

Newsbytes

The First Watch

May 6, 2020

No. 971

Since 2001

Newzbytes is a ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

www.ccapleton.org

“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

Dire Straits

By Grant Phillips

One definition for the term “dire straits” I found is: in a very bad or difficult situation with its best player out of the game. Another long-standing way to put it is “between a rock and a hard place.”

Folks, we are right now, this minute, between a rock and a hard place. All of us have been extremely concerned about the COVID-19 Coronavirus and its attack upon people. As of this date (04/06/20), over 10,000 people in the United States alone have died from this horrible virus. Unfortunately, we have another problem just as bad.

Economist Stephen Moore said Sunday, “At some point soon, we’re going to have to make some real decisions about what kind of a calamity we are causing through the lockdown of our economy. I’m not saying we should be inattentive to the public health concern but, at some point, we have to worry about what we’re doing to our society, and what kind of economy we’re going to have after this is all over. If we go much past May 1, we are facing a potential Great Depression scenario.”

Now someone out there is going to accuse me of caring more for the economy than people, just as the liberal fake news has accused President Trump. The truth is that it is most likely many, many more will die from the effects of an extreme economic plunge; i.e. a Great Depression. Yet, in my opinion, Mr. Moore is probably correct. It doesn’t take a mental heavyweight to figure this out folks.

Prior to shutting this country down due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus, our economy was booming. It was like a faucet turned wide open with the water at maximum flow. Now, almost overnight, the flow has been turned down to a trickle. Our country is paying people, with borrowed money we don’t have, to stay home and not work. In turn, common sense says that thousands of companies, from small to large, are going to go belly up if we don’t return to work soon, and very soon. Let me say in passing that I believe we had no choice and did the right thing in closing down so many avenues in our society. The best way to stop this deadly virus is social distancing.

However, if there are no jobs to go back to, what does that due to unemployment? In the 1930s, during the Great Depression, the unemployment rate went to 24.9%. In 1982 it went up to 10.1%. This February the rate was 3.5%. Obviously, we have a long way to go to get anywhere near the 1982 or even the 1930s figures, but haven’t we already seen just how rapidly things can change? Now I have no doubt that President Trump and his administration are well aware of this. Our part as Christians should be to pray for our leadership. Pray that the Lord will guide us out of this, and pray that those in power will follow God’s directives and give Him the credit He is due.

I know that nothing happens in world affairs and also individual lives without God's permission. During the Ezekiel 38-39 war, no country will come to Israel's aide, not even the United States of America, if I understand it correctly. Keeping in mind that we are a good friend to Israel, at least during the Trump administration, what would prevent us from helping them? Either we are not able to help or the administration at that time has the same mindset as the previous Obama administration. So, either the administration changes to one that again hates Israel, or we are simply unable to help her.

Now that leaves us with three other possibilities to think about. Will the administration change this fall to one that returns to hating Israel, or will this country be in such dire straits that we simply no longer have the ability to help our dear friend? Or will it be both possibilities, making the third scenario?

Well, we simply do not know at this point, but it seems something very major is about to take place. Although I and many others would be overjoyed to see a true national revival take place in our country, I just don't see it ever happening. Jesus made it clear that, toward the end, people and circumstances would get worse and worse.

Could we be barreling headfirst toward the end of this Church age? We most certainly could be. Should we still ask God to help us in this conundrum we are in? Absolutely! God still may delay His coming judgments upon us, just as He did when He sent Jonah to Nineveh, because Nineveh, from the king to the peasant, repented.

If, and I emphasize the word "IF," the Rapture and the following Tribulation is rapidly advancing our way (because we do not know when Jesus is coming for us), why would any true Christian ask God to give us just a little more time before the Rapture? Why would we ask Him to save us from the predicament we are in? I can think of one very important reason, and that is: no true child of God wants to see anyone experience the hell on earth that comes with the Tribulation. Once the Church is gone via the Rapture, a time like no other in history, the Tribulation, will bring God's judgments upon the entire world. If we think things are bad now, we should think again. Everything the world has experienced today, and every day in history, is like a Sunday school picnic compared to the seven-year Tribulation which follows the removal (Rapture) of Jesus' bride (the Church) from this earth.

Nineveh was a very wicked city. The Assyrians were just about the meanest bunch of people that have walked the earth. God delayed their judgment because they repented. Maybe if we repent, God will delay our judgment. Do we need to repent? Consider just a few brief comments.

God hates murder (Proverbs 6:16-17). We grieve over those in our society that the COVID-19 Coronavirus has taken, and rightly so. But where is our grieving when over one million babies annually, nearly 3,000 per day, 120 per hour and one every 30 seconds, are murdered by abortion? Children are God's greatest gift to mankind, yet they are slaughtered on the altar of convenience.

Our leaders and celebrities in this country as a whole claim to know God, but they in turn promote any and everything that is satanically driven. These hounds of hell take every step to remove God from our society. True Christians, the bride of Jesus Christ, are hated and ridiculed more and more each day.

Our society, again as a whole, is drunk on the Hollywood, anti-Bible, anti-God, live-as-you-please lifestyle. People are living together unmarried. Homosexuals have been granted the right to marry and are a protected class. We bow before science, sex, entertainment and self-pleasure as our gods. They proclaim that Jesus is just one way among many to Heaven, but Jesus made it clear that He is the ONLY way to Heaven and there is NO OTHER WAY.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Our society wants nothing to do with God, especially the Son of God who died and rose again to pay our sin debt. His name is only, and constantly, used as profanity. Our society is interested only in personal pleasure and does not want to hear that we have all sinned against a holy God (Romans 3:23). It does not want to hear that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23a). It doesn't even want to hear that through Jesus we can have the gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23b).

The world today mocks louder and laughs harder than those who put Jesus on the cross nearly two thousand years ago. I wonder if our society had the chance today to crucify Jesus again, how many would volunteer to drive the first nail into His body?

And then there are the thousands of local churches today, scattered all across America, who have compromised the Word of God (the Bible) and now promote everything from Satan's playbook while mocking the very name of Jesus Christ, our ONLY hope.

Finally, there are still millions who love the name of Jesus, who know Him as Lord and Savior. We are the ones who need to be praying that those in rebellion against Him will soften their hearts before it is too late. Whatever God's plans are at this trying time we are going through, we have nothing to fear if we know Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord, but those who do not know Him have much to fear. The world hates the true Church, but it is the true Church that God might listen to and postpone His judgments just a little while longer, so more may be saved and avoid His wrath.

Grant Phillips

Thermal imaging cameras could play "critical role" in keeping people safe from COVID

Thermal imaging cameras are the latest devices businesses hope will help reopen the economy while keeping people safe from the threat of COVID-19. The cameras are used to scan temperature from a safe distance, and if a fever — a common coronavirus symptom — is detected, the company could require further screening or deny the person entry altogether.

"What we're seeing is there will be a new normal that will involve thermal screening as a frontline tool," Chris Bainter, director of global business development at FLIR Systems, told CBS News' Jericka Duncan. FLIR has been producing thermal imaging cameras since the SARS epidemic in 2003, when it gained widespread use in Asia.

Since the outbreak, companies like Flexible Systems, Thermal Guardian, CrowdRx and many more have begun manufacturing the cameras for use in airports, healthcare centers and even apartment buildings in New York, where the pandemic has hit particularly hard.

A store in Georgia, City Farmer's Market, has already set up thermal imaging cameras to scan customers as they enter the store.

If a customer's temperature is above 100.4 degrees, they are given a flyer that asks them to leave to protect others, and offers that the store does their shopping for them.

"The key is that application is not about an absolute temperature measurement. It's more about detecting those individuals with elevated body temperature higher than the last 10 people that had been screened," Bainter explained. Bainter, who predicted the camera could play "a critical role" in reopening the economy, dismissed any privacy concerns or worries that this specific technology could be a gateway to "surveillance culture."

"If you've seen a thermal image... you can't really detect exactly who that individual is," he said. "We aren't really focused on collecting data of any sort, it's more about as a screening tool."

However, he cautioned the screening tool "doesn't detect coronavirus," and called for further precautions to be taken before businesses could be deemed safe.

"Thermal solutions for elevated body temperature are only one part of what needs to be a comprehensive environment health and safety program for these businesses," Bainter said.

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Will 'Immunity Passports' Become Mandatory In Our Future?

Bill Gates has inserted himself into the national dialogue as a self-proclaimed coronavirus sage who will lead the world out of dark times through a digitally-assisted brave new world of testing, contact tracing, and of course - a vaccine.

Of course, some of this might not be such a bad idea if it wasn't coming from Gates, who's written an op-ed in the Washington Post to elaborate on his thoughts - which makes the whole thing seem even more nefarious.

'Sure, my Dad was on the board of planned parenthood - an organization founded by a eugenicist, and yes, I've talked about the need for population reduction for years. And sure, I want you to take my vaccines and get chipped. And yeah, there was that whole 'coronavirus pandemic' war-game simulation my foundation spearheaded late last year which modeled 65 million dead. BUT, hear me out...'

All jokes aside, here's what Gates proposes in his WaPo Op-Ed in order to 'reopen the economy.'

Widespread, at-home testing - "We can't defeat an enemy if we don't know where it is," says Gates, who advocates home testing kits which "produces results that are just as accurate" as nasal swabs performed by healthcare professionals. Ok, not evil. Probably a good idea.

Choosing who to test - Essential workers and symptomatic people, or those who have been in contact with someone who tested positive, should be prioritized, otherwise "we're wasting a precious resources and potentially missing big reserves of the virus." Asymptomatic people who aren't in the above categories should not be tested until there are enough tests, according to Gates. Again, not a terrible idea.

Using technology to enable a surveillance state - ah, here we go. Gates says the United States needs to follow Germany's example; "interview everyone who has tested positive and use a database to ensure someone follows up with all their contacts." And how to ensure accuracy? Digital big brother tools!

An even better solution would be the broad, voluntary adoption of digital tools. For example, there are apps that will help you remember where you have been; if you ever test positive, you can review the history or choose to share it with whoever comes to interview you about your contacts.

And some people have proposed allowing phones to detect other phones that are near them by using Bluetooth and emitting sounds that humans can't hear. If someone tested positive, their phone would send a message to the other phones, and their owners could get tested. If most people chose to install this kind of application, it would probably help some. -Bill Gates

Gates suggests this would be voluntary, unlike South Korea - which forces COVID-19 positive patients to self-isolate and install a tracking app on their smartphones which will alert authorities when an infected person has left their home, while warning them to return immediately. Admittedly, South Korea - which also employed widespread testing and the use of face masks, has had just under 11,000 confirmed cases and 240 deaths.

Treatment options - Gates notes that while hydroxychloroquine has 'received a lot of attention,' his foundation is funding a clinical trial which will determine if it works on COVID-19 by the end of May, and that "it appears the benefits will be modest at best," despite overwhelming anecdotal evidence of its efficacy by doctors using it in the field.

We're guessing Gates' trial doesn't include the use of zinc, much like most of the other studies which are 'proving' that the anti-malaria drug doesn't work. This is disingenuous science, as HCQ acts as an 'ionopore' which allows zinc into infected cells, disrupting virus replication. On its own, HCQ only allows low levels of zinc to enter cells, vs. the high-dose cocktail employed by doctors such as Vladimir Zelenko, who claims he's cured over 700 patients with the combination.

Gates, meanwhile, is promoting the use of plasma therapy, which involves "drawing blood from patients who have recovered from covid-19, making sure it is free of the coronavirus and other infections, and giving the plasma (and the antibodies it contains) to sick people. Several major companies are working together to see whether this succeeds."

Another treatment he's proposing is synthesizing antibodies that are "most effective against the novel coronavirus," which may face manufacturing constraints.

If you want to get back to large gatherings, we need a vaccine! Perhaps, but immeasurably more creepy coming from Gates considering his history.

Every additional month that it takes to produce a vaccine is a month in which the economy cannot completely return to normal. The new approach I'm most excited about is known as an RNA vaccine. (The first covid-19 vaccine to start human trials is an RNA vaccine.) Unlike a flu shot, which contains fragments of the influenza virus so your immune system can learn to attack them, an RNA vaccine gives your body the genetic code needed to produce viral fragments on its own. When the immune system sees these fragments, it learns how to attack them. An RNA vaccine essentially turns your body into its own vaccine manufacturing unit. -Bill Gates

Gates then says that distributing vaccines will be the next hurdle - and that governments which fund vaccine development, countries which test the vaccines, and hardest-hit regions "will all have a good case that they should receive priority," and that "Ideally, there would be a global agreement about who should get the vaccine first."

In short - get tracked, don't trust hydroxychloroquine, and take the shot.

Bill de Blasio's new low: blaming the Jews

John Podhoretz

NY Post OPINION

Mayor Bill de Blasio has drawn outrage over his tweet slamming a huge funeral for a rabbi who died of COVID-19.

There's a pandemic, and no one is praising you for your leadership.

You humiliated yourself with your ludicrous run for president last year, and every time you open your mouth now, Andrew Cuomo runs over and drops a stick of dynamite in it to remind you who's boss.

Ah, the frustration!

So, as has been true with moral ciphers from time immemorial, you decided to seek your jollies by attacking Jews.

There's no way to read your tweet from Tuesday night in an exculpatory fashion. Here it is: "My message to the Jewish community, and all communities, is this simple: the time for warnings has passed. I have instructed the NYPD to proceed immediately to summons or even arrest those who gather in large groups. This is about stopping this disease and saving lives. Period."

So let's review. On Tuesday night, there was a Hasidic funeral in Williamsburg. Your own NYPD helped arrange street closures for the funeral with the Satmar Hasidim. People came out to show their respects to the dead. They were wearing masks.

Yes, they showed up in greater numbers than was safe. That is clear. But the very same police officers who set up the pylons closing the streets to car traffic could have limited the numbers, the way they do on New Year's Eve around Times Square.

What we saw here was therefore a failure of authority. Your authority. Not a failure of "the Jewish community." And yet, when you announced you were going to the site personally to address this outrage, what you saw were ... bad Jews. Bad Jews!

There are 1.2 million Jews in New York City. This means that something like 99.4 percent of New York's "Jewish community" did not attend that funeral.

Under your watch, as mayor, there has been an anti-Jewish crime wave in this city. Last year alone, anti-Semitic hate crimes rose 29 percent, prominently featuring the random sucker-punch attacks we've all seen on video.

After remaining shockingly silent about them for a very long time, you finally spoke out in December 2019. In appointing a task force to look into the violent assaults on Jews in the five boroughs, you said, "An attack on the Jewish community is an attack on all New Yorkers."

Maybe you should appoint a task force to investigate yourself. You know, I used to think you were an idiot, the kind of idiot useful to totalitarians, the kind who subscribed to the official party newspaper of the Stalinist regime in Nicaragua back in the 1980s.

I also used to think you were a feckless and thoughtless mayor who airily allowed the cleaned-up streets of the city to regress into an open-air dormitory for opioid addicts, in thrall to some demented principle of fairness and justice, not to mention a man intent on destroying the school system out of some equally demented ideas about how excellence is racist.

What I didn't think, after six years of your ghastly mayoralty, was that you had the capacity to surprise me. But you have.

Here's what's interesting: Unlike a lot of other people, I don't think you should be blamed for what you said about the virus before you turned on a dime and decided to play New York City Hall Monitor. You may not have been prescient, but you were far from alone.

No, how you defended yourself on Wednesday morning, how you reacted when others reacted so angrily to what you said — that reveals your true self. Your tweet, you declared, “was said with love, but it was tough love.”

Let me follow your example, and say something with love, but tough love:

You're a bad person.

jpodhoretz@gmail.com

Fearing Civil War, Prominent NY Rabbi Suddenly Urges American Jews to Leave for Israel

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK – MAY 2, 2019

Brooklyn, NY: Rabbi Chaim Yaakov Frankel, also known as the Rimenover Rebbe, issued an unequivocal order last week for Jews in the diaspora to leave their homes and immigrate to Israel before a civil war breaks out in the United States reports Bhadrei Haharedim .

Rabbi Frankel is an heir of Menachem Mendel of Rimanov—who was among the early promoters of the Hasidic movement in Poland.

He has been active recently years on social media, especially with his lectures on YouTube, which are usually on the subject of the coming of Moshiach.

But while on a visit to South-American and French Jews who have moved to Florida, Rabbi Frankel was unusually specific about the urgent need to return to Israel and aliyah now: “Leave while it's possible. Things will get worse and it will be difficult to move from one country to another” the rabbi said.

“After World War II, the survivors came and asked why the Gedolim and the Rebbes (rabbis) did not order European Jews to leave while there was still time and emigrate to Israel or the United States before the war broke out,” Rabbi Frankel told the audience attending his lecture. “Truth be told, they (the rabbis) said and then some, they begged the Jews to flee the scorched earth, but part of the decree was that the Jews didn't listen.”

“Today,” he continued “Listen to me well, dear Jews, whoever can afford to rise and ascend to the Holy Land should it as soon as possible, and this includes large parts of South America and most of Europe. The US will also become a dangerous place mired in war, and it is still too early to tell which US state will survive, but many parts will be destroyed and poisoned, and a civil war will break out within the US. And states will secede from the federal government. The US will no longer be a place of refuge, but there will be a Jewish remnant here. The Land of Israel will be the safest place to survive the war, even though there will be terrible difficulties there as well.”