

BIBLE REFERENCES: (taken from the King James Version)

[1] ... it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves. (Ps 100:3)

[2] ... he was moved with compassion on them ... (Matthew 9:36) ... thoughts of peace, and not of evil. (Jeremiah 29:11-12)

[3] (Luke 9:54-56)

[4] By one man sin entered the world ... death passed upon all men (Romans 5:12) so "cursed is the ground ..." (Genesis 3:3, 6,17)

[5] For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one [Jesus] shall many be made righteous. (Romans 5:19) . . . [6] For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities. (Hebrews 4:15)

[7] (John 14:27)

[8] The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. (Titus 2:11) [9] For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. (Romans 1:20) [10] ... if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. (Galatians 2:21)

[11] ... the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23) Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:13)

[12] And I give unto them eternal life ... (John 10:28)

[13] Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. (Luke 22:61)
Master, carest thou not that we perish? (Mark 4:36-47)

[14] If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself. (2 Timothy 2:13)



COVID-19

A SPIRITUAL RESPONSE

"In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears." 2 Samuel 22:7

When the world grows quiet

God is speaking to us. He always was, but we could not always hear him for the noise. But as the world grows quiet, we must conclude that we're not in control of our circumstances. It is God who made us, and not ourselves. [1] And it's time to listen to him.

Is God punishing us?

No. God is the cure, not the cause — a Saviour moved with compassion, and with thoughts of peace and goodwill toward all. [2] While people may be unloving, God never is. For God is love. Even the disciples of Christ, seeing some Samaritans reject their master, sought to bring fire down from heaven to consume them. But Christ rebuked them with these words: “**Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.**” [3]

What causes the diseases engulfing our world?

Disease came with the fall of an originally immortal man, who died because of disobedience: “**By one man sin entered the world, and death by sin.**” Since then, our bodies and our world have been steadily deteriorating. [4]

There is hope, and understanding

Our greatest mistake is believing we can be good enough for God. But knowing that self-righteous pride can never cure unrighteousness, a compassionate God sent his sinless Son to take our place. [5] Jesus was punished for us — the lamb of God who also knows our infirmities, for he lived as a man among us. [6]

The cure, now and forever

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. [7]

How may we obtain this present and eternal peace?

The grace that brings salvation has appeared to everyone [8] and is seen in nature, so that we are without excuse. [9] St Paul tells us that if we think good works, or keeping the commandments can save us, Christ's atoning sacrifice is of no avail. He died in vain. [10]

It's a gift that cannot be taken back

We can't earn a gift. It's freely given, and freely received. We can become children of God with a single step of faith - in our utter helplessness at this time, calling on him to save us. **For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.** [11]

Once saved, we can't be unsaved. Eternal life wouldn't be eternal if you could lose it, would it? “**They shall never perish . . . no man shall pluck them out of my hand.**” [12]

As weak humans we are going to be fearful and faithless at times — as was St Peter, and the disciples during the storm on the Sea of Galilee. [13] But God is faithful. [14]

It's not the amount of our faith that saves us. We have so little. It is the object of our faith — Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.

Will you call on Jesus now?

Almighty God, I admit I've sinned against you, and I'm willing to turn from my sin to you, accepting the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, as full payment for my sin, that I may be saved from eternal death in the lake of fire, taken to heaven when I die, and given peace and comfort with God in this life, as I live for you. I now open the door of my heart for you, Lord Jesus, to be my Saviour, my friend and my God, forever in Jesus' name, Amen.

BIBLE REFERENCES: See back page.