

Hope During the Coronavirus Pandemic

What does the Bible say about why these things happen, what is God's response to it, and what is my hope in life and death?

Daily Discovery Questions:

1. What does this teach us about God?
2. What does this teach us about ourselves and other people?
3. How will you obey this passage personally, today?
4. Who can you share these verses with today?

Reading Plan:

WHY DO THINGS LIKE THIS HAPPEN?

- Genesis 3:1-24 (Adam and Eve's rebellion curses people and the world)
 - The world we all want used to be the reality (Genesis 1) and will one day be the reality again (Revelation 22). In the meantime, what went wrong? Why is there sin, suffering, disease, and fighting? Genesis 3:1-24 shows us why the world is broken.
 - As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?
- Romans 8:18-23 (Creation itself is subjected to the curse of sin)
 - The impact of Genesis 3:1-24 wasn't limited to Adam and Eve, but to their children and to all of creation. Romans 8:18-23 explains how all of creation has been subjected to the futility of the curse of sin and is groaning for redemption. Disasters and disease are sometimes just part of living in a broken world.
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- Job 1:1 to 2:10 (There is an unseen drama playing out behind the scenes)
 - There is an unseen drama playing out behind the scenes - a spiritual reality that is just as authentic as what we can see and touch. God has enemies and those enemies desire to hurt God and his people, but God is sovereign through it all!
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- Romans 1:18-32 (Humanity reaps the consequence of our sin)
 - What can be seen about God - his eternal power and wisdom - is evident by looking at creation, but rather than learning from God's general revelation humanity covers its ears. By rejecting God, mankind invites disasters upon itself.

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- John 9:1-7 (God can be glorified in all situations)
 - The refreshing thing for us is that in the midst of difficult times, God is always able to bring glory to himself!
 - As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?

WHAT IS GOD'S RESPONSE TO A BROKEN WORLD?

- Romans 3:10-26 (All have sinned, but Jesus can save)
 - Even though this world is a broken place, and we are broken people, God is doing a great work to bring salvation, hope, and good news to all who will hear and respond.
 - As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?
- Ephesians 2:1-10 (While dead in our sin, God loves us with great love)
 - The reality of brokenness and judgment shouldn't be discouraging to us, but eye-opening. Once we realize that problem, only then can we see the beautiful, glorious solution that God has given!
 - As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?
- Romans 5:1-21 (Death reigned since Adam, but now life reigns in Jesus)
 - Brokenness controlled this world every since Adam fell in Genesis 3, but in Jesus that cycle is broken and we can enter into him as part of a new humanity. God shatters the cycle and makes all things new!
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- Isaiah 53:1-12 (Jesus' death prophesied hundreds of years before)
 - The salvation that God brought to this world, the freedom from brokenness and sin, came at the substitutionary crushing of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This prophecy, written hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, poetically pictures the death of Christ.
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- Luke 15:11-32 (God's love pictured towards a distant son)
 - Even in our wayward brokenness, God is gracious, merciful, and compassionate. Knowing that we are broken shouldn't trap us in self-deprecating isolation, but should drive us back to the Father. He is waiting with open arms!
 - As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?
- Revelation 22 (God is redeeming all creation and those who trust in him)
 - The world that everyone hopes for is the new heavens and the new earth that is on the horizon. God's response to our brokenness is to make all things new. He is doing a great work and will finish the job!
 - As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?

WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE TO GOD IN THE MIDST OF THIS?

- Acts 2:22-47 (God calls you to repent and be saved)
 - In order to accomplish the great work of defeating brokenness and ushering in a new, spiritual humanity, Jesus Christ, God in the likeness of sinful flesh, had to come to earth and die, but God confirmed his victory and success in his mission by raising him from the dead. Now, he invites us to come to him, turn from our own ways, and trust in him to be THE way. The Bible calls this repentance. This blessing is not just for us, but for all generations.
 - As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?
- Luke 12:13-34 (Trust in Jesus, not in earthly safety nets)
 - Jesus offers words of encouragement in the midst of a life filled with worries.
 - As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?
- Proverbs 1:20-33 (Hear God's voice and respond)
 - To ignore God's voice is at best folly and at worst catastrophic! We must not just be people who learn more about what God says. It is crucial that we are people who hear and obey his voice! What is God saying to you?
 - As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?
- Job 38:1-41 (God is in control of all things)

- As people, we speak about things we don't understand. In this passage, God peppers Job with a series of questions that are far above him. In our educated minds, we may be tempted to think, "I can explain that," but in our arrogance we miss the point! God is, ultimately, in control of all things. Tragedies, like the coronavirus or natural disasters, tend to magnify that truth in our lives.
 - As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?
- Job 42:1-6 (God is sovereign, humble yourself before him)
 - Before a God whose ways are not our ways, who controls and knows things we cannot even understand, our response is not one of being puffed up like a blowfish. Instead, we need a sober dose of reality.
 - As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?
- Psalm 23; Proverbs 3:5-6 (God lovingly guides you - trust in him)
 - Like a tender Shepherd, God cares for us like we are sheep. He knows what we need when we need it. He knows where we need to go. Even when danger surrounds us, he defends us. Will we be sheep who try and run away, or will we follow his tender leading?
 - As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?
- Psalm 91; Romans 14:7-8 (Trust God with your life and your eternal future)
 - We can trust God in the midst of great turmoil with confidence that he will do what is right. Whether we live or whether we die, he is trustworthy.
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- Psalm 16 (God is your refuge and your joy)
 - In our love for safety, we may think that the greatest thing in life is security, but this Psalm shows us that there are far greater things. May God show us the greatest blessings in life and reveal true, supernatural joy.
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- Philippians 4:4-9 (Pray with a thankful heart, and experience God's peace)
 - In this life you will have anxiety and you will have worry. Experiencing the emotion of anxiety isn't necessarily wrong, but if you don't know what to do with it when you

experience it you can be paralyzed. God makes it very clear what we need to do with all of our worry.

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WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE TO PEOPLE IN THE MIDST OF THIS?

- Philippians 2:1-11 (Treat one another as Jesus treated you)
 - In difficult times, our tendency will be to be selfish, but instead we are commanded to have the same mindset and sacrificial, selfless love that Jesus exhibited towards us in obedience to the Father.
 - As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?
- Romans 12:1-21 (Love one another as Jesus has loved us)
 - In the original language, this passage commands love to not be hypocritical or a masquerade, but instead to be genuine. We are commanded to love one another genuinely!
 - As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?
- 1 John 3:11-18 (Love one another sacrificially)
 - Love for others often comes at a cost. As Jesus loved us at great cost, we must love one another even if it is sacrificial. In doing this we demonstrate the love that lives within us.
 - As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?
- Galatians 6:1-10 (Do good to all)
 - There is always ample need and opportunity to do good. What we sow, we will reap. We must be eager and ready to do good!
 - As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?
- Matthew 28:16-20 (Share the hope of Jesus with everyone)
 - The greatest good that we can do for anyone is to share the truth of Jesus that has transformed us from the inside out. This isn't a command for superstars, but for all. People need Jesus, and Jesus wants more followers! We need to hear his words, obey his voice, and share it with others.

- As you read this passage, ask yourself: What does this teach about God? What does this teach about people? How does this help me to better understand how to respond to the Coronavirus? What will I do to obey this passage, today? With whom can I share this story?