God that's one of his great

goals but listen he sweeps away the

ripening harvest that's Africa and

famine and distress follow then I was

interested in this fascinating statement

he imparts to the air

a deadly taint and thousands perished by

the pestilence these visitations are to

become more and more frequent and

disastrous later we'll show how Jesus

predicts this as well but I was

interested in that particular statement

he imparts the deadly taint of the air

what is the coronavirus we are told by

scientists and medical professionals

that the corona virus is an airborne

virus little droplets that one can

either breathe surprisingly enough they

can go in through the eyes the nose or

the mouth they also can

transmitted through touch so if somebody

sneezes on their hands they open a

doorknob these viruses can last three

four five night up to nine minutes on a

door so you open the door on suspecting

Lee then you touch your mouth I'm not

touching my mom you touch your mouth and

you can develop this corona virus but

it's airborne even some of the recent

studies and I don't want to be dogmatic

because there's so much we do not know

about the corona virus but some of the

recent things I've been reading and some

of the physicians medical specialists

I've been talking about indicate that

the virus can actually live for a few

minutes in the air so you may not even

see that person who's been coughing in

the air three minutes later they're gone

you pass by so this is a very very

fast-moving virus Satan imparts his

taint to the air you know if you get say

the common flu the average person can

pet the ratio is one to two so you can

pass that on to two other people but in

the corona virus the ratio can be up to

five other people that one person can

pass it on to then they can pass it on

so just multiply so incredibly rapidly

notice what this reference says it says

again he imparts to the air a date a

deadly taint and thousands perish you

say wait a minute that is that's amazing

it is why does the Bible use the term

pestilence this and how does it use

pestilence four ways first the natural

result of living in a sinful world with

Satan behind it but there is a second

way this may surprise you there are

times that in the Bible pestilence is

used to describe an activity of God upon

the wicked we find that in Egypt the

Israelites were in Egyptian bondage

scripture talks of

the ten plagues that come out Egypt were

they merely natural disasters they

certainly were that but the Bible

describes them as the plagues that God

sent on Egypt why God spoke gently to

Egypt the Israelites were under the

taskmasters of Israel but then God spoke

again and again and again lovingly

sometimes God speaks lovingly but

sometimes in thunderous tones so that's

to get our attention

so God long to get the Egyptians

attention so that's another way that

word pestilence is used in the Bible

there's a third way that pestilence is

used in the Bible so first it's the

natural result of the sinful world

Satan's behind it or second sometimes in

the Bible that's used as the judgments

of God upon a wicked world to get their

attention to draw them to himself

thirdly sometimes the Bible uses the

term pestilence when God simply

withdraws his protective power do you

remember the story in the Bible of

Israel wandering through the wilderness

for forty years and they were protected

by God but then they rebelled against

God and what happened God simply Reed

withdrew his presence and snakes bit

them and the venomous part of the snakes

killed them now there is a statement

again that is very interested in a

little letter that was written by one

with real spiritual insight it's a

manuscript vol 19 page 382 and it says

this famines will increase did Jesus

talk about increasing famines he did

pestilences will sweep away thousands is

that happening today

it is Jesus predictions are coming true

this author comments on that dangers are

all around us from the powers without

and satanic workings within but the

restraining power of God is now being

exercised so what's the point God is now

restraining the full onslaught of evil

we see a few of these satanic manifest

stations but this is preparing for a

time of enormous crisis just before the

return of our Lord and so we see these

things developing does the Bible talk

about this it does now we went in the

first book of the Bible God is very good

we noticed through Scripture that

there's a controversy between good and

evil and Jesus love is revealed in the

context of that controversy in all the

goodness we see in the world in Christ

protection but we're looking at this

reality that right now God is

restraining right now God is holding

back this full onslaught of demonic

power we go to Revelation a revelation

is the last book in the Bible we go to

Revelation the seventh chapter a

revelation chapter 7 and we're looking

there at this remarkable prediction

Revelation chapter 7 after these things

verse 1 I saw four angels standing on

the four corners of the earth the number

4 in the book of Revelation represents

universality so here God Himself says

that he himself it will hold back the

universal onslaught of evil after these

things I saw four angels standing on the

four corners of the earth holding the

four winds of the earth now in the book

of Revelation wind indicates destruction

you find that interpreted in the Book of

Jeremiah you find it also in the Book of

Daniel that wind represents power like

you can imagine the wind of a tornado

cyclone hurricane so four winds of the

earth that's that's power that's

destruction so what are the Angels doing

they're holding back the winds of

destruction they're holding back the

final onslaught of evil

why and when will that be released verse

2 I saw another angel ascending from the

east having the seal of the Living God

and he cried with a loud voice to the

four angels to whom it was granted to

harm the earth in the sea do not harm

the earth

to see in the trees till we've sealed

the servants of God on their foreheads

now in the Bible the forehead represents

the forebrain so what is this seal

deeply within the conscious what what is

this final issue that has to do what is

this seal well in Ephesians chapter 4 it

says we are sealed by the Holy Spirit so

what does the Holy Spirit want to do in

our minds again this book great

controversy and we're looking here

rather this time the fourth Bible

commentary I'm reading a comment from

fourth Bible commentary not Great God of

mercy

Paigey 1161 so if you're taking notes

forthe Bible commentary page 1161 we're

talking about what is this this seal

what's the essence of this seal that

takes place in the famines earthquakes

fires floods and pestilence we see a

foretaste of what's coming in the future

just before the coming of Jesus but let

me read about the seal just as soon as

the people of God are sealed in their

foreheads it is not a seal or mark that

can be seen but notice this but a

settling into the truth both

intellectually and spiritually so they

cannot be moved just as soon as God's

people are sealed and prepared for the

shaking it will come now notice what is

this sealing according to this reference

in the fourth Bible Commentary 1161 that

harmonizes with revelation 7 and

ephesians 4 the ceiling is a settling

into the truth in other words we are

anchored in God's Word we are grounded

in God's message we are filled with

God's love and the Sabbath the sign of

God's creative Authority is the external

manifestation of that inner settling

into God's truth in other words we are

going to face something much worse than

the corona virus that's coming and God

is leading us through his grace by his

power through his strength he is leading

us to prepare today to have our hearts

one with God to have our minds filled

with the Word of God we have heard a new

term it's called social distancing being

distant from one another but if this is

a time for social distancing this is a

time for divine nearness it's a time for

divine nearness it's a time that God is

leading us to be close to him it's a

time that God is leading us our hearts

one with him because there is no

security in this world however large

your revenue however larger bank account

it can be gone in a moment whatever your

health is you do not know if there's

some coronavirus raging in your body

however secure you may be in one minute

you can be insecure there's something

beyond this life and that is Jesus

Christ in Christ there is security in

Christ there is assurance in Christ

there's confidence

what is this sealing it is the settling

in to a relationship with Christ so that

when everything is shaken that can be

shaken we will not be moved because our

confidence is not in us it is in him

social distancing yes but divine

nearness certainly we've looked at three

aspects of pestilences one but

pestilence has come because we live in a

sinful world two pestilences take place

at times limited times when nations

rebel against God and they're God's

judgments to bring them closer to him

pestilences occur three when we take a

look at God Reed withdrawing his divine

favor

now the Bible also uses pestilences in

the context of a sign of this coming of

Christ now let me assure you that there

are two extremes we have to avoid here

the first extreme is this it is the

extreme of over sensationalism it's the

extreme of saying here's the coronavirus

Jesus must be coming next week or next

year or very soon he must be coming

right now

not so simply because we've had the

coronavirus doesn't mean Jesus coming

this week or next week now here's the

other extreme which is just as bad maybe

worse well we've got the current uh

virus but we've always had suffering and

we're going to get through this and this

has no relationship at all to last day

events so let's take a look at

pestilences in the bible and try to try

to frame this in a logical way based on

the prophetic word which you're taking

your Bible and turning to Matthew

chapter 24 what do we read when we read

about these pestilences let me be very

plain when you look at scripture

pestilences are one of the signs of the

coming of Christ so what should this

current coronavirus tell us it should

say we are living in a period called the

last days of Earth's history when

Christ's coming is near how near we do

not know but what we see is the table

being set what we see is the stage being

arranged in Matthew chapter 24 and we're

going to take a look at verse 7 Matthew

24 verse 7 Jesus himself Christ the

Messiah is giving his end time signs

Matthew chapter 24 we're looking at

verse 7 for nation will rise against

nation so Jesus predicts

instability about nations Kingdom

against Kingdom now this is not a single

war because down through history we've

had multiple wars but might I remind you

that in the 20th century we've had World

War one in World War two the first time

that the whole world was engulfed in war

may also remind you that never before in

history has the human race at the

capacity to destroy itself so we see

these fulfillments Kingdom against

Kingdom there will be famines now

there's always been famine

in history but Jesus is saying that

we're gonna see all these things taking

place on a universal scale with rapid

increasing frequency so that saying this

de'cine is being set notice he says

pestilences and earthquakes in various

places now does he say then the end is

going to come right after that happens

what's the next verse verse 8 read it

with me at home you see it all these are

what the beginning of the Sorrows so

what Jesus is saying to us is that when

you see the wars and rumors of wars when

you see the rise of kingdoms well you

see nations fighting against nations

when you see natural disasters

earthquakes famines and pestilence know

that you're entering into a period of

time known as end time as as far as

Jesus is concerned pestilences are part

of an end time scenario now does that

mean that Cova 19 virus that has ravaged

the world as a sign of Jesus coming this

is what it means it does not stand alone

as a sign but it's part of a larger

picture that should be calling us to

preparation that should be calling us to

our knees that should be calling us to

fill our hearts with the Word of God

that should be calling us to sense the

very presence of God in the light of

Christ's prediction in the prophetic

word famines will increase natural

disasters will increase just as in

Noah's day when Noah's generation filled

up the cup of iniquity and these natural

disaster took place rain came down so we

can expect to see the increase of these

natural disasters increase the

pestilences increase of famines fires

floods in the world now how do we how

Beacon how are we kept from being

consumed by worry and anxiety

what can deliver us from crippling fear

or might it be more accurate to say who

can deliver us from more crippling fear

at this time how can we face these

issues confidently in the promises of

God first

take your Bible and turn to Hebrews

chapter 13 verse 5 how can we be kept

from crippling paralyzing fear how can

we be anchors of stability and pillars

of hope in this generation how can we

share that hope with others are we

intellectual ignoramuses that simply

stick our heads in the sand and say well

this is just natural phenomena and don't

worry about it are we on the other hand

going to be worried and paralyzed by

that fear God's Word has some answers I

want to look with you at God's Word and

the answers that he has to fear once you

grasp clearly in your mind the answers

from the Word of God you will be an

anchor of stability and a pillar of hope

Hebrews chapter 13 verse 5 but your

conduct be without covetousness and be

content with the things you have for he

himself has said I will never leave you

or forsake you so we may boldly say

another word for boldly in the Bible is

confidently if you have your Bible read

it together with me wherever you are

okay you ready the Lord is my what

helper I will not fear what man can do

to me what delivers us from fear

somebody that is bigger than you and I

holds us in his hand the Lord is my

helper and I will not fear now Jesus

describes in Luke chapter 21 two classes

of people this is Jesus endtime sermon

this endtime sermon is recorded in all

of the Gospels Matthew Mark Luke and

John

but the reason Jesus records it here in

Luke chapter 21 dr. Luke you remember

Luke was a physician and he wrote the

book of Luke each of these Gospels see

things in a little different way and so

all four of them put it into perspective

Luke chapter 21

notice what happens we look at verse 25

in 26 and 27 and 28 and there will be

signs in the Sun the moon and the stars

Jesus is speaking on earth distress of

Nations with perplexity nations are

certain to see distress now aren't they

with the coronavirus with perplexity

what's perplexity it's confusion it's

not having really the answers with

perplexity the sea and the waves roaring

now notice verse 26 men's hearts what

does it say failing them for what fear

are some people's hearts failing them

for fear today they sure are and the

expectation of those things which are

coming on the earth for the powers of

heaven will be shaken then they'll see

the Son of man coming in the clouds with

power and great glory we're going to

come back to that verse 28 now when

these things begin to happen in other

words when you see these pestilences

raging when these things begin to happen

when you see these earthquakes famines

fires foot look up and lift up your

heads because your redemption draws nigh

now here is the issue if you spend your

time looking where this world is looking

if you are consumed with the news media

and that's filling your heart to the

exclusion of no don't misunderstand we

meet we need to be in form but to the

exclusion of the Word of God if we look

where they look we will fear their fear

but it says what does the scripture say

now when these things begin to come to

pass look up and lift up your heads

because your redemption draws nigh when

we look to heaven sanctuary we see Jesus

and we discover the strength in his

promises in Christ we find confidence in

Christ we experience assurance in Christ

were lifted above life's uncertainties

and concerns and our hearts are filled

with security in the one who loves us

with for lasting undying unfathomable

exhaustless endless love in Christ we

are delivered from our fears here is a

wonderful statement in a book called

evangelist

page 65 that I just came across it says

in the closing work in what work

everybody what work a closing work we

shall meet with perplexities that we do

not know how to deal with but let us not

forget that the three great powers of

heaven are working that a divine hand is

on the wheel and that God will bring his

purpose is to pass the devil may tamper

with the laboratories of nature he may

bring up out through bats wild animals

synthetic means I don't know he may

bring about this coronavirus but God

will use even the devil's masa nation

not is not responsible for and does not

indeed initiate but God will use those

who accomplish his purposes this world

in the midst of war famine suffering

strife is still in the hands of God now

here is another statement from a

magazine that I picked up signs of the

times October 9 1901 by one who wrote

with prophetic insight it's a comment on

that Luke 21 that we were just reading

and here's what it says men's hearts are

failing them for fear remember we read

to Luke 21 for the things that are

coming upon the earth but those who

believe in God will hear his voice amid

the storm saying it is I be not afraid

do you know that that expression fear

not it is I be not afraid or do not fear

if you take all those statements

together now I haven't counted them but

I read an author the other night who did

he said there are 365 times in the Bible

where if you take all the statements on

do not fear and put them together they

are there hey you know what I thought

about that

that's one do not fear for every day of

the year and if I got a do not fear for

every day of the year what does that

mean means I do not fear right

why not because I know my life is in the

hands of God and I know God's in control

of this universe it may look like nobody

is in control but the good news is

God is in control in one of the most

reassuring promises in the Bible Isaiah

encourages us echoing the words of the

Lord Isaiah 41 verse 10 Isaiah 41 verse

10

don't miss this Isaiah 41 verse 10 365

verses in the Bible on don't fear Isaiah

41:10

fear not for I am with you be not

dismayed for I am your God I will

strengthen you yes I will help you I

will uphold you with my righteous right

hand what does God say he says do not be

fearful do not be afraid because you are

in my hands I'm gonna strengthen you I'm

gonna lift you up I'm gonna hold you in

this time now look our faith transcends

sickness suffering our take and death

and grasp the hand of the Living God

does that mean that if we have faith we

will never get the coronavirus or any

other sickness it doesn't mean that at

all it means our faith transcends that

it means that whether we are sick or

well whether we have disease or whether

we are healthy that we believe in a God

that is with us a God that will never

leave us a God that has this world in

his hands and a God that is coming again

soon to deliver us now a classic example

of that in the Bible is job job chapter

19 it's really important to understand

the theology of faith faith is not

believing that what I want to happen is

going to happen if I believe enough

faith is trusting God in joy and in

sorrow faith is trusting God in sickness

and in health

trip faith is trusting God in poverty

in adversity and wealth and riches so

faith is a relationship with God in

which I know that he will never do me

harm and that I can trust him in a world

of sickness suffering and disease that

was the faith of job let's look at that

job chapter 19 verse 25 job 19 verse 25

what does job say for I know not I think

not I guess not perhaps not maybe I know

that my redeemer lives job says these

this plague this pestilence has affected

my book flicked in my body job says my

accountant my my finances have gone bust

I've lost much cattle lost my home lost

my crops I've lost everything but what

does he say I know that my redeemer

lives and he shall stand at the last day

on the earth and after my skin is

destroyed this I know that in my flesh I

shall see God who I shall see for myself

my eyes shall behold and not another how

my heart yearns within me job says my

heart is yearning within me for the day

that Christ will come the day that I can

stand with him in eternity the day that

there will be no sickness suffering

heartache or death my heart yearns

within me look what Jobe says in job 13

verse 15 job 13 verse 15 faith

transcends what is faith does not see

what is it sees what will be faith does

not live in the now it lives in the

eternity faith transcends time and it

enables us to live while we walk this

weary world in the very atmosphere of

God's presence job 13 verse 15 job lived

a life of trust in the God who promised

that he'd be with him each moment of the

day and who promised that there would be

a better tomorrow job chapter 13 verse

15 it says though he slay me though he

slay me job says yet will I trust him

though he slay me

II though I I will trust him

does not believe I repeat that we will

never get sick we live in a broken world

and although we may do the very best we

can by the choices we make to be healthy

sickness may have flicked us but in

sickness we grasp his promise of his

abiding presence he's with us in health

he's with us in sickness

he's with us when there is sickness and

disease all around us and he does not

leave us when a virus attacks our body

as the old song says just what I need

him Jesus is near now one of the reasons

that we do not fear here it is is

because we know the endgame

what do we know everybody we know how

this story is going to end we know the

end game jesus said John 14 verse 1 2 3

if you know it wherever you are say it

with me if you don't this follow along

Jesus said let not your heart be what

troubled let not your heart be troubled

don't be fearful let not your heart be

troubled you believe in God believe also

in me in my father's house jesus said

are many mansions and if it were not so

I would have told you I go to prepare a

place for you and if I go and prepare a

place for you Jesus says I will come

again Jesus is coming again that is the

hope we know the end game Jesus will

return we know the end game there'll be

no sickness suffering sorrow heartache

or death we know the end game Jesus

Christ is going to be returned soon we

look beyond today to tomorrow we look

beyond sickness to health we look beyond

pestilences that are carried through the

air to the pure air of eternity where

there will be no more pestilences we

know the endgame Revelation chapter 21

here is the endgame the Bible begins

with a perfect world in Genesis 1 and 2

the Bible ends with a perfect world in

Revelation chapter 21 in Revelation

chapter 22 here between the pages of the

Bible is this great controversy what

gives us hope what boys up our spirits

what income

as our hearts what puts a smile on our

face what puts a sparkle in our eyes

what puts a spring in Our Strength's it

is Christ is with us it is we know the

end game

revelation 21 verse 4 God will wipe away

every tear from their eyes there shall

be no more death nor sorrow nor cry

there shall be no more pain for the

former things are passed away

the coronavirus will not have the last

word Jesus Christ will sickness will not

have the last word Jesus Christ will

disease will not have the last word

Jesus Christ will suffering will not

have the last word Jesus Christ will for

he will come again that is our hope keep

looking keep looking looking to Jesus

today look to him for strength look to

him for courage look to him for peace

look to him for freedom from fear but

look beyond what is - what will be will

you open your heart just now wherever

you are and say Jesus I can't face this

by my own myself I don't know what's in

my body

I don't know what's gonna happen to my

job the economy I don't know what's

gonna happen

in the future but I know this you will

never leave me and you'll never forsake

me that you're there to strengthen to

encourage do you want to say Lord make

me a blessing at this time help me be a

minister of hope where there's

hopelessness help me to reach out and

touch somebody and bless them help me do

those practical things that my neighbors

and my friends need but Lord draw me

close to you keep me by faith looking

for that day that you will come so that

I can live with you forever in all

eternity

would you like to pray that prayer with

me as we pray father in heaven thank you

so much that you're not the originator

of sickness suffering heartache or death

thank you so much

that you revealed yourself in Christ

that where as goodness there is God

where there is love there is God where

there is health and healing there is God

father bless all those medical

professionals that are working on the

frontlines bless those scientists that

are working to find healing for this

disease vaccines bless every godly

businessman that's helping to support

their business their their employees

bless us as church members as Christians

to do what we can in our neighborhood

but farther in this time of social

distancing help us pause take some deep

breaths and draw closer to God we thank

you that one day sickness and suffering

and heartache and disease will be over

one day Jesus will come and we can live

with him through all eternity thank you

Lord that we can look forward to that

hope may it burn in our hearts in

Christ's name Amen

[Music]