



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### The evil rumour-monger at work today

Of late I have had my attention drawn to some of the many deceptions which purport to set forth God's truth on the 'Covid-19 crisis'!

I must say that I have found much that is utterly silly beyond words.

I heard of one who reasoned that face masks should not be used because masks are used in 'voodoo rituals'! We might add another reason to such an argument against the use of face masks, bank robbers usually wear them!! It should be noted that this form of 'voodoo' has been practised in hospital theatres for a very long time!

How foolish are such notions!

I have attempted in the following article to highlight just how gullible man is and how ready he is to swallow every daft idea that the devil sends his way. But, at the same time, the glorious truth of God is rejected as absolute madness.

It was for this reason that John reports of the Lord Jesus: "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

He came unto his own, and his own received him not," John 1:10-11.

May the Lord keep us from the "snare of the devil"!

Never was the world so swamped and flooded by lies and deceits and delusions and downright humbug as it is today! The prophet Isaiah said: "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him," 59:19. I believe we can assume that, since it is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13, 1 John 4:6) that responds to this 'flood' then it is a flood of falsehood and fiction. The author of such is called "a liar, and the father of it." It is the devil of course.

In Revelation 12, we read of the attack of the devil upon the people of God at the end of this age. "And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ," verses 14-17.

The reference to "a time, and times, and half a time" is an indication that the events spoken of here take place in the last three and half years or 1260 days of this age. The woman spoken of here is, I believe, the believers in Jerusalem at the end of this age. It is to be noticed that the devil attacks her in a significant fashion. "the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood." I believe that it was a flood of lies and slander and abuse that issues forth from the devil's mouth against the people of God. The first words of the devil that we read of are in Genesis 3:1. "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" That of course was a subtle and deadly lie! Nothing has ever come out of his mouth but that which was deceitful. Even when he quoted the Holy Scriptures he did so in order to deceive. The temptations he set before the Lord Jesus are an example, Matthew 4:6.

Thus, I believe as we look out on the world today and listen in to its conversations we can easily detect the repeating and retelling of the devil's malicious deceptions.

As never before we have the lies of the devil repeated and proclaimed as truth. In parliaments and political gatherings, in church pulpits and assemblies and above all, on the streets wherever people gather to



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exchange words.

The subject of the 'Coronavirus' is one surrounded and saturated in lies and the most foolish nonsense. Recently, I heard recited a conversation a Christian had with a man who had links to the medical world and its battle against the virus. He suggested that there were some grounds for believing that any vaccine that the medical researchers come up with will contain something which when injected into the body will enable governments to trace where the person vaccinated is at any time!

That such a notion should be given credence by any sane person is hard to believe. Just how such a matter could be kept secret and successfully undertaken is shown to be impossible by the repeating of this rumour!! If it cannot be kept secret then there will be few who will accept the vaccine. Furthermore, most governments know exactly where each and every one of us is at any given moment by way of the ubiquitous 'mobile phone'!! While it is switched on, whether you are using it or not, your location is easily identified by the authorities through your phone's constant contact with the mobile phone radio network! Have we not seen here in Ulster, terrorists convicted of murder and criminal activities on the basis of the security forces tracing their movements and conversations on mobile phones??!!

Big brother is watching and listening at all times!!

### **Baloney!**

Nevertheless, such baloney will be amazingly believed and repeated even by Christians. Evidence of this fact is seen in that we have watched citizens in western societies gathering en masse to protest against reasonable and sensible restrictions imposed upon them by their governments in order to stop the spread of Covid-19. Social distancing, the wearing of face masks, the forbidding of large gatherings, etc, are seen by the 'alarmed' citizens as the beginnings of the rise of the 'Antichrist' and his suppression of freedom. The extent of this alarm has engendered defiant disorder, some attacks on those who have conformed to the regulations and even riots and the loss of life.

All this is based upon deception emanating from the father of lies, the devil!

### **Happened Before**

It so reminds me of the scene described for us in Matthew 27:17-26.

*"Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ? For he knew that for envy they had delivered him. When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him. But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas. Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children. Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified."*

What a deception this was! The sinless Son of God maliciously portrayed as a vicious criminal and liar and crucified on the basis of the wicked lies of those whose evil hearts desired His destruction and that at the behest of their 'father' the devil, John 8:40-45.

There are lessons that must be learned from the present spirit of 'gullibility' amongst the nations.



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### I. MAN IS MOST SUSCEPTIBLE TO LIES AND DECEIT.

We have already mentioned the devil's temptation of Eve and there you have an example of the readiness of the human heart, in this case one that was free from sin and in a state of innocence, to believe the lie. There was little persuasion needed to have Eve embrace the lie that God had not been entirely honest with her and Adam. So it has ever been.

The God of Heaven has plainly told men that the saving of their souls from the eternal punishment of sin is a wonderfully simple matter. They need do nothing themselves but only receive the benefits of what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for sinners on the cross of Calvary!

*"Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they (Paul and Silas) said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house," Acts 16:30-31.*

*"And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him," Acts 8:36-38.*

*Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save. Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else," Isaiah 45:20-22.*

*"He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name," John 1:10-12.*

*"Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved," Acts 4:10-12.*

This is the testimony of the Bible which men stoutheartedly refuse to believe unless they are wondrously exercised upon and moved by the Holy Spirit. The experience of the first European convert is the experience needed by all.

*"And on the sabbath we (Paul's missionary group) went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont (in the habit of) to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul, Acts 16:13-14.*

Yet how few believe this wonderfully simple and free gift of mercy for they are deceived of the devil. "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them," 2 Corinthians 4:4.

### II. IT SEEMS THAT NOTHING IS BEYOND ACCEPTANCE BY GULLIBLE MAN

Hollywood's fantastic notions regarding the return of Christ and the end of the age are readily embraced while the truth of the Bible on the subject is not given a moment's consideration! Every lunatic prediction regarding 'the end of the world', as set forth by some idiot in or out of a pulpit, is reported in the tabloid press



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and 'gasped' over by the credulous while what is contained in the Bible on the subject is never consulted!

Evolution with its utterly ludicrous and ever changing notions, set forth by those admired for their intellectual abilities, is further evidence of this universal gullibility! 'Big Bangs', single cells developing into all that is presently visible in the world, fish deciding to leave the sea and begin to breathe, walk and climb trees and then mutate into human beings - all this and more is readily believed and rejoiced over by the 'intelligentsia'!

How I would like to see the face and know the thoughts of men such as David Attenborough, the 'prophet' of evolution and rejector of God's truth and a life-long proponent of this evil deception, when they depart this world and come face to face with the One they have long despised and miscalled!

Intellectuals, yes, perhaps. But fools undoubtedly!

Men of every level of intelligence have refused the simple truth of God on the matter of our soul's salvation and embraced a myriad of the most half-witted nonsense. I have seen people crawling about on their knees, walking bare-footed over stones and up mountains, counting plastic beads, kissing stone statues, pouring milk upon a grotesque image with a view to feeding it, starving them selves, whipping themselves - all as a means of saving their soul!!!!

Political correctness and omnism, the recognition of all religions, requires that all such antics must be referred to with reverence and woe unto any (such as myself) who would mock such tom-foolery! I happily take my place alongside old Elijah who mocked the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. "And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made. And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked. And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded," 1 Kings 18:26-29.

Christians have a right, aye, have a duty to mock the utterly stupid religious inventions of men which they would pass off as the truth of God!!

It is not 'politically correct' but it is most certainly God-honouring!

### III. THE STOUT REFUSAL OF MEN TO BELIEVE GOD'S TRUTH WILL MEET WITH A TERRIBLE HARVEST

Listen to these words: "And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death," Revelation 21:6-8.

Nothing is more fearful than the threat of being cast into a lake of fire and that for all eternity. There are many in the pulpits of the land who would say such a thing will never happen yet the Lord says it will.

Such severe punishment is due to the blatant, defiant, stubborn rejection of truth that has been set before men repeatedly in love. Furthermore, Christ-rejecting sinners will be but receiving their just deserts when they are so dealt with!

**1. The truth of the Bible is self-evident.** There is no excuse for ignorance! The Psalmist said: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard," Psalm 19:1-3. Thus we have the testimony of the natural world around and above us 'telling as a scribe'



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(declare, Hebrew) the grand and glorious truth of God's Creatorship!

Every star, every planet, every flower and shrub, every creature including man testify of a divine Creator. Evolution is a ludicrously inappropriate explanation for the existence of all around us. It has its origins in the darkness of heathendom amongst nations bereft of the privilege of the revelation of the God in the Holy Scriptures.

Evolution is refuted most powerfully by the testimony of the rocks which contain the fossil record created by the great flood of Genesis 6-8. As man ever does, the 'truth' of the record of the rocks has been perverted to give a presumptuous support for an earth that is supposedly millions, if not billions of years old and originating with some form of 'evolution'! The record of the flood is despised and mocked and yet man has never successfully explained the abundant evidences of a universal flood which left deposits of sea debris and marine fossils on the tops of mountains in every part of the world. Nowhere is this matter better set forth than in the book, "The Genesis Flood" by John Whitcomb and Henry Morris. I think that it can be fairly said that Evolutionists have not made any real attempt to refute such writings. The earth, at the hands of archeologists and researchers, continues to yield up proofs and evidences of the truth of Holy Scripture. Man rejects the Bible and the voice of creation that testifies in support of God's Book!

**2. The predictions and prophecies of the Bible testify to its inspired truthfulness.** There are many, many prophecies which clearly predicted certain events would take place in a time future to the prediction. There are just too many to list but here are some.

a. The flood was predicted by Enoch in the naming of his son, Methuselah. His name we are told means: "when he dies there shall be an emission or sending forth of waters upon the earth, to destroy it." The flood came the year Methuselah died. Noah likewise predicted the flood some 120 years before it came.

b. There is the prophecy, the promise given of God to Abraham that He would give the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants. The descendants of Abraham, despite all the wicked efforts of devil and men, occupy that land today and will for all eternity.

c. Jacob prophesied of the of the tribe of Judah becoming the royal tribe out of which the King should arise. "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be," Genesis 49:10. The Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Israel, is a Jew of the tribe of Judah. "And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever," Revelation 5:7-14.

d. The Prophet Isaiah spoke much about the coming Messiah and detailed many things about Him, chiefly about His sufferings and death. Isaiah 53 is a very well known section of his prophecies and speaks so vividly of the Saviour's sufferings. Here is what verse 3 says. "He is despised and rejected of men; a man



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of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

How precisely and comprehensively those words and the following verses were fulfilled. They were fulfilled to such a degree that tens of thousands of Jews who would have been in a position to refute the claims of the apostles regarding Christ's fulfilment of these verses, gladly acceded to them and embraced the Lord Jesus as the promised Messiah.

e. Christ accurately predicted the exact circumstances of Peter's denial of Him. "Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples," Matthew 26:33-35. That prophecy was sadly fulfilled a short time later. See verses 69-75.

f. Paul predicted the corruptions that would infiltrate the church after his death. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears," Acts 20:28-31. This was fulfilled as subsequent history shows and which Jude in his epistle records. "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ," Jude 1:3-4.

Books have been filled with the record of fulfilled prophecies. All of these testify to the truthfulness and dependability of the Bible and yet men reject it!

**3. There remains one great witness to the truth of the Bible.** I refer to the glorious life-transforming power of its message. Paul said to the once heathen dwellers of Ephesus: "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light," Ephesians 5:6-8. Here is what they were and what it was the gospel made them into. He said to the Corinthians, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new," 2Corinthians 5:17.

Every Christian is a living testimony to the truth of the Bible. There are millions today on the face of the earth who can testify in words and works to the truth of the gospel. The libraries of the world contain countless millions of the words of former generations whose testimonies to God's saving power bear witness to the truth of the Bible.

These things cannot be lightly dismissed!

But sadly, foolish men set all these things aside and eagerly embrace the seductive fabrications of the devil and his agents. Are we not seeing that time spoken of by Paul.

*"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 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: even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness," 2Thessalonians 2:7-12.*



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May the Lord preserve His own from the delusions of today and enable them to discern the lie and walk humbly in the truth of God.

*" That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe," 1Thessalonians 2:12-13.*