





# CORONAVIRUS

READ WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES

# Coronavirus, 'A Mere Tremor Compared To What Is Coming'

By Dr Michael Brown

As the author of Hebrews tells us, the Lord "has promised, 'Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.' The words 'once more' indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain". (Hebrews 12:26-27).

Everything will be shaken on that day.

This is how Jesus described it: "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken" (Luke 21:25-26).

Or, in the vivid language of the Book of Revelation, "Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?" (Revelation 6:15-17)

Can you even imagine a scene like this?

#### Very few want to talk about God's judgment today.

We choose to avoid it. "Give us sweet stuff! Give us happy stuff! Tell us nice stories. Make us smile! We don't want to hear about judgment. That makes God sound mean."

To the contrary, that makes God sound just. He will judge unrighteousness. He will punish the wicked. He will bring retribution.

That is good news for the righteous and the godly. As the psalmist said, "Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness" (**Psalm 96:13**).

#### Judgment on the wicked also means salvation for the righteous.

The Book of Revelation also speaks of the pouring out of 7 bowls of divine wrath on the earth, resulting in horrific judgments on those who refuse to repent (see **Revelation 16**).

There will be no vaccines or cures on that day.

There will be no intervention by the federal government.

There will be no way of escape – other than running to the Lord for mercy and taking refuge under His wings.

#### **Judgment is certainly coming!**

Isaiah put it like this (please read this slowly and prayerfully): "See, the LORD is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; he will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants— it will be the same for priest as for people, for the master as for his servant, for the mistress as for her servant, for seller as for buyer, for borrower as for lender, for debtor as for creditor. The earth will be completely laid waste and totally plundered. The LORD has spoken this word. The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers, the heavens languish with the earth. The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. Therefore earth's inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left" (Isaiah 24:1–6).

Even if we understand that the prophets sometimes spoke in hyperbolic language, the overall meaning of these words is undeniable: **one day severe judgment will fall on a guilty planet.** 

Yet even in the midst of this terrifying description, **there are words of hope for God's people.** In fact, there is a divine invitation to take refuge in Him: "Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by. See, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will disclose the blood shed on it; the earth will conceal its slain no longer" (Isaiah 26:20–21).

As Proverbs states, "The name of the LORD is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe" (**Proverbs 18:10**). And as Psalm 91 declares, there is a place of protection, a hiding place, in God Most High.

That's why Jesus said this to His followers, immediately after warning of the **judgment that** would be coming to the earth: "When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28).

The coming of the Lord is at hand.

And that's why the very passage from Hebrews that we quoted at the beginning of this article ends with this: "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:28–29).

The whole world will be shaken, but God's kingdom – and God's people – will not be shaken.

As the psalmist declared, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. **Therefore we will not fear,** though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day" **(Psalm 46:1–5)**.

And this: "Surely **the righteous will never be shaken**; they will be remembered forever. They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD. Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes" **(Psalm 112:6–8)**.

It is true that the coronavirus has taken many lives so far, and every life is precious. And it is true that many more lives could be lost, along with real suffering for hundreds of millions due to economic crises.

But this is only a small blip on the radar compared to what is coming.

Now would be a **good time** for us, as God's holy people, to learn to trust Him in the midst of crisis, putting our spiritual roots down deep.

Now would be a **good time** to realise that all life is transitory and that, at best, we are only passing through this world.

Now would be a **good time** to take hold afresh of the beauty of the cross and the gift of eternal life.

And now would be a **good time** to be used as agents of mercy and hope to a hurting world. In Jesus, we have all that we will ever need. And in Him, we will never be shaken.



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My beloved EHC Supporter -

As COVID-19 continues to spread, my thoughts go out to you and all our friends around the world. These are challenging times, and we each experience them in different ways. Some of us are sick and quarantined away from friends and family. Many of us are confined to our homes, a purposeful seclusion that can nevertheless feel isolating.

But today I would like to remind you — we are together in this.

Now, more than ever, it is encouraging to remember Hebrews 12:1. We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. We are not alone! In our prayers, in our relationship as children of God, and in our shared love for one another, we are together. Furthermore, we have the witness of the historical Church in times of disease to show us a way forward.

We are also together in a common mission. Even though we must adapt to the unique challenges of this time, the Gospel remains our only hope. Every Home for Christ is still committed to reaching every home on Earth with the Gospel, and we know that you are with us in this mission.

We have always believed that prayer alone will remove every obstacle that stands in the way of the Great Commission. Today we get to practice what we preach. Will you partner with me in prayer for supernatural healing, protection, and for a global move of God? We know that when we pray, Jesus is mighty to save.

As I am praying for the nations, please know that I am also praying for you. You are part of this global EHC family, and I pray that God will sustain you in this time.

From our home to yours — and to every home on Earth — may the love of Christ abound.

i) Early

For the harvest,

Dick Eastman
EHC International President





# The Beauty and the Challenge of Every Tribe Worshipping God by Jono Hall, V.P. of Messaging and Mobilization

"A fter this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a great roar..." (Revelation 7:9-10, NLT)

In the early 1970s, there was a noticeable waning of the missionary fervour that had been the focus of so many church efforts in the 19th and 20th centuries. A prevailing sentiment of the time was that the Gospel had already been preached in every political nation, essentially completing the job of world evangelisation. Could it be that global missions was no longer necessary?

It was at this time that Billy Graham called a convention to discuss the state of world evangelisation. In July 1974, 2,700 evangelists and Christian ministers from 150 nations gathered in Lausanne, Switzerland. magazine called this gathering "possibly the widest ranging meeting of Christians ever held." Among several historymaking moments at the conference, one plenary session stood out. The renowned missiologist Ralph Winter addressed the crowd, stating that when the Bible talks about every nation, it is referring not simply to our modern definition of a nation, but to — "every ethnic people group." This new understanding provided fresh impetus to see the Good News of Jesus reach more

people around the world, and since that time, missions organisations have begun to focus on reaching not only every political nation, but every "unreached people group" with the Gospel.

However, the verse in Revelation 7 doesn't just say that every "ethnic group" will praise in front of the throne of God; it also says every "tribe, people and language" will be there. And this means the missionary invitation and task just got a little larger.

#### Reaching Every Tribe = The OIKOS **Initiative**

The very word "tribe" is something that may seem foreign to us. They might have tribes on the continent of Africa, but surely we are not tribal in the Western world. In his book *Tribes*, acclaimed writer Seth Godin defines a tribe this way:

"A tribe is a group of people connected to one another, connected to a leader and connected to an idea. For millions of years, human beings have been part of one tribe or another. A group needs only two things to be a tribe: a shared interest and a way to communicate".

The truth is that tribes are a part of every culture — no matter whether we live in a developed or a developing society. Even in cultures that seemingly left tribalism behind centuries ago, we find that tribes still persist, but now based on shared beliefs, causes or interests.

### Even in cultures that seemingly left tribalism behind centuries ago, we find that tribes still persist, but now based on shared beliefs, causes or interests.

This hits at the heart of EHC's goal with the OIKOS Initiative. The Greek word "oikos" means "home" or "family unit," and our vision is to reach every home on the planet in 20 years. EHC's main methodology still focuses on reaching a physical address to reach a family with the Gospel. However, there are always "tribes" of people in any community that do not fit this idea. For instance, even in the developed world, we need to be intentional about reaching the "homeless tribe," the "institutionalised tribe" or the "travel-for-business tribe."

Africa Continental Director Cleopas Chitapa takes tribes into account as he works to bring the Gospel to every home in Africa:

"One can merely look at the political and governmental systems in each nation to understand the challenges, where so much is predicated on tribal identity politics. If we ignore these considerations, we may totally impede the acceptance of the Gospel within a particular tribe. For some people, accepting Jesus may be like accepting a god from another tribe, which would be considered a rebellious betrayal of their own tribal gods and their civic human authority... We plan for these challenges and make the Gospel presence both culturally relevant and indigenously self-replicating".

We face these challenges in areas where traditional, tribal cultures dominate, such as the African continent where more than 3,000 tribes speak 2,400 languages. But we also face it in other parts of the world, where tribes may be less visible.

#### The Challenge of Tribalism

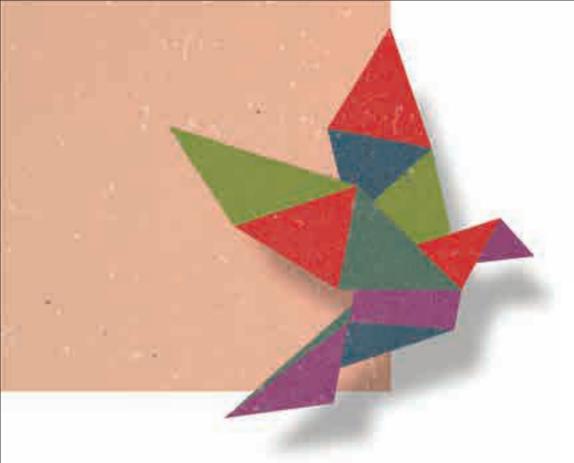
However, as soon as we recognise the presence of tribes, we find ourselves up against one of the greater challenges that has always faced humanity — tribalism.

Tribalism, one of the greatest producers of division and conflict among peoples, exists in every area of the world. These differences are not limited to politics; they might be related to race or fundamental beliefs. Every culture of the world deals with the challenges of "us" and "them," which causes division and conflict.

In the Western world, we live in perhaps one of the most polarising times in recent memory. On both sides of the Atlantic, one simply has to say words like "Brexit," "Trump" or "immigration" to elicit visceral responses, either positive or negative, in an audience. Tribalism — including nationalism — is one of the greatest challenges we face in the task ahead.

Christians are not exempt from these considerations. Our North American Continental Director, Scott Middlebrook, considers some of the ways we must face tribalism in our own communities:

"Sometimes the biggest challenge that we face is finding the ability to lay aside our tribal differences and reach out with the compassion of Jesus to people with different worldviews. People might speak English or their native tongue but in reality speak a very different language, with different assumptions about words like "love," "sin" or other theological words. Our challenge really is: Can we listen and love people we may consider wrong or sinful, in the same way that Jesus did?



All will ultimately sing praise before the throne of God.

This question is key to understanding the work of many renowned missionaries. In the mid-19th century, when Hudson Taylor began to adopt the cultural elements of Chinese culture in his missionary efforts, he caused something of a sensation among European missionary societies. Their initial reaction was that God and the followers of God must be just like them. Taylor, however, was correct in his assessment — becoming a follower of Jesus did not necessitate that you must look like a European. In fact, loving the Chinese people called him to embrace the clothing and culture of their tribe. He did this so that the Chinese people would be represented before the throne of God some day.

It is a glorious truth that when we become followers of Jesus, we are invited into the family of God and become "citizens of heaven" (Philippians 3:20). I regularly marvel at this very reality as I interact with brothers and sisters in Christ from across the globe. But it is also just as true that we retain much of the rich diversity that makes us different from each other — with all our different customs, ways of communicating

and cultures. We are not a homogeneous people before the throne of God, all speaking the same language, all looking alike.

Revelation gives us a beautiful picture of the diversity of God's people and seems to indicate that we will all speak our own heart language as we worship before the throne. This is even more stunning when we consider that there are over 7,000 living languages in the world today. What a picture of redemption! We know that the languages were confused at the tower of Babel, but with the coming of the New Covenant and the Holy Spirit, God redeems that which was a curse, and we see, even on the day of Pentecost, praise arising in many different tongues in Jerusalem.

The promise of redemption is that while we can retain our distinctions, the barriers of tribalism will eventually be wiped away. This is the ultimate restoration, the ultimate transformation. Every tribe — from the post-modern tribe in a Western European city to the primitive Amazonian tribe in the depths of South America — all will ultimately sing praise before the throne of God.



### AIPIRIIL 2020

**Bible Readings:** This month the daily text will be taken from the books of Luke and John. For those wanting to do the one-year Bible reading program these chapters are in brackets.

## PRAY FOR DICK AND DEE EASTMAN.

Dick is the International President of Every Home for Christ with a large responsibility for EHC ministries across the world. **Luke 9: 1 - 31 (Leviticus 8 - 10)** 



PRAY FOR DIPLAVE POKHREI
Please continue to pray urgently
for the Immigration Department
to approve Diplave's visa so that he
can continue working with Every
Home for Christ.

PRAY FOR ERIC AND LORRAINE LEACH Please ask God to guide them, especially as Eric draws up the plan to visit every home in Australia and helps with New Zealand as Executive Director in both countries and serves on the United Kingdom Board. Luke 9: 32 - 62 (Leviticus 11 - 14)



PRAY FOR YOUR FAMILY - sons, daughters and grandchildren, plus others to come to Christ. Get a piece of paper and write down their names. Get their photos and pray every day for their salvation; eternity without Christ is a long time! Luke 10: 1-21 (Leviticus 15 - 16)

coronavirus victims Pray physical and spiritual healing would come through the suffering of people as a result of the Coronavirus. Luke 10: 22- 42 (Leviticus 17 - 22)

is a local printer who has agreed to print Christian literature even though it is against the law. Please pray that God will protect him and give him wisdom. May the gospel message that he prints touch his life and lead him to faith in Jesus as his Saviour.

Luke 11:1 - 27 (Leviticus 23 - 27)

and stability in Guinea so Pioneer Missionaries can carry out the plan to share the Gospel everywhere. The nation is experiencing political demonstrations and violence on a regular basis, creating a lot of fear. They need God to intervene.

Luke 11:28-52 (Numbers 1 - 4)

PRAY FOR ISRAEL ROMANS 11:28

In Coventry they are creating an app. that will help them share the "Hope for Every Home" magazine with every home in the city. Pray that God will bless this partnership and bring breakthrough to Coventry.

Luke 12:1 - 30 (Numbers 5 -7)

cape verde Pop. 550,000 Map. 43 This island nation lacks infrastructure to accommodate the trips between the islands needed to accomplish EHC's 2020 evangelism goals. Pray that the government will provide more domestic boats and planes, or that God will meet this need in some other way. Luke 12: 31 -59 (Numbers 8 - 10)

is targeting 3.5 million homes this year - an immense challenge. They will print 3.5 million pieces of gospel literature and discipleship courses. Pray that the Lord will give them wisdom and strength so they can reach millions of people across the nation. Luke 13 (Numbers 11 - 15)

Please pray for EHC team members in this country as they share new gospel literature they have worked hard to produce. Pray that the message of the Gospel will touch thousands of hearts in unique ways and bring many to faith in Jesus Christ. Luke 14 (Numbers 16 - 19)

Thursday EHC Pioneer Missionaries conduct regular outreaches among students in the Student City in Tirana. Please pray for the students to open their hearts to Jesus and for a new generation of disciples to be raised up in Albania.

Luke 15 (Numbers 20 - 24)

Nathan, a former Islamic leader, and his family of 13 people have given their lives to Christ. They are now experiencing persecution from other Muslims. Nathan is receiving training in evangelism. Please pray for protection and encouragement for these new believers.

Luke 16 (Numbers 25 - 27)

MYANMAR Pop. 54,300,000 Map. 135
Praise God for the 270 people in Kayin State,
Ayeyarwady, and Yangon who recently made
a commitment to follow Jesus after EHC outreaches.
Pray that they will grow in their faith and that God will
establish Christ Groups in those areas.

Luke 17
(Numbers 28 - 31)

Churches are eagerly adopting the vision of the OIKOS Initative - to reach every home with the Gospel. Pastors have set their own goals for starting Christ Groups, which they will nurture to grow into churches. Pray for the growth, health, and purity of the Church in South Africa.

Luke 18: 1- 21

(Numbers 32 - 36)

ROMANIA Pop. 19,300,000 Map. 78 EHC Romania plans to reach 550,000 homes in 2020. Many of these homes are a four to eight-hour drive away from the central office. Pray for more local volunteers to join the outreaches in these areas. Pray for protection and for a rich harvest in Year Two of the OIKOS Initiative. Luke 18:22-43 (Deuteronomy 1 - 4)

named Angelica says, "I was introduced to prostitution by a friend who invited me to be part of a prostitution business. I regret what I did, and I have asked God to forgive me. I will now take the gospel message to the girls who are still in prostitution." Please pray for Angelica. Luke 19:1 - 24 (Deuteronomy 5 - 8)

plan to reach five districts in this nation in 2020. Pray for protection from local governments and Hindu extremists. It is not easy to do home-to-home outreach when everyone is against you, but EHC workers are not discouraged. With prayer, they face it all.

Luke 19: 25 - 48 (Deuteronomy 9 - 11)

FRANCE Pop. 65,200,000 Map. 89 In the island of Department of Mayotte, heavy rains make gospel outreach difficult,especially the movement of EHC team members to distant places on the island. Pray for good weather and for discernment for workers as Mayotte is predominantly Muslim. Luke 20: 1-24 (Deuteronomy 12 - 18)

Pastor Patrick and his team are travelling through rural areas such as Omaruru and Okombahe. Their aim is to engage and partner with people of God there. These are neglected and remote areas where very few people have heard the Gospel. Please pray for success in this mission.

Luke 20: 41 - 80 (Deuteronomy 19 - 26)

MEXICO Pop. 128, 500,000 Map. 178
Mexican gangs make roadblocks and require payment in order to pass. Pastor Hermilo, an EHC coordinator, always show them literature and shares the Gospel with them. They often let him pass and even ask him to pray for them. Pray for the salvation of these gang members.

Luke 21

(Deuteronomy 27 - 30)

HUNGARY Pop. 9,700,000 Map.79 The Christian printing press in Northern Ireland has often provided free printing for EHC Hungary. It is again printing thousands of gospel booklets for them. Thank God for this printing service. Pray that all the literature will arrive in time for scheduled outreaches. Luke 22: 1 - 36 (Deuteronomy 31 - 34)

CREATIVE ACCESS - LATIN AMERICA Pray for strategy and wisdom to be able to reach closed residental areas in this country. There are places where gangs run the streets or where there is no public transport, so churches and workers can't get to them. We thank God in advance for His help.

Luke 22: 37

-71 (Psalm 91)

Write your prayer request and we will pray for you too!

The burning desire of EHC Cameroon is to see local churches take up the torch of evangelism, whether EHC teams are there or not. Pray for a wind of revival in partner churches during the OIKOS Initiative. Pray for more open doors into churches and homes in 2020.

Luke 23:1 -23 (Joshua 1 -5)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC Pop. 10,800,000 Map. 192 Pray for Santo Domingo East and the province of Azua, which will be the focus of the OIKOS Initiative this year. Pray for an army of passionate workers to come forward and for effective church mobilisers in the areas where gospel outreaches will take place. Luke 23: 23-44

(Joshua 6 - 8)

About 5,000 leaders will attend the Thailand Congress on Evangelism, April 27 - 30 in Chiang Mai. EHC Thailand will have a good opportunity to network with churches from around the country and will provide training for home-to-home outreach. Pray for a move of God's Spirit. Luke 24:1-27 (Joshua 9 - 12)

team of workers used EHC materials for outreaches to prostitutes and their communities. It can be dangerous, but the Lord protected them. The women were blessed by the care that team members showed them. Pray that God will touch hearts and bring salvation to these women.

Luke 24:28-52 (Joshua 13 - 17)

Martha became a believer 20 years ago but has been afraid to share her faith for fear of persecution. She and her daughter have just left the small town where has lived for 20 years. She now feels it is safe to meet with other believers. Pray that she will grow in faith and in God's grace.

John 1: 1 - 26
(Joshua 18 - 21)

RWANDA Pop. 12,900,000 Map. 17
Training, outreach and discipleship activities are ongoing in Huye, Kirehe, Rubavu and Gasabo districts. Please pray for EHC Pioneer Missionaries to be guided by the Holy Spirit and filled with the Power of God. May God bring a great harvest in these areas.

John 1:27 - 51 (Joshua 22 - 24)

HONDURAS Pop. 9,900,000 Map. 182 EHC Honduras is trying to establish church partnerships in the Bay Isalnds off the coast of Honduras to launch the OIKOS Initative. Please pray for good weather to allow safe travel by boat and for church leaders who will embrace the vision of reaching every home with the Gospel. John 2 (Judges 1 - 3)

Simon was an alcoholic who beat his wife frequently. After reading the EHC booklet "Are You Happy?" Simon and his family accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Simon has now given up his terrible habits and is following the Lord. Praise God for transforming this household!

John 3 (Judges 4 -5)