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| A brief response to some questions regarding the current pandemic.   |

We should be reluctant to ascribe natural disasters (including a pandemic), directly to God. We can say with certainty that God allows evil for this is indeed the dispensation of the Present Evil World, during which God has allowed Satan and fallen mankind to basically have their way except when it comes to God's Covenanted people, that is both Seeds, Spiritual and Natural Israel.

There are exceptions a few of which follow:

The outbreak and extent of WWI and WWII. For this was prophesied and has to do with God's judgements and the time for the natural Seed to return to the Land of Israel, this we can point to in scripture, even though they still have to be understood that way by the eye of faith.

The 10 plagues upon Egypt and other miracles that God performed on behalf of His Covenanted people, Israel, the natural Seed.

I think Jesus alluded to God not being involved with all disasters in Luke 13:1-5.

Indeed, it was Satan that tormented Job, and caused Judas Iscariot to turn on Jesus.

However, these too were both allowed for and prophesied in God's Plan and Word.

Man has directly and indirectly created many of the disasters. For example: it is well known that hurricanes surge periodically against the Southern United States coastlines, but humans want more and more beach front homes so they build them in the known path of hurricanes, hence hurricanes cause more destruction., Or people killed cats that allowed rats and their disease carrying fleas to run unchecked throughout Europe causing the death of millions.

Yet with all that being said, it is in fact this very Permission of Evil that God has allowed and planned for that is ALL meant to try to turn people’s hearts and minds to Him and His Son for solace and help, if not direct deliverance, at least to understand why and for what purpose.

God has punished the entire human family already - it is the Curse of death and dying that our father Adam brought upon all by his disobedience - "The fathers have eaten the sour grape and the children's teeth are set on edge". God does not have to directly punish sinners more than that, by causing all of the disasters and calamities that affect billions.

Although we do believe that God might indeed over rule in someone’s life to render an individual punishment as Paul wrote: "some men's sins go before hand to punishment and some men's sins follow after".

Even in this we must tread carefully for we cannot read men' hearts to fully know their depth of culpability. Yet there are several examples of such individual punishments, king Jeroboam whose hand withered, or the death of Ananias and Sapphira.

We note that after the Old and New Testaments was written we do not have the names of people that God might have punished directly. We do not have Prophets like in the Old Testament nor Apostles as in the New Testament to pronounce such individual judgements.

Even though it will be the final Armageddon crash of total Anarchy that will finally cause people to be humbled and ready to accept the incoming Kingdom of peace, let us not run ahead of the LORD’S chariot.

May we all let our light shine by example and word.

Yours in Christ,

Bro. Ric