

5-3-20 Message
If God Is Powerful Why Is Evil Prevailing?

Intro: 6th Message, Conference call.

This is Pastor Frank Bissol from the Elkdale Baptist Church of West Clifford. This is the 6th in a series of message I have been preaching during the coronavirus lockdown. We still meet for Sunday School at 10AM and Sunday Evening at 7:00 P.M. and Wednesday Evening at 7:00 P.M. for Bible study and prayer. We are using a Free Conference Call Service. We can talk, share testimonies, and share prayer requests just as if we were assembling together. You are welcome to visit with us for these Bible studies. We are going book by book, chapter by chapter and even verse by verse through the whole Bible. We started this study September 2019 and we have finished the book of Genesis and are now in coming near the end of Exodus. Sunday morning at our church I usually try to preach something that relates to the times that we are in.

CONTRADICTIONS OF PANDEMIC

Now as you know we are living in perilous times with this pandemic and panic over the coronavirus. I can sense that there are many people that are discerning that there is more going on than just the coronavirus. Look, it does not take a genius to see the contradictions that are taking place today. If you followed the news through this whole ordeal you could see the contradictions. First the media said there was nothing to worry about, in fact to the point of criticizing Trump for being Xenophobic for restricting flights from China. Now the same people are saying he did not do enough quickly enough. At first the media said there was no need to wear masks, now the same media condemns anyone that doesn't wear a mask, even the Vice President and President included. First we hear it is impossible that this virus came out of the research facility in Wuhan, and now we are hearing it probably was a researcher who accidentally contracted the virus and spread it. On and on we can go. I have talked to doctors and they themselves are confused and have no answers. Now the latest is that there is the development of a vaccine.

I don't know, something doesn't sound right. And this is why, for everyone, there is just a big question mark hanging over everyone's head.

In light of all the confusion, I have good news for you. Our God is on the throne and He is in control. God is not in the heavens wringing His hands saying .. "what are we going to do.. what are we going to do.. "

GOD IN CONTROL EVEN IN DAYS OF CHRIST

I was thinking about this and my thoughts went back to a time when the whole world was in turmoil in the days of Caesar Augustus. He commanded that the whole world be up ended and everyone was to go back to the place of their birth and be registered and taxed. Imagine the turmoil this caused. All of this upheaval, all over the world, just so God could make sure a little insignificant newlywed couple could have Mary's baby born in the town of Bethlehem. And why? All this to make sure the Scripture would be fulfilled which reads:

Micah 5:2 But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

God disrupted the whole world to bring this to prophecy to pass. What He said He would do. I am sure God is allowing this pandemic for His purpose also.

Now look, don't fear, don't panic, I am here to tell you God is in control. Blessed is the man that put's his trust in God and not government, the WHO, the CDC, coronavirus task force, our scientists, our surgeon general, or any other human being.

My mind goes back to this statement in Scripture:

I Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning....

This phrase occurs 6 times in Paul's Epistles. One of the purposes for writing the Epistles is so we would have Biblical knowledge. In fact, the Apostle John said in his writings, in John 20:31, he wrote his gospel so we would know how to be saved and have eternal life.

John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

I John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

The Bible is written so we would not be confused. There is much confusion in the world. It is easy to see the ignorance and confusion when we go through a crisis like this because the confusion is so obvious. The Bible is written so we could have clarity about certain matters in this life.

When you read the Bible, you find that it starts with paradise on earth, and it ends with a paradise on earth and in between there is a lot of turmoil, confusion and conflict. In fact just before the end the Bible predicts that that conflict will escalate until there is a time of what the Bible calls great tribulation. Why are we surprised at what we are seeing when the Bible predicts it. But I have good news for you. Jesus prevails in the end, and everyone will see this. This is what I want to talk about this morning.

Before I get into the message I believe the Lord wants me to share, I am going to have my wife come and sing a song I wrote taken from Philippians 2:9-11. In the midst of all the chaos this one thing I know, Jesus will return and He will rule and reign and every knee shall bow to Him..

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Philippians 2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW

Now, like I said, the Bible starts with a world that is perfect and beautiful, the garden of Eden was paradise on earth. The Bible ends with a restored earth, paradise on earth.

Revelation 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Revelation 22:2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

Revelation 22:4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

Revelation 22:5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22:6 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

When I gave my heart to the Lord way back in 1974, I went to a little church and at that church they showed a film that portrayed life as a battle between two kingdoms, the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God. Right now that battle is still raging. Satan has lost, but his loss was a judiciary loss. In other words, the court case has been lost, but actual eviction has not taken place yet.

EVICTED NOTICE AND RENTAL OF HOUSE

A while back I inherited a house from my mother. For a while, I rented out the house but because of how far away that house was from me, it became difficult to administer the rental. Then the tenant stopped paying their rent and I had to evict them. I served the eviction notice, but they still lived in the house for a while. Nothing changed for them but they knew that their days were numbered. So what do you think they did for that month or so that they were in that house? You guessed it! They trashed the house.

Now let me just say this, Satan knows that at the cross and on resurrection day he lost the spiritual battle on earth. He is defeated once and for all. The eviction notice has been served and he is just biding his time until the police (the angels of God) come and cast him into the lake of fire.

In Revelation we read: SATAN WILL BE EVICTED.

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, **having great wrath**, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Notice what our great enemy is called:

1. He is called the old serpent. The Bible identifies the serpent who deceived Eve as the devil.
2. He is called the deceiver of the whole world.
3. He is called the accuser of the brethren who accuses them day and night.
4. He is going to bring woe and destruction because he knows he only has a short time.

The Bible is written so we would not be ignorant of what is going on and what God's plan is for our lives and this world.

Six times Paul uses this expression, **"I would not have you to be ignorant."**

By and large the world is ignorant of what God's word says about these end times. So in this message I want to talk to you about God's plan for things that will shortly come to pass and also explain why it seems that evil is prevailing in our day.

If God So Powerful Why is Evil Prevailing?

Illustration CANVASING MAN ASKED QUESTION.

I have been the Pastor of the Elkdale Baptist Church for 36 years. When I first came to the church I thought I would canvas the area and introduce myself to the community as the new pastor of the church. I started down the main highway and knocked on the doors of the houses along the main road leading to Carbondale, PA. Just as I entered the Carbondale area I knocked on the door of a house and a man came to the door and I introduced myself and asked if the man attended church. He said no, then I proceeded to hand him some literature and invite him out to our church. He then looked at me and said, I have asked many a clergy man this question and none of them have given me a satisfactory answer. I asked, "What is your question?" He said, "If God is supposed to be all powerful then why is it that it seems to me that evil is prevailing? There seems to be more evil in this world than good. So how is it that God is all powerful? I proceeded to give him an answer but of course that did not suffice what he was observing as a reality in this world.

I wish I knew back then what I know today, because I think I would have spent a little more time with that fellow and maybe could have helped him.

This morning I want to talk to about this subject.

If God So Powerful Why Evil Is Prevailing?

I. Why It Seems That Satan's Evil Kingdom Seems To Be Prevailing.

I want to to remember that Satan is real, no matter how much the world makes light of it. Also when Jesus was driven into the wilderness I would have you to remember that when Jesus was tempted of the devil we read:

Matthew 4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

Matthew 4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

How can he give something that he does not have? As far as we know nothing has changed, in fact I think it has gotten worse.

The perplexity of this dilemma has driven many a person to agnosticism, atheism, even out and out Satanism. There is no doubt that in this world there is a lot of evil that transpires. Look at the news, how many positive stories do you hear, and how many negative ones do you hear? Bad news seems to make good news in the world.

So what is the answer to this dilemma?

Let me say to you, that even though it seems that evil is prevailing, God is still in control. The Bible says this,

1. GOD IS ALLOWING EVIL TO PREVAIL FOR HIS PURPOSES.

Notice what is said in Isaiah 45:7-12:

Isaiah 45:7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

Isaiah 45:8 Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.

Isaiah 45:9 Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?

Isaiah 45:10 Woe unto him that saith unto his father, What begetteth thou? or to the woman, What hast thou brought forth?

Isaiah 45:11 Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.

Isaiah 45:12 I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.

Notice it is God who made all things, even Satan himself. You can argue with God you can strive with God but the Lord says,

Isaiah 45:9 Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?

Isaiah 45:10 Woe unto him that saith unto his father, What begetteth thou?

Whether evil men have manufactured this virus, or whether it went from a bat to a snake to a pangolin, I don't know. But this one thing I know is that God knows and if I put my trust in Him I can say this:

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Today we have a lot of people that want to re-define God because they are afraid what man will think if we share exactly who God is. He is who He is, and we better not be afraid declare who he is because of man.

We try to form the ideal god, who appeals to the humanistic mind. We are looking to water down who God is because we know that if we preach the God of the Bible that will offend people. How stupid that is. Let men be offended if they will.

There is a whole book in the Bible that is written to answer the question about why the righteous suffer and at time it seems that evil prevails. That book is the book of Job. In that book we get a glimpse of how a good man, a righteous man, whose name was Job, suffered greatly. It was Satan's doing but it was God who gave Satan the license to afflict Job. In the end the Lord defends what he does by making reference to his creation and power over all creation. Man wants to argue against God, but will they succeed?

Isaiah 45:9 Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?

Now this I know, whether this virus was man made, or a biological product of chance, this one thing I know, God is allowing it for His purposes to draw people to Himself. And next week if the Lord wills I will get more into the why's.

So if for the time being evil seems to be prevailing, mark it down that God is allowing evil to prevail for a short time.

God does not think as we think. For us everything is this short life here on planet earth. For God the big picture is what is important.

If there is a God there is a devil, if there is a devil there is a God.

The whole backdrop of God's creation is a backdrop for the drama that is going to play out on this planet. God made light, then He made darkness. He separated the light from the darkness. The light He called good.

Isaiah 45:7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

Isaiah 45:8 Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.

Creatures of darkness are repelled by light, and creatures of light are repelled by darkness. Right now the world is a dark place because we are experiencing darkness. But let me remind you that:

Psalms 30:5 his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

So if evil and darkness are prevailing for the time being it is because God is allowing it, and ultimately God will dispel all evil and all darkness when morning comes, and the day appears.

2. One Of The Purposes Of Allowing Evil To Prevail Is To Draw Men To Himself.

One of the things that the devil loves is when men don't believe he exists. Imagine a murderer's delight to commit murders and no one knows who he is and doesn't not even think he exists. In fact the humanists deny his existence and think it silly to believe anyone would believe in a real devil.

That was the end of Rick Santorum's bid for presidency when it was known that he believed in a real Devil and Satan.

Now when I gave my heart to the Lord, life was presented as a spiritual war between two kingdoms. The Kingdom of darkness, (EVIL) and the Kingdom of Light (Jesus Christ). It was not hard for me to see Satan's Kingdom of evil around me.

We are all born into this world being citizens of the Kingdom of darkness. We must be born again to enter the Kingdom of God.

When exposed to Christ and His kingdom we are given a choice. Will we choose Christ? Or will we stay with the darkness and choose to be part of Satan's kingdom?

Jesus put it this way,

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

John 3:21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

Each of us have a conscience, and when we do evil we violate our conscience. So this is the battlefield. It is in our mind, in our conscience. Will we violate our conscience and just acquiesce to the evil of this world or will we decide to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God and pursue that which is right even though it goes against the grain of this present world system?

2 Cor. 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

2 Cor. 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

2 Cor. 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

3. *SO IT IS NECESSARY THAT FOR A TIME EVIL PREVAIL SO WE CAN CHOOSE THE GOOD.*

Matthew 18:7 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it **must needs be** that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

Jesus said, it is necessary that offences come. Offences are wrongs, evil, things that trip us up in this world, wrong doings.

Why is it necessary? There are many reasons, but most of the time it is for the trying of our faith.

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

James 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

4. *ANOTHER REASON EVIL IS PREVAILING IN OUR WORLD TODAY IS BECAUSE EVIL IS FAR MORE OPPORTUNISTIC THAT GOOD.*

EVIL SPREADS QUICKER THAN GOOD.

It is like this virus, if a clean hand shakes hands with a contaminated hand does the clean rub off on the contaminated person or does the contaminated person infect the clean? This is why all the social distancing. If someone that is healthy breathes on someone who is sick do the sick get health?

Ever since the fall wickedness has spread far quicker than good. Just note the history.

Nothing has changed. Jesus said,

Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Matthew 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

For instance:

ADAM'S FAMILY: He had 3 sons that are named: CAIN & ABEL & SETH

Cain the firstborn was wicked and evil and killed his brother Abel. Cain's children populated the world. Evil is more aggressive and opportunistic. What can you do when a wicked person just rises up with no warning and kills you? Seth came along later and propagated a godly crew who was much smaller in number than Cain's children. Of his children we read,

Genesis 4:26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD. These I believe were the children of God, verses the seed of Cain who were children of the world..

NOAH: Days of Noah: In his days, the children of God (Seth's Seed) intermarried with the world, and they became contaminated. Remember when a clean hand shakes hands with a contaminated hand the clean hand get's corrupted.. So evil had a head start until all the world was evil except for one family, Noah and his family. You know the story, God had to intervene and brought a flood which wiped out all the evil of this world. Note: don't fret about evil prevailing in the end it will not and never has.

TOWER OF BABEL: At the tower of Babel there was a desire to have a one world government, one world religion. Again if this happened the whole world would have been contaminated. God disrupted this goal, by confounded the languages of mankind and scattering men everywhere which produced the nations of the world based on languages.

ISRAEL: Then God raised up Abraham who spoke Hebrew and his children and the nation Israel as a light to the World. They were to be pure, clean holy separated. But they were punished time and time again because of their corruption.. Their big problem was that they wanted to be like the world. Again corruption entered in. God punished them time and time again for it.

JESUS: Then Jesus came to Israel to present himself as their King. However, overwhelmingly the nation rejected their Christ. Why was this? It was because the leaders were in bed with Rome and liked their cushy jobs. They let the cat out of the bag in John 11:47-48

John 11:47 Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.

John 11:48 If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.

He lost the election so to speak. But there were no surprises with God. Remember He even chose Judas as one of the disciples knowing he would betray Him. But this was all in the plan. In order to defeat evil, to defeat Satan, Jesus had to defeat man's greatest enemy, no not the coronavirus, He had to defeat death itself. He suffered at the hands of evil men. And again it looked like evil prevailed.

However, three days later Jesus was resurrected from the dead and ascended to heaven on high. He showed himself to his disciples not one day, two days, but for 40 days. He appeared to 500 people at once. Then he gave a great commission to His followers and established what we call His church. The commission of the church is that we should spread to everyone the good news that Jesus defeated death and will resurrect all those who believe on Him to rule and reign with Him on planet earth for 1000 years.

Now He said, occupy till I return.

Church Age: So today we are in what is called the church age. This is an age where we, as the bride of Christ, have been commissioned to share this message to the whole world to receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

But wait, just like Adam's children failed, Noah's children failed at the tower of Babel, Israel failed, so too, sad to say, the Church is failing.

Why did they all fail? They all failed because they failed to keep themselves uncontaminated by the idolatry and sin of this world.

At the time of the flood the children of God married the daughters of men. The children of Noah, sought to unite in false worship.

The Nation of Israel, was enamored with the rulers of this world and instead of following and worshipping the way God wanted them to, they went after other gods and failed to keep the covenant.

What is the failure of the church?

II Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

II Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they **heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;**

II Timothy 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

The failure of the Church today is that the message of the Bible is being watered down to not offend. Catering to men's ears. Telling them what they want to hear. Share a message that appeals to the crowds. Give people what they want and not what God wants for them. The Church has been affected by the humanistic philosophies of the world. We have success oriented ministries. Success is doing what God tells you to do. Jeremiah was a success, as was Isaiah, Elijah, Micaiah. Now today God is seeking a group of people who will follow Him in spite of the wide spread evil of this world.

So yes there is more evil widespread in this world, but that is the way it has been all the way back to the first children of Adam and nothing has changed. But God is in control and just as He intervened in the days of Noah, He promises to intervene today and in the future.

5. ANOTHER REASON EVIL SEEMS TO PREVAIL IS THAT EVIL USES DECEPTION.

How did Hitler rise to power? He used deception, lies, manipulation, the ends justified the means. Evil has no moral restraint, the ends justifies the means, and has no conscience. Cain killed his brother and when the Lord said where is your brother, he like a wise guy, snapped back, how should I know am I my brother's keeper?

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” Attributed to Edmund Burke

Today the greatest enemy of God and God's people is the deception that prevails.

Hitler rose to power by using crisis in his nation as an opportunity to seize power. When that was not enough he created a crisis by burning down the Reichstag and then blaming it on his enemies. So I think that evil men may try to seize an opportunity to control people because of this Covid-19 pandemic. Evil men will seek to further their wicked goals by any means possible.

Politicians have throughout history used crisis to further their agendas.

Remember Nero played his violin while Rome burnt and then blamed Christians. He wanted Rome to burn so he could rebuild it.

An Example is the Stimulus bill. Politicians put into the bill all kind of things that have nothing to do with the coronavirus..

Smithsonian Institution receiving an additional \$7.5 million in this time of crisis?

\$25 million in the Senate bill went to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

\$75 million in the Senate bill funded the Corporation For Public Broadcasting. Why do National Public Radio and Big Bird get a coronavirus subsidy? The Pelosi bill allocated \$300 million.

\$1.2 billion in the Pelosi bill to require airlines to purchase expensive “renewable” jet fuel. It was \$200 million per year in grants (2021-2026) to “develop, transport, and store sustainable aviation fuels that would reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.”

- ☐ \$500 million in the Pelosi bill to The Institute of Museum and Library Services (FY2019 budget: \$230 million). This agency is so small that it doesn't even employ an inspector general. The Senate bill provided \$50 million.

- ☐ \$600 million in the Pelosi bill to National Endowment of the Arts and the Humanities (FY2019 budget: \$253 million) – In 2017, our study [showed](#) eighty-percent of all non-profit grant-making flowed to well-heeled organizations with over \$1 million in assets. The Senate bill provided \$150 million.

\$30.8 billion to the Department of Education for “state Fiscal Stabilization Fund” that provides grants to support elementary and secondary education (\$13.5 billion), Higher Ed (\$14.25 billion), and State flexibility grants (\$3 billion). The Pelosi bill asked for \$50 billion.

We read in the Bible that the serpent deceived Eve, and she disobeyed God and that brought all the sorrow that we experience today. Sin, death, evil, it all started with the great deception.

Right now we are going through a pandemic, all because of a little microbe called Covid-19. And what is this virus? It's hard even to describe it. But it does not kill everyone, it only kills those who have a weak immune system. How is it that some people have very little symptoms or minor symptoms and others are killed by this thing. Why is that?

Well here is how a germ or virus works. It attacks good cells in your body genetically. It attaches to a cell, it is much smaller than a cell, and says, let me in I am just like you, and **through deception** the virus enters the cell and then sucks the life out of that cell and uses the nutrients of that cell to reproduce itself and then goes on to attack more cells. The Antibodies of your body are suppose to do their job and attack these viruses and germs and keep our body healthy. If your immune system is weak you get sick and maybe even die, if you have a good immune system you thwart off the attack and are fine.

Wrong ideas are like that virus. These are ideas, thoughts, lies, deception that will hurt our society. Our educational systems, our media and government, are suppose to thwart off lies and deception. But what if these institutions which are there to protect us become corrupt? THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE DEATH TO ANY SOCIETY. I think that is what we are seeing in our nation today.

Last week I shared what Humanism is. Humanism, I believe, is a virus that has infected our society and is going to destroy us ethically, morally, and in

every way. Our society, our schools, our government, our whole society, has been given over to secular humanism.

There are a lot of thoughts and ideas that we have in our society that are filled with lies and deception. These lies and deception bring forth bad fruit, bad ideas, destructive behavior. These are lies, and evil prevails today because we have no bases of discerning the difference between a lie and the truth. In fact Jesus was called a liar by the leaders of His day, and it was they who spread all kind of lies about Him. They bribed the soldiers to say His body was stolen away while they slept. So it is today many of the people we look to to tell us the truth promote humanistic, lies and deception and even censorship.

Now what would happen if in your body, your defense system stops from protecting your body from dangerous germs, viruses and diseases? You would die.

So this is another reason Evil seems to be prevailing in the day that we live.

Now so far everything I said does not sound so good. But like I said at the beginning of this message the Bible starts out with paradise on earth and ends with paradise on earth. It is the evil that prevails in between that often is discouraging. But the reason that I had my wife sing that song, "EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW.." is because the Bible explains the process of how that is going to happen. Ultimately evil will not prevail.

Right now we are experiencing the affects of the Kingdom of darkness over a good majority of the affairs of men. God's goal is to recruit citizens for His kingdom.

II. God's Plan To Bring His Kingdom To Earth To Prevail.

When Jesus came to earth and was set before Pilate, and he said, my kingdom is not of this world, if it were my soldiers would fight.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

When Jesus said that, Pilate looked for a way to release the Lord, but because of the politics of his day he let him be crucified.

Jesus did not try to set up his kingdom on earth at that time. He had a plan. That plan must start with a redeemed group of people. Citizens for the Kingdom. This is His plan, this is what He is looking to do.

These citizens are people that are saved out of this world system. They are a group of people whose eyes God opens to the truth and the Word of God. They are called many things in the Bible, His redeemed, His children, His Church, His disciples, His people, but one of the pictures or description I like is the one where He calls His citizens HIS BRIDE..

There is a book in the Bible that is difficult to understand. That book is the Song of Solomon. There are many different interpretations about the meaning of the book but everyone agrees it is about the love that two people have toward each other. Solomon is definitely mentioned and then there is the mention of a Shepherd and a woman called the Shulamite. The interpretation I like the best because it agrees with the Bible verse that we shared in one of my messages a few weeks back in this series, entitled Search The Scriptures:

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

All Scripture testifies of Christ. If the Song of Solomon testifies of Christ, then it is talking about how Solomon saw a poor but beautiful peasant woman working in a vineyard and wanted to take her to himself for a wife. So what he does is disguise himself as a lowly shepherd and he wins over her love and betroths her to himself and in the process she learns that he is King Solomon. Solomon promises to come back for her and she suffers persecution by others mocking her because she insists that her beloved Solomon is coming back for her. But others mock her and think she is crazy.

Song of Solomon 5:6 I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.

Song of Solomon 5:7 The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me.

Song of Solomon 5:8 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love.

So it is the Shulamite woman was persecuted mocked because she said, that the King was the one she loved and he loved her. How many Christians have been persecuted for testifying of Christ.

This is a picture of Christ and His church. Jesus came to earth as a lowly shepherd to win to Himself a bride. He veiled himself and took on the form of a lowly shepherd and not the King of Kings. Those who receive Him become his bride the Shulamite. Now He goes away and promises to return and receive us to Himself. The world thinks we are crazy, but He will return. So in the Song of Solomon, Solomon majestically comes to bring his bride to the palace.

Song of Solomon 3:6 Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?

Song of Solomon 3:7 Behold his bed, which is Solomon's; threescore valiant men are about it, of the valiant of Israel.

Song of Solomon 3:9 King Solomon made himself a chariot of the wood of Lebanon.

Song of Solomon 3:10 He made the pillars thereof of silver, the bottom thereof of gold, the covering of it of purple, the midst thereof being paved with love, for the daughters of Jerusalem.

What a shock it was to all the Shulamite's family and neighbours when this entourage of soldiers come to take this peasant woman to the palace.

Now the reason evil is prevailing is because like Solomon he wanted to make sure that the Shulamite, loved him for who he is and not for his position of wealth. Jesus is seeking to draw to himself a bride, a group of people who make up His church. The church is called the bride of Christ. This is a group of people that are living in a difficult world, under difficult conditions but believe that the King of Kings will return and receive them into His kingdom. When we read about Jesus in the Bible we read about a

suffering servant, the good shepherd, who gave His life for His sheep. When He comes back He will come back as the reigning King in glory and majesty. Today He invites us to come to Him and to love Him and receive Him into our lives.

Song of Solomon 2:4 He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

We love Him because He first loved us.

Conclusion:

Now this is what the Lord is trying to do today. He is trying to recruit citizens for His Kingdom. That is what happened to me in 1974 when I saw that film. I responded to the love of God and received Jesus in my heart. I accepted His invitation.

Now next week I want to talk to you about future things. I do not have time to deal with these matters now. The fact is every knee shall bow to Jesus, but right now He is allowing the evil to prevail. We see so many things that are leading up to the end times. This coronavirus pandemic is but one thing that is the tip of the iceberg of God's judgments against a rebellious world.

It is exciting to realize that we are close to the return of Christ. Now the Lord does not want us to be ignorant of these things and we will be sharing what the Bible says about the future next week. If we are still under the lockdown it will be by way of these video services, if the lockdown ends we will share the message in our public service time at the church. We may broadcast it over the phone line. Again we are going to take it week by week. Hopefully next week we will be back in the church.

But the most important thing you can do is receive the Lord's invitation to be His spiritual bride so to speak.

The Bible ends with this invitation:

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Notice the reference to God's people being called his bride, the Shulamite.
Will you come to Christ?

GOD'S STRATEGY FOR VICTORY.

III. THE BIBLE MAKES SOME PREDICTIONS ABOUT SOME OF THE THINGS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE LORD COMES BACK.

1. THE BIBLE PREDICTS A GREAT INCREASE IN TRAVEL AND KNOWLEDGE BEFORE THE END.

Daniel 12:4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

2. THE BIBLE PREDICTS THAT ISRAEL WILL BE A NATION AGAIN AND THERE WILL BE A TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM. Matt. 24:15

3. THE BIBLE PREDICTS THAT PLANET EARTH WILL EXPERIENCE GREAT TRIBULATION JUST BEFORE HE RETURNS.

Matthew 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Matthew 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

4. THE BIBLE PREDICTS THAT THE CHURCH WILL BE REMOVED AND GOD WILL ONCE AGAIN BE WORKING WITH ISRAEL TO REDEEM HER TO HIMSELF.

Paul didn't want those he led to the Lord ignorant about these matters when he wrote:

II Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

II Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

II Thessalonians 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

II Thessalonians 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

II Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

II Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

II Thessalonians 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

II Thessalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

II Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

II Thessalonians 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Notice the progression:

1. THERE WILL BE A FALLING AWAY. This is the falling away of the church.
2. THEN THE ANTICHRIST WILL BE REVEALED: the son of perdition.

FIRST GOD HAD TO REDEEM A GROUP OF PEOPLE (Reason For Animal Sacrifices) The Kingdom of God must start with a group of redeemed people

SECOND: God wants to harvest a great group of people.

When the harvest is at it's peak He will come back.

This is why has delayed his coming.

THIRDLY: God wants to redeem His people Israel.

FINALLY: Then the end will come.

III. To Explain What God wants of you in light of all this:

He wants to be one of his citizens:

He wants you to recruit others for the Kingdom of God.

THE SONG OF SOLOMON. CHRIST IS LOOKING FOR A BRIDE.

Isn't that something? It seems that Bill Gates himself may be involved in all this? I have often wondered with computer viruses if it is not that companies who provide the anti-virus software are not involved in creating the viruses. I mean who is the one that profits from developing viruses? I mean if I were smart enough to develop a virus I think I would want to spend my time doing something that could make me money and not playing around with viruses. But what if the people who develop the vaccines actually had a part in creating the virus. I am just saying, I have no proof, and I am not promoting a conspiracy theory, but there are a lot of things do not add up.

But I have good news, just like one day Caesar Augustus all of a sudden one day decided he was going to tax the whole world, and require everyone to travel to their home town to be taxed so if this virus is man made mark it down God is allowing that. If it is just that a bat transferred it to Snake or a Pangolin, mark it down God is in control.