

**Why Corona? (dh 2.0)**  
A Discovery Study  
March 25, 2020

*Introduction*

The whole world is currently groaning under a mysterious plague called COVID-19. No nation, race, socio-economic status or religion is immune. In the midst of this global pandemic, the question of why is also on everyone's heart.

The world's answers, however, are largely depressing. They can be categorized into 3 main ideas:

(1) There is no god. Humans are just a random mutation of blind evolutionary forces. Thus there's really no purpose in our existence. Science, not God, explains our origins and holds the answers we seek. By science, we will eventually find a cure and get back to "normal life", perhaps even somewhat improved. Perhaps some may even move to other planets to be safe from these human-caused catastrophes.

(2) There is a god, but he's rather useless. If there is a god, he is either uncaring or unable to help in situations like this. The fact that he's not intervened nor protected a certain group of religious people, validates this idea. So why seek him? Seek your answers in hygiene, medicine and science.

(3) There is a god, but he's mean. The final idea, similar to #2 above, is that this is all a "test." In fact, all of life is a test. We will never really understand God's character or the reasons why he does things. We must simply submit to his overpowering will and hope he doesn't just kill us all for sport.

*Bible*

The Bible, however, presents a corpus of hopeful literature which contradicts the hopeless philosophies of the world. While there may be some truth in the world's answers, the Bible offers a much more encouraging view: God exists as the Creator God who made everything and who is constantly involved in world affairs. What's more, he is repeatedly described to be "gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness." (Ex 34:6) Since he is active in world affairs, he may intervene in a host of ways, including righting wrongs, saving people and bringing righteous judgment.

We may never know why exactly God has allowed Corona to become such a global problem. In fact, Deuteronomy 29:29 says that God keeps some things secret. Nevertheless, we can explore the broad themes of Scripture to find clues and signs. After doing so, we will likely find much greater hope—as well as many things we will want to do differently.

*Discovery Bible Study*

Read the following Scriptures to try to find answers. Verses are grouped categorically:

- What is God's ultimate desire for all people—at all times and in every nation?  
Consider: John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Tim 2:4; Isaiah 45:22; Ezekiel 33:11-12; Rev 7:9
- How does God view the world's overall behavior?  
Consider: Genesis 6:5-6; 11-12; 18:20; Jonah 1:1-2; Romans 1:18-32; Ephesians 2:1-3
- How does God view the behavior of his people? (believers)  
Consider: Isaiah 1:2-17; Isaiah 58:3-10; Amos 5:4-14; Romans 2:17-29; 1 Peter 4:17
- How well are our pastors and spiritual leaders living up to God's expectations for them?  
Consider: Ezekiel 34:1-31; John 10:1-13; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 1 Cor 2:1-4; 3:1-9; 1 Thess 2:1-12

- How much have we obeyed Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)?  
Consider: Mark 1:17; Matt 5:13-16; 21:33-43; 24:12-14; Compare Acts 19:1-10 vs. Rev 2:1-7
- How are we living with the END in mind?  
Matthew 24; Matt 25:1-46; 2 Peter 3:9; Rev 19:11-20:6
- Are we crying out to God?  
Gen 18:16-33; Exodus 32:7-14; Isaiah 55:6-7; 2 Chronicles 7:14; 1 Tim 2:1-6
- Are there other biblical concerns you can think of that God may be working out at this time?  
Verses:

### *Application*

- 1) Based on this study, how could this crisis bring about good?
  - Personally?
  - In our families?
  - Among believers?
  - In the world in general?
- 2) Based on this study, how do you want to live differently? (List specific actions and time-plan)
- 3) Who do you think needs to hear this? (List names and plan to tell them)