

## March 2020 Newsletter from the Babcock's - "What is God saying to the world through the Coronavirus?"



That was the topic of three programs we recorded to air this week on Radio 7 here in Tirana. These have been eventful days. It started when we loaded the kids into the van to go buy groceries. Arriving at the shopping center we found the parking lot deserted but the store was open. With four kids helping we filled two shopping carts quickly. Getting home just before dark we found out that the city was being locked down at 6 AM the next morning. The Lord had led us to buy staples for several

weeks just hours prior to the city was closed to all automobile traffic! Next, the entire nation was put under curfew even for walking on the streets. A devastating earthquake occurred a few months ago, but now there is even greater panic because people have no faith in the medical system. We mentioned in our last newsletter the vision of the 'Family Today' broadcast, "Jesus lifted up to save the home". But it seems to have taken on a new urgency as people are in need of hope. Below are excerpts from the programs that will be broadcast 12 times here in Albania and in Kosovo:

**Q: What do you believe is God's purpose in the crisis that Albania and the nations are facing?** "In Eccl. 9:12 we see a graphic picture of men trapped by sudden and unexpected evil. But God's design is to show the nations their true condition and His way of escape. Unusual events get the attention of multitudes. For their benefit He is sending warning signs to the whole earth. Fear is a powerful motivator to awaken souls to their need of Christ, and seeing people run to Jesus is a beautiful sight. But when there is darkness on earth and light is not penetrating, then He arises and puts on His armor, to bring deliverance. Isaiah 59:15-16, "The LORD was displeased when He saw that there was no man, and He wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his own arm brought salvation, and his own righteousness sustained him". When no one could intervene or stop the wrath, and One greater than Aaron or Phinehas was needed to stop the plague (Num. 16:48 & Ps.106:30), then "His appearance was disfigured more than any man, His form marred beyond human likeness! So he will sprinkle many nations. Kings will shut their mouths because of him, for what they were not told, they will see and what they have not heard they will understand," Isa. 52:13. In Matt. 24:22 we read that 'For the elect's sake the days will be shortened'. I believe there will be another mighty preaching of the Gospel and that this will be great and undeserved grace to a sinning world! Pestilence is a scourge from the divine hand, yet He longs to heal the nations' wounds though they have poured out wickedness and immorality like fountains! "

**Q: What are believers to do as such times come on the world?** "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh," Luke 21:28. We are to lift up our heads expecting, because deliverance from every misery we have ever known on earth is near! The signs of the Second Coming mean the end is soon of everything that has filled us with care. Without this word we could be bowed down with sorrow, but Jesus said, "Do not be troubled!" Your deliverance from the constant hostility and opposition of the world, with its sin and dangers, will be with great joy. Don't hang your heads for He draws nigh who shall save you. The battles with things that grieved your heart day after day will be over. Patience will be no longer tested, and the words, 'Enter into the joy of your Lord,' will remove sadness forever."

**Q: How can one endure to the end, keeping his heart at peace and trusting God?** "Now is the time of testing of our faith. So look away from imperfect men and powerless leaders to Jesus only -- and rejoice in Him! He is the Word, the radiance and outshining of God's Glory. Everywhere and in every age, Jesus is power. All beings know Him. 'Jesus we know, and Paul we know, but who are you?' said the demons. When we see Him triumphant, then we grasp the victory. Heb. 9:24 tells us that He is now appearing in the presence of God on our behalf. He is God's. And He is ours, having the same human nature as us (see Jn.20:17). Though the days of His earthly life were only a moment of His eternity, yet as a Man triumphant He has been set over the works of God. He presides over the nations, and when He comes, 'Then shall we also appear with Him in Glory!'

**Q: Is there one Bible chapter that sums up how God protects us?** "Yes. Psalm 91 shows pestilence progressing and spreading invisibly until suddenly stopped in verse 7. This is what inspired Martin Luther to pen the words, 'A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing! Our helper He amidst the flood of mortal ills prevailing!' One day a man was observing a mother hen calmly scratching on the ground in the barnyard. Suddenly she gave a distinct cluck and her chicks came running under her outstretched wings. A moment later he saw the dark shadow of a hawk pass over the very place where she was sitting. In just such a way God hides His own from the danger until it has safely passed by! Verses 4-6 say, 'He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under His wings shall you trust. You shall not be afraid for the terror by night nor the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.'

**Q: Didn't Jesus once use this illustration of Himself?** "Yes, in Matt. 23:37, to Jerusalem. 'How often I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings'. He is saying the same to every city of the world! A missionary in Africa once witnessed a huge forest fire. After it was over he was walking down one of the trails near the mission station and noticed the charred remains of a mother hen. She was sitting on what looked like a nest. Kicking at it with his foot he was astonished that out from under her blackened feathers ran baby chicks. She had given her life for them. They found refuge from the flames as they stayed there under her wings. At Calvary, and still now, Jesus covers us till the wrath is finished! When children are sick or afraid we watch over them, doing all we can to relieve their suffering. At this time children definitely need to be kept close and reassured. So the Most High will not let us endure sufferings alone.

**Q: In the first quarantine we read about in history, everyone who stayed inside the doors of their house was safe. How was this?** "God's people fed on the slain lamb and ate the bitter herbs of judgment of sin in themselves, while the sprinkled blood on their door posts was seen by God as He passed through the land in judgment. These three things made the difference between His people and the world. It is urgent that people worldwide begin to feed on Jesus in their homes by learning more of Him, and judge and remove the leaven of sin while they apply by faith His blood to the entrances of their homes and hearts, Exod. 12:8-23. Remember that there is nothing that will ever come that you and Jesus can't handle together! Luke 21:19 says, 'In your patience you will possess your souls.' Verses 26-27 tell us that men's hearts will be failing them for fear, looking at the things coming upon earth because the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 'Watch therefore, and pray always, that ye may be counted worthy to escape all these things, and to stand before the Son of man, Luke 21:36.'"

**Q: What are a few final words you can leave with us to share with others?** " A commander in Vietnam made all his troops quote this Psalm 91 every day and his entire company came home without a casualty. Soldiers in World War II from one town in TX had this chapter prayed over them daily by their women. Every one of them returned safely. For anyone struggling with fear, Google search [Psalm 91 God's Shield free book](#). It has 140 pages of photos and incredible testimonies of people who faced dangers and death in every way imaginable.

**Family News** --- Because of the quarantine all public meetings are cancelled so we had church at home last Sunday with another International family who walked to our house. Driving is restricted so Rilinda and I took a long bike ride to the city center for a doctor appt. We weren't allowed in the clinic without masks on and our hands sprayed with sanitizer. She came out fine, and riding home the police stopped us and said we could only go outside from 8-10 AM. We feel God is going to do great things through this crisis, and are grateful for your prayers and support. It has allowed us to take the Gospel to a wider audience, and also help children and poor families displaced by the recent earthquake. He has done it all! We couldn't fit in all the photos and testimonies into this newsletter, and feeling led to focus it on this word of encouragement to our friends and family back home, we will send a Newsletter #2 on this other part of the ministry soon. Thank you and may God bless you all. We are praying for you! Love, Dan, Semi & family

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