

was also not a particularly lethal virus. The later versions did not have the lethal nature as the earlier ones, and the fact that the human H1N1 could not persist in the human population is good evidence that it was undergoing genetic entropy. In fact, the virus was picking up over 14 mutations per year while it was active and more than 10% of its genome had mutated before it went extinct.⁷ This also matched previously published computer simulations.

But the coronavirus is not the flu. We also are not certain where or how this virus originated, although it apparently came from bats, perhaps circuitously. Either way, it will have to be treated very carefully and our health care systems must treat it as a serious and immediate threat. We cannot wait decades for genetic entropy to take its toll.

How should we react?

When a novel virus does appear, we should soberly assess the risk and take proper precautions. We should also always be willing to help those in need, knowing that it could always have been us in that situation. ... But we should also not let opportunities for sharing the gospel slip through our fingers, and very often, when a person realizes how fragile life actually is, they are more accepting of the hope offered by Jesus Christ.

Conclusions

Viruses are part of God's created order. We can see that many of them play beneficial roles. Yet, we live in a sin-cursed world with much suffering, death, and disease. Some viruses have become dangerous, causing untold suffering across humanity throughout our history. These have forced us to develop innovative strategies to try and keep them in check. God has not promised us long life, nor good health. But He has promised to redeem this sin-cursed world and our disease-wracked bodies and so our hope is not here on this earth anyway. Let us look to Him for hope, for our redemption draws near.

(Romans 10:13) For "WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED."

(Romans 10:9) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Central Mountains Baptist Church

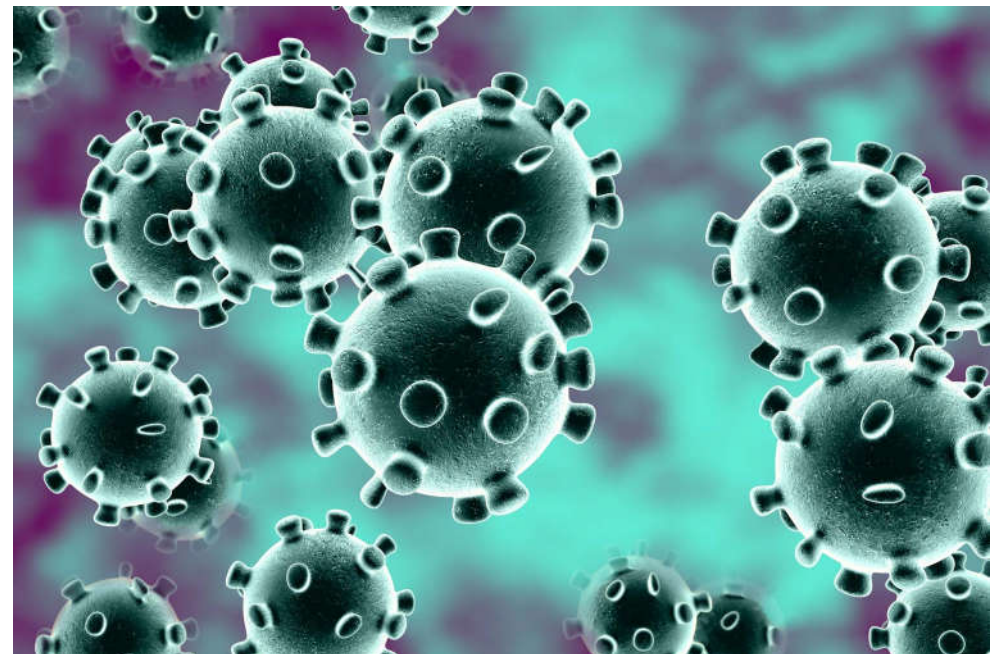
MARCH 22, 2020

Our Future with Coronavirus

The future of the coronavirus (from Creation Ministries International)

Viruses are part of God's created order.

If this virus outbreak follows the course of previous ones, the coronavirus might burn itself out. This is apparently what happened to the human H1N1 influenza virus that swept across the world in 1917, killing millions of people. It lasted for 40 years before disappearing. It was reintroduced from a stored laboratory sample in 1976 and lasted another 33 years before disappearing again during the 2009–2010 swine H1N1 pandemic, which





1. Let's get started

Some basic concepts are:

- ◆ God wants a _____ with you,
(Psalms 139:14) *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.*
(1 John 4:10) *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us ...*
(Jeremiah 31:3) *The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.*

- ◆ There are some _____ in having a _____ with God,
(Mark 12:29-31) *Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'HEAR, O ISRAEL, THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. [30] AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' This is the first commandment. [31] And the second, like it, is this: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*
(Isaiah 53:6) *All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way;*
(Romans 3:10-12) *As it is written: "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE; [11] THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS; THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS AFTER GOD. [12] THEY HAVE ALL TURNED ASIDE; THEY HAVE TOGETHER BECOME UNPROFITABLE; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, NO, NOT ONE."*

- ◆ God has done much to _____ the _____ in the relationship,
(Romans 6:23) *For the wages of sin is death, ...*
(John 3:16) *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*
(1 John 4:9-10) *In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. [10] In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

- ◆ However we need to do our _____ in removing the _____ too
(Acts 3:19) *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, ...,*
(Luke 15:10) *Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one*

sinner who repents."

(Romans 10:9) *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

(John 3:36) *He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."*

- ◆ God will help us in _____ a good _____ with Him,

(Acts 2:38) *... "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

(Acts 2:42) *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

2. Let's go on

3 further features of God's plan for our lives are:

- ◆ It is God's plan for our lives that He _____ us,
(Romans 12:2) *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*
(Romans 8:29) *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*
(Ephesians 1:4) *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, ...,*
(2 Corinthians 3:18) *But we all, ..., are being transformed .. from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

- ◆ It is God's plan to make us _____,
(John 15:12) *This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*
(Matthew 5:44) *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,*
(2 Corinthians 5:20) *Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*
(Acts 1:8) *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*
(John 7:38) *He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*

- ◆ It is God's plan to give us a _____,
(Jeremiah 29:11) *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*
(1 Peter 1:3-4) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4] to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,*
(1 Peter 1:6-7) *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, [7] that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,*