

HOW CAN A CHRISTIAN BE PROTECTED FROM THE COMING PROPHESED PESTILENCES OR PANDEMICS?

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this small Study Document.

Let us first define what the word “**pestilence**” actually means.

“**Pestilence** – Noun n. [L. pestilentia, from pestilens; pestis, plague.] 1. Plague, appropriately so called; but in a general sense, any contagious or infectious disease that is epidemic and mortal.” - Noah Webster’s 1828 Dictionary.

Jesus warned His disciples that there were to be pestilences taking place before His second coming.

Matthew 24:7 & 8: - “For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and **there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places**. All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.”

The Psalmist has given us the comforting assurance, that if we are the Lord’s people, He will bring us safely through the deadly noisome pestilence, that will be sweeping away thousands upon thousands of the wicked inhabitants of the earth. The Lord will charge His angels to protect His holy people.

Psalms 91:1 – 12: - “**He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.** He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: **his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.** Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; *nor* for the arrow *that* flieth by day; *Nor* for the pestilence *that* walketh in darkness; *nor* for the destruction *that* wasteth at noonday. **A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.** Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. **Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.**”

NOTE: - God’s people are to be protected from the noisome pestilence – VS.3; from the pestilence “that walketh in darkness” – VS. 6; it will be deadly – 1, 000 will fall at thy side; 10, 000 at thy right hand - VS. 7; the angels of God will be charged to protect God’s people – VS. 11 & 12.

Why are God's people protected? VS. 1 – They dwell in the secret place of the most High. VS. 2 – God is their refuge and fortress; He is their God, and they put their trust in Him. VS. 4 – God's truth shall be their shield and buckler [a buckler is, a small type of defensive shield, worn on the left arm].

The following statement from the Spirit of Prophecy, outlines what we must do in terms of our individual character development, so as to have God's protection during the time of noisome pestilence and amidst seen and unseen dangers.

Historical Sketches p. 155: - **“Now is the time when we are to confess and forsake our sins that they may go beforehand to judgment and be blotted out. Now is the time to “cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” It is dangerous to delay this work.** Satan is even now seeking by disasters upon sea and land to seal the fate of as many as possible. **What is the defense of the people of God at this time? It is a living connection with heaven. If we would dwell in safety from the noisome pestilence, if we would be preserved from dangers seen and unseen, we must hide in God; we must secure the protecting care of Jesus and holy angels.** In these days of peril, the Lord would have us walk before him in humility. Instead of trying to cover our sins, he would have us confess them, as Joshua confessed the sins of ancient Israel.” {HS 155.2}

2nd Corinthians 7:1: - “Having therefore **these promises**, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

NOTE: - The words “these promises” refer to the promises made by the Lord in Chapter 6:16 – 18.

We want the blessedness of having our sins forgiven and confessed, whereby our sins will be covered by the Lord.

Psalms 32:1 & 2: - “Blessed is *he* whose transgression is forgiven, *whose* sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit *there is* no guile.”

Proverbs 28:13: - “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.”

The Lord has promised to have His angels protect those who fear Him, as was evidenced in the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den.

Psalms 34:7: - “The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.”

Daniel 6:21 - 23: - “Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. **My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me:** forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, **because he believed in his God.**”

Isaiah 26:20 & 21: - “Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.”

Historical Sketches p. 158: - “When tempted to sin, let us remember that Jesus is pleading for us in the heavenly sanctuary. When we put away our sins and come to him in faith, he takes our names in his lips and presents them to his Father, saying, “I have graven them upon the palms of my hands; I know them by name.” **And the command goes forth to the angels to protect them. Then in the day of fierce trial he will say, “Come, my people, enter thou into**

thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee; hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.” What are the chambers in which they are to hide? They are the protection of Christ and holy angels.” {HS 158.3}

The following is a future prediction concerning the coming final conflict upon this earth. Satan will cause deadly pestilences that will take away thousands in death, reducing populous cities to ruin and desolation.

1884 Great Controversy, pp. 407 & 408: - “While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, **he will bring disease and disaster until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation.** Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, is Satan exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. **He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence.** These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon the inhabitants of the world. The beasts of the field will groan, and the earth will languish.” {4SP 407.2}

We must receive the Seal of the Living God, to be protected from the prevailing pestilence that will come upon the world at the end of time. We are warned by the Testimony of Jesus that the dead and dying will be all around God’s people at this time.

Revelation 7:1 - 3: - “And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having **the seal of the living God**¹: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”

The Present Truth, September, 1849; p. 32: - “**What we have seen and heard of the pestilence,** is but the beginning of what we shall see and hear. **Soon the dead and dying will be all around us.** I saw that some will be so hardened, as to even make sport of the judgements of God. Then the slain of the Lord will be from one end of the earth, to the other; they will not be lamented, gathered, nor buried; but their ill savor will come up from the face of the whole earth. **Those only who have the seal of the living God, will be sheltered from the storm of wrath, that will soon fall on the heads of those who have rejected the truth.** In Hope, E. G. White.”

¹ The Living God is identified in the Scriptures as being the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, and all things therein.

Jeremiah 10:10 - 12: - “But **the LORD is the true God, he is the living God,** and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation. Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, *even* they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens. **He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.**”

Acts 14:14 & 15: - “*Which* when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, And saying, *Sirs,* why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto **the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein.**”

In reality, the expression “the seal of the Living God”, means “the seal of the Creator God”.

The seal or sign of the Creator God is His seventh day Sabbath.

Exodus 31:16 & 17: - “Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep **the sabbath,** to observe **the sabbath** throughout their generations, *for* a perpetual covenant. **It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.**”

The following statement from the Testimony of Jesus gives us more detailed instruction concerning the high standard of character development that is required of the people of God, so as to enable them to be fit candidates to receive the Seal of the Living God.

5th Testimony, p. 216: - "**Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God** will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. **All who receive the seal must be without spot before God -- candidates for heaven.** Go forward, my brethren and sisters. I can only write briefly upon these points at this time, **merely calling your attention to the necessity of preparation.** Search the Scriptures for yourselves, that you may understand the fearful solemnity of the present hour."

The Apostle Paul indicated that those who are sealed belong to the Lord, and that they will depart from iniquity.

2nd Timothy 2:19: - "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, **having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his.** And, **Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.**"

Jesus prophesied that those who shall be accounted worthy [that is, those who shall be judged worthy], shall be able to stand safely through the trials coming upon the world at the end of time, and to meet the Son of Man in peace.

Luke 21:34 - 36: - "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. **Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.**"

The prophet Daniel reveals that those who have their names retained in God's Book [the Book of Life], shall be delivered from the Time of Trouble, by Michael the great Prince [that is, Jesus Christ], Who stands up to deliver the people of God.

Daniel 12:1: - "And at that time shall **Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people:** and there shall be a **time of trouble, such as never was** since there was a nation *even* to that same time: **and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.**"

Jesus has promised that those who overcome their sins, will have their names retained in the Book of Life.

Revelation 3:5: - "**He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life,** but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

If we obey the voice of the Lord and keep His Commandments, He has promised that He will bring none of the diseases suffered by the Egyptians [Egypt is a symbol of the unbelieving world] upon His covenant keeping people.

Exodus 15:26: - "And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, **I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.**"

God's people will be protected through the final tremendous upheavals and pestilences that will be coming upon the earth just before Jesus' Second Coming.

1884 Great Controversy, p. 471: - "The world see the very class whom they have mocked and derided, and desired to exterminate, **pass unharmed through tempest and earthquake and pestilence.** He who is to the transgressors of his law a devouring fire, is to his people a safe pavilion." {4SP 471.2}

The following simple statement gives us an inspired definition of God's end-time saints. They keep the Commandments of God [that is, the Father], and the faith of Jesus [the Son].

Revelation 14:12: - "Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

☞ According to the words of inspiration, if we would be protected from the noisome pestilences that shall come upon the world before the end of this earth's history, we need to have made God our spiritual refuge and to have our trust in Him; to have perfected holiness in the fear of God; we need to receive the Seal of the Living God; and to have been accounted [judged] worthy by the Lord; to have overcome our sins and to have our names retained within the Book of Life, so as to be able to stand through the trying times ahead. Walking in obedience to God's Commandments will ensure that we are identified among God's last day saints. They will be a group of people, whom the Lord shall bring through safely amidst the tempests, earthquakes and pestilences that will be sweeping away many of the wicked inhabitants of this world.