

## IS THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC PUNISHMENT FROM GOD?

SVCC Sunday Morning Online Bible Study

March 29, 2020

### Analysis of the Argument Asserting that COVID-19 Is Punishment from God

- *Newsweek, March 26* — Conservative pastor Rick Wiles claims that the COVID-19 pandemic is spreading in synagogues as punishment from God for Jews' refusal to follow Jesus.
- *Stephen Andrew, pastor of USA Christian Church (Christian News Wire, March 4)* — "God's love shows it is urgent to repent, because the Bible teaches homosexuals lose their souls and God destroys LGBT societies. Obeying God protects the USA from diseases, such as the Coronavirus... Our safety is at stake, since national disobedience of God's laws brings danger and diseases, such as coronavirus, but obeying God brings covenant protection (Exodus 15:26). God protects the USA from danger as the country repents of LGBT, false gods, abortion and other sins."

### Analysis

- (a) God uses tragedy/hardship to punish peoples/nations for their sin. (*God uses war, famine, plague, etc.*)
- (b) The group struck by this pandemic has sinned. (*America has sinned. / The Jews have sinned.*)
- (c) Therefore, this pandemic is punishment from God for this sin. (*God sent the coronavirus to punish this group for their sin.*)

### Biblical Support for Such an Argument

God does indeed punish peoples/nations for their sin, if those peoples/nations don't repent. Examples abound in Scripture:

- Exodus 7-11 — Whom did God punish? \_\_\_\_\_ For what sin(s)?
- Numbers 21:4-9 — Whom did God punish? \_\_\_\_\_ For what sin(s)?
- Amos 1:6-8 — Whom did God punish? \_\_\_\_\_ For what sin(s)?
- Revelation 2:20-23 — Whom will Jesus punish? \_\_\_\_\_  
For what sin(s)?
- **Ezekiel 14:12-21** — God's 4 dreadful judgments against nations:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
• *These 4 dreadful judgments also appear in Revelation 6:1-8, with slight variation.*

## **Biblical Counterarguments**

**John 9:1-3** — How do Jesus' comments about the man born blind inform our analysis of this argument?

**Luke 13:1-9** — Imagine that we could have asked Jesus, "Was God punishing these Galileans and those who died in the tower collapse?" How would Jesus have answered?

*The lesson of verses 6-9: Bear \_\_\_\_\_! If you don't, what will God do?*

**Matthew 5:45** — How does God treat the evil/unrighteous?

## **Perspective from Genesis 3:17-19 — The Curse**

Why did God curse the ground?

In the cursing of the ground, what maladies came upon human beings?

What does this curse have to do with the COVID-19 virus?

*God's promise in **Revelation 22:3**, in a glimpse of eternal life: There will no longer be any \_\_\_\_\_.*

## **What can we say about the divine purpose of COVID-19?**

*What we can say with confidence:*

*What we cannot say with confidence:*

*What is helpful to say:*

*For more on this topic, listen to Kevin's lesson, "Are Natural Disasters Punishment from God?", November 9, 2014 — available at <http://www.summitviewchurch.net/sermon-archive.html>.*