

# **Enduring “Hanging in There Until the End”**

## **I. INTRODUCTION – THE “CORONAVIRUS” PESTILENCE**

**Yesterday, April 3, 2020, in a single day there were 1087 new confirmed deaths in the US from the Coronavirus pestilence, and 5,961 worldwide, By close of day yesterday, in the US alone, 32,810 new Coronavirus cases were confirmed, now for a total of 277,985. Worldwide, by close of day yesterday, 7,146 new deaths were confirmed in a single day, now totaling 1,123,024 confirmed cases worldwide.**

**On March 21, an article was written by Jim Daley and published by Fox News: “Where is God during the coronavirus pandemic?”, Daley wrote: “In times of great crisis, it’s natural and normal for people to ponder and pose any number of questions. Lately, I’ve been asked how an all-powerful God would allow the coronavirus to wreak such havoc clear across the world. This virus has claimed the lives of thousands and ravaged hundreds of thousands more. Many people want to know why God won’t stop it. Where is He in the middle of this global pandemic?”**

**He continued: “theological questions of this nature have been asked ... since the beginning of time. Unexplained tragedy, unspeakable suffering, and inconceivable circumstances of all kinds have marked humanity down through the years. It’s actually only been in recent years that we’ve enjoyed relative peace and prosperity across the globe. Crack open a history book and you’ll soon discover that as dire and as difficult as things may seem today, the world has faced much worse in the past.”**

**“One of the deadliest pandemics occurred between A.D. 249 and 262, when up to 5,000 people in Rome died – per day. Incidentally, while many non-Christians concentrated on saving only themselves back then, it was the Christians who remained and served those who were suffering.”**

**“Back in the 1600s, there was a Lutheran German pastor named Martin Rinkart. He found himself ministering in the midst of horrendous famine and disease. At one point, he was the only pastor left in his town and [he] conducted up to 50 funerals in a single day. Yet, the world may never have remembered Rinkert, if**

not for him writing the well-known hymn, “Nun danket alle Gott” – otherwise known as, “Now, Thank We All Our God.”

“To be clear, no evil comes from God [YAHUAH] – but nor can any evil happen without His permission. Despite all the strife and suffering, God [YAHUAH] is there – because He is everywhere. God [YAHUAH] is currently in every hospital, strengthening doctors, nurses and medical personnel as they treat the sick and comfort the dying. God [YAHUAH] is working through the government’s response to this crisis, providing [the President] and Vice President... and the Coronavirus Task Force wisdom and guidance as they plot and plan their attack on this lethal pathogen.”

“If you look at the massive humanitarian effort that’s unfolding not only in this country but all across the world, you’ll see God [YAHUAH] — often in the form of His devoted servants — in the middle of blood drives, food donations and churches and businesses that are opening their parking lots for drive-through testing locations”, etc. (Mention a few “Christian” deeds that are being done locally, nationally, and around the globe. Locally, individuals and churches offering food, transportation, food pick-up and delivery, and more. Within this state, college students delivering meals to seniors. Nationwide, individuals, children and adults, churches and businesses, are serving their communities and Meanwhile, GAN is sponsoring a new food distribution in Pakistan as church remains closed, and GAN is continuing our school and orphanage support in Haiti and Kenya during this time.)

Last week, the question was posed about whether those people in Africa and in the Middle East who were currently suffering from the locust infestation and famine currently going on there ... or whether those people who are contracting and dying from the Coronavirus pestilence going on now worldwide... whether these particular people who are suffering and dying are worse sinners than the other people who are not? When looked at the red-letter words of YAHUSHA [Jesus] last week, and we learned that the answer is “No, they are not!”.

## II. REPENT OR PERISH

Dr Luke writes of YAHUSHA [Jesus], that during His time “there were present at that season some that told Him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. [And] YAHUSHA [Jesus] answering said unto them, **“Suppose you that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because**

they suffered such things? I tell you, 'No': but, except you repent, you will all likewise perish." [He continued:] "Or those eighteen (18), upon whom the tower of Shiloach fell, and slew them, think you that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, 'No': but, except you repent, you will all likewise perish." (Luke 13:1-5)

### III. TODAY'S SCRIPTURE & CONTEXT

Today's scripture is Matthew 24:13 – **"But he who endures to the end shall be saved"**, and the context of these red-letter words, spoken by YAHUSHA [Jesus] Himself, are part of His "Signs of the End Times" prophecy contained in this chapter. Today's scripture follows last week's scripture from verses 7 and 8, that were also red-letter words. Here YAHUSHA [Jesus] also predicts that **"... there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. [And] all these are the beginning of sorrows."**

You'll remember that we mentioned that these phenomenon, including the Coronavirus *pestilence*, are just a part of the "birth pang" events that YAHUSHA [Jesus] told us would occur before He returns (Matthew 24:8)... that these things will happen more and more frequently, with more and more intensity before He returns: at which time we will experience the bliss of His presence... similar to the bliss that a mother feels after she endures and delivers, and finally has her newborn child at her side.

### IV. ENDURING WHAT EXACTLY? UPCOMING EVENTS FORETOLD

So right now, while you and I are right smack in the middle of, and enduring a single, but very intense "pestilence" birth pang known as the Coronavirus, our Savior YAHUSHA [Jesus] still reminds us that **"he who endures to the end will be saved"**.

In context, as a mother endures more and more frequent, and more and more painful contractions, will you and I will also experience more frequent, and more and more intense **"famines, pestilences, and earthquakes"** (Matthew 24:7-8). What that means for you and me in context is this: we know that the Coronavirus will eventually subside. But we also know that as it subsides, more and more frequent and intense pestilence will occur in the future... as well, we know that more and more frequent and intense famines and earthquakes will

occur (Matthew 24:7-8)... **“in diverse places”** (Matthew 24:7). But that’s not all we know...

...in His “Signs of the End Times” prophesy, YAHUSHA [Jesus] tells us that in addition to more and more frequent and intense pestilences, famines, and earthquakes, wars and rumors of wars will be going on (Matthew 24:5)... that many false Christs false teachers [prophets], and deceptions will take place (Matthew 24:4,11). And don’t forget, that right after prophesying of the **“famines, pestilences, and earthquakes”** (Matthew 24:7), YAHUSHA [Jesus] warns us that...

**“then they will deliver you up to be afflicted and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. [That] then many false teachers will rise up and will deceive many. And because the transgression of the Law [Torah] will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”** (Matthew 24:9-12)

YAHUSHA [Jesus] then leaves us with His solemn, and beautiful promise that **“he [or she] who endures to the end will be saved.”** (Matthew 24:13) We are told, we are reminded... that we must each live lives of “enduring”, so that things will *eventually* be “ok” with us. That means that meanwhile, we must suffer patiently, we must “hanging in there”, through an unpleasant or difficult process or situation, without giving way... until the end.

Today, as I speak to you as my brothers and sisters in MESSIAH [Christ], whom I love very deeply, I wish I could promise you that after the Coronavirus passes, that everything will be better for you... that this type of thing or that any other type of suffering, life trial or tribulation will never happen to you again. But I can *not* promise you that. But I can reassure you today, exactly how YAHUSHA [Jesus] reassures you: that if you “enduring” to the end, you will be saved! (Matthew 24:13) For an eternity! And when and where you and I can claim the solemn promise that **“YAHUAH [God] [Himself] will wipe away all tears from [our] eyes, and [where] there will be no more death! Neither sorrow! Nor crying! Neither will there be anymore pain! For the former things [the things that you and I are experiencing now in this life] are passed away.”** (Revelation 21:4)

## V. PERSECUTION OF YAHUAH [God]’s PEOPLE

Many of us who live in peaceful countries and communities, where many of us live today, probably think that the next step in our future is far, far away. The next step that after the famines, pestilence, and earthquakes, **“then they will deliver you up to be afflicted and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.”** (Matthew 24:9-10) But I am here to tell you that those who are suffering and dying today for their faith in other places don’t think so... because this has been and is still happening to them today. Here’s a short list of those “Christians” who have been persecuted since just the beginning of this year, just the last three (3) months:

2020.03.29	Guinea	Nzerekore	3	0	A Muslim mob burns churches and kills at least three people.
2020.03.20	Turkey	Kovankaya	1	0	The elderly mother of a priest is kidnapped and murdered.
2020.02.27	Pakistan	Kasur	1	0	A 22-year-old laborer is called a "filthy Christian," chained to a tree and tortured for "polluting" the community bathing water.
2020.02.21	Nigeria	Garkida	2	0	At least two guards are killed when Boko Haram burn churches and a hospital.
2020.02.16	Burkina Faso	Pansi	24	18	Jihadists stage a Sunday morning attack at a church, killing two dozen innocents, including the pastor.
2020.02.13	Burkina Faso	Sebba	4	0	A pastor is murdered in captivity, along with three family members.
2020.02.12	Burkina Faso	Yagha	1	1	Jihadists kill one pastor and abduct another.
2020.02.02	Burkina Faso	Bani	18	0	A nurse is among eighteen Christians selectively executed in cold blood by Jihadists.
2020.02.01	Nigeria	Kaduna	1	0	Muslim radicals kidnap and murder an 18-year-old Catholic seminary student.
2020.01.28	DRC	Eringeti	1	0	A pastor is murdered by ADF Islamists after refusing to convert.
2020.01.27	Bangladesh	Kutupalong	1	12	The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army is believed to have killed a pastor after abducting him during an attack on Christian refugees.
2020.01.20	Nigeria	Torko	1	0	A church members is cut down by Fulani mercenaries.
2020.01.20	Nigeria	Abebe	4	2	A church leader is among four innocents slain by militant Muslims.
2020.01.19	Nigeria	Michika	1	0	A Christian pastor is abducted and beheaded in captivity by Islamic radicals.
2020.01.17	Nigeria	Gora-Gan	2	3	Two Catholic girls are gunned down by militant Muslims.
2020.01.17	Cameroon	Hidouwa	5	0	Five are left dead following a Boko Haram attack on a Christian village.
2020.01.13	Nigeria	Borno	1	0	A Christian man is executed by a child member of the Islamic State.
2020.01.12	Egypt	Giza	0	1	A 63-year-old Coptic woman's throat is slashed in a targeted attack.
2020.01.08	Nigeria	Kaduna	4	0	Militant Muslims are suspected in an attack on a Catholic seminary that leaves four dead.
2020.01.06	Cameroon	Hitere	2	2	Boko Haram raid a Christian village, killing two men and kidnapping two children.
2020.01.06	Cameroon	Moudokou	3	1	Boko Haram burn a church and kill three residents.

Well, what about you and me, living in our peaceful community and country? Is such a situation even close to being possible of happening to Christians here, to YAHUSHA [Jesus]'s disciples, His pastors? In the United States, in the very 1st amendment of US Constitution, the Bill of Rights, it says "congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances". So in it, people and churches are guaranteed the right to assemble and freedom to worship.

In contrast to this protection, and peace that we rely on... in another red-latter worded prophesy that tells of that we must "endure", YAHUSHA [Jesus] says to his disciples and pastors, and predicts "**behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore, be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. But beware of men [and women], for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you. Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who ENDURES to the end will be saved.**" (Matthew 10:16-22) So, you think this won't happen soon? Well, let me let you know what just happened yesterday, as it has been pretty widely reported in the news...

"Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said this week that "snitches" in his city will get "rewards" if they tattle on neighbors who could be violating the stay-at-home order put in place to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus. Garcetti last month implemented the "Safer at Home" order, like many cities and states across the nation, closing non-essential businesses and urging people to stay at home.

"If any non-essential businesses continue to operate in violation of the stay at home order, we're going to act to enforce the safer at home order and ensure their compliance," Garcetti said, according to CBS Los Angeles. The mayor's office said that city officials, with officers from the Los Angeles Police Dept, had visited more than 500 businesses that had not complied with his order. His office said four businesses have already been referred for misdemeanor filings.

“You know the old expression about snitches,” Garcetti said this week. “Well, in this case, snitches get rewards.” He added: “We want to thank you for turning folks in and making sure we are all safe,” he said.

[Meanwhile: discuss the case of Pastor Leonardo Howard-Browne, who is getting death threats and his church shot at after his arrest because he continued to hold worship services at his River at Tampa Bay Church, in Tampa, Florida, on March 29, 2020, after his county issued a “Safer-at-Home” order two (2) days earlier. We are told in Hebrews 10:24-25: “and let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching” versus Romans 13:1-2, “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from YAHUAH [God], and the authorities that exist are appointed by YAHUAH [God]. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of YAHUAH [God], and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves”, in light of ““**behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. But beware of men [and women], for they will deliver you up to councils...**” (Matthew 10:16-17a) and ““**because [of] the transgression of the Law [Torah] will abound, the love of many will grow cold**”. (Matthew 24:12). Bring up points of The Torah, regarding the sick under the supervision of the clergy “Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’ He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.” (Leviticus 13:45-56)]

## VI. **IN DIVERSE PLACES** – A WARNING TO US LOCALLY

This week, to dispel any rumors, our local hospital announced that so far for everyone that they have tested for the Coronavirus, has tested negative. What that means, is that no one has yet test “positive” for this particular pestilence. Thank YAHUAH [God]! Meanwhile, however, as I shared last week... over the last many weeks at that very same hospital, the rooms have been filled to capacity with other pestilence, probably the flu.

Meanwhile, at the same time, a majority of our congregation were at home, either sick with flu-like symptoms, or were experiencing some sort of intense pain. As I gave personal witness last week, what is happening to us now is a

“wake-up call” for me; I believe it is a wake-up call for you, too. Right now, as you and I heal, we must remember what YAHUSHA [Jesus] to the man he had healed just healed: **“See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you”** (John 5:14).

So, if you are being spared from your illness and/or pain, you now need to heed YAHUSHA [Jesus]’s warning to **“sin no more”**. These words **“sin no more”** words are also validated in the words of warning that we just read in Matthew 24:12, that **“because [of] the transgression of the Law [Torah] will abound, the love of many will grow cold”**. Make now mistake about it: “sin” is the breaking of the Law [Torah]. So, by the grace of YAHUAH [God], covered by the blood of YAHUSHA [Jesus], and by the indwelling and working of the RUACH HA’QODESH [Holy Spirit], from today and every day going forward, we are to **“sin no more”**.

Quoting Jim Daly, who wrote the article that we previously quoted, wrote that...

“The English writer C.S. Lewis attempted to tackle the theological and philosophical conundrum of God [YAHUAH]’s role in suffering in many of his writings, but especially in his book, “The Problem of Pain.” He posed the question somewhat differently, though, when he asked rhetorically, ‘The real problem is not why some pious, humble, believing people suffer, but why some do not.’”

If we put that question “why some [pious, humble, believing people] do not suffer” ... in the context of what YAHUSHA [Jesus] promised us, that... **“if the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”** (John 15:18), then... we can conclude that the truly “pious, humble, believing” in YAHUSHA [Jesus] will hated, and suffer at the hands of the world... because this is just more evidence of our faith in and following of our MESSIAH [Christ].

## VII. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, as we continue on for awhile enduring the Coronavirus and other pestilence... as we endure more wars, rumors of wars... as we endure the famines and earthquakes to come... as we endure the attacks, and the lies and deception of our friends and family, and others of the world: who are still routed in a love of and belief in the world over a 100% first-love of and

obedience to YAHUSHA [Jesus], and eventually suffer persecution at their hands... we should remember the words of Martin Rinkart's famous hymn, a tune we still sometimes sing these days in a spirit of gratitude...

...we should remember that he, as a pastor who cared for an afflicted congregation and community in the midst of a great pestilence... that he and his countrymen were enduring... wrote this hymn in the midst of an adversity that he had to endure... for it will remind us that although struggle and suffering may knock us down, YAHUAH [God] will *always* be there to lift us up when we turn to Him, whether in this life or the next. And now the words of the hymn:

1. Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
2. Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;  
And guard us through all ills in this world, till the next!
3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven—  
The one eternal God, Whom earth and Heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

I pray now, dearest friends and family, that our YAHUAH [God] will bless and keep you in His perfect Grace and care... that you will remain covered by the precious shed blood of our YAHUSHA [Jesus]... and that you will go out from this place, for from watching this recorded message... and **"sin now more"**... as you are led by the rebirth and transforming of the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit], Who dwells within you, and leads you into all Truth.

Amen.

**Credits:**

- 1 “Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic”, Bing search results;  
<https://www.bing.com/search?q=us+deaths+from+coronavirus+april+2020&pc=U316&form=CHRDEF&sp=-1&pq=us+deaths+from+coronavirus+april&sc=0-32&qsn&sk=&cvid=A531C7102BB94DA19DD205F5EDC7532B>
- 2 “Where is God during the coronavirus pandemic?”, Jim Daly, March 21, 2020, Fox News;  
<https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/jim-daly-where-is-god-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>
- 3 “LA Mayor Garcetti encourages residents to report violators of stay-at-home order: ‘Snitches get rewards’”, Brooke Singman, March 3, 2020, Fox News; <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/la-mayor-garcetti-residents-report-violators-stay-at-home-order>
- 4 “Pastor Rodney Howard-Browne says shots fired at church, he’s now getting death threats after arrest”, Leonardo Blair, March 31, 2020, CP Church & Ministries; <https://www.christianpost.com/news/pastor-rodney-howard-browne-says-shots-fired-at-church-hes-now-getting-death-threats-after-arrest.html>