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"There Shall Be Pestilences"

By Duane V. Maxey

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." -- Matthew 24:7

"Great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven." -- Luke 21:11

According to Jesus' prophecy, one of the solemn signs preceding the sunteleia (the complete end) of our present age is pestilences in divers places throughout the earth. The ominous advent of those plagues preceding the second advent of Christ may have already begun. One thing is certain, "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" and everything He predicted will be fulfilled exactly and completely! (Rev. 19:10).

Jesus' Pestilence Prophecy should give the world pause -- both because of (a) WHAT is MEANT and (b) because of WHY the plagues are SENT.

WHAT is wrapped up in the predicted pestilences should give us pause. I was a lad of 10 when the Polio Plague struck our nation in 1947. It was scary as it paralyzed and killed numbers of Americans, but it paled in relation to the

relatively recent entry into our world of the AIDS epidemic which has already struck millions. Weird and lethal bugs like the West Nile Virus are now "out and about" on their own, but now, ANTHRAX is being sent here and there throughout our nation by men with warped minds and malicious motives. What we have seen so far is only a "preview of coming attractions" -- I should say "distractions," for soon men's hearts shall be "failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth" (Luke 21:26).

WHY last day pestilences strike should give the world even more pause. The source of last day pestilence goes farther back than Man; its source is even beyond the devil. If you read and believe God's Word, you will be overwhelmingly convinced that the plagues striking a wicked world at the end of time are:

A DIRECT JUDGMENT OF GOD!

Instead of our national leaders proclaiming HOW GOOD WE ARE, it is far overdue for someone in high places to tell it like it is! America is nearly, if not completely, rotten at the core -- and our land shall share greatly in the suffering of coming pestilence unless there is a real and radical removal of the immoral and spiritual rottenness now pervading the globe. Coming Pestilence shall strike directly from the hand of the grieved and angered Sovereign of the Universe, ALMIGHTY GOD:

"And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us: let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the Lord our God; lest he fall upon us with pestilence , or with the sword." -- Exodus 5:3

"For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth." -- Exodus 9:15

"And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy." -- Leviticus 26:25

"I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they." -- Numbers 14:12

"The Lord shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it." -- Deuteronomy 28:21

"So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me ." -- 2 Samuel 24:13

"So the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men." -- 2 Samuel 24:15

"Either three years' famine; or three months to be destroyed before thy foes, while that the sword of thine enemies overtaketh thee; or else three days the sword of the Lord, even the pestilence, in the land, and the angel of the Lord destroying throughout all the coasts of Israel. Now therefore advise thyself what word I shall bring again to him that sent me." -- 1 Chronicles 21:12

"So the Lord sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men." -- 1 Chronicles 21:14

"If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;" -- 2 Chronicles 7:13

"He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence ;" -- Psalms 78:50

"When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence ." -- Jeremiah 14:12

"And I will smite the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast: they shall die of a great pestilence ." -- Jeremiah 21:6

"And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, among them, till they be consumed from off the land that I gave unto them and to their fathers." -- Jeremiah 24:10

"And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the Lord, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand." -- Jeremiah 27:8

"Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Behold, I will send upon them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence and will make them like vile figs, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil." -- Jeremiah 29:17

"And I will persecute them with the sword, with the famine, and with the pestilence, and will deliver them to be removed to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, and an astonishment, and an hissing, and a reproach, among all the nations whither I have driven them:" -- Jeremiah 29:18

"Therefore thus saith the Lord; Ye have not hearkened unto me, in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother, and every man to his neighbour: behold, I proclaim a liberty for you, saith the Lord, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will make you to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth." -- Jeremiah 34:17

"So shall it be with all the men that set their faces to go into Egypt to sojourn there; they shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: and none of them shall remain or escape from the evil that I will bring upon them." -- Jeremiah 42:17

"For I will punish them that dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence:" -- Jeremiah 44:13

"So will I send upon you famine and evil beasts, and they shall bereave thee; and pestilence and blood shall pass through thee; and I will bring the sword upon thee. I the Lord have spoken it." -- Ezekiel 5:17

"He that is far off shall die of the pestilence ; and he that is near shall fall by the sword; and he that remaineth and is besieged shall die by the famine: thus will I accomplish my fury upon them ." -- Ezekiel 6:12

"But I will leave a few men of them from the sword, from the famine, and from the pestilence; that they may declare all their abominations among the heathen whither they come; and they shall know that I am the Lord." -- Ezekiel 12:16

"Or if I send a pestilence into that land, and pour out my fury upon it in blood, to cut off from it man and beast:" -- Ezekiel 14:19

"For thus saith the Lord God; How much more when I send my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the noisome beast, and the pestilence , to cut off from it man and beast?" -- Ezekiel 14:21

"For I will send into her pestilence, and blood into her streets; and the wounded shall be judged in the midst of her by the sword upon her on every side; and they shall know that I am the Lord." -- Ezekiel 28:23

"And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone." -- Ezekiel 38:22

"I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up unto your nostrils: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord." -- Amos 4:10

"Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet." -- Habakkuk 3:5

WHY the pestilences in the above verses struck, should make us realize clearly that the pestilences mentioned by Christ are the direct punishment of God upon an anti-Christian, God-hating world:

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." -- Matthew 24:7

"And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven." -- Luke 21:11

It is going to take more than a fearful world singing "GOD BLESS AMERICA" to stop the coming pestilences:

HERE IS WHAT IT WILL TAKE:

If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land " (2 Chr. 7:13-14).

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THE END