

WHY DO VIRUSES AND DISEASE EXIST?

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A great deal of concern swept our nation and the world during the recent coronavirus epidemic. People feared for their lives and the lives of their loved ones. This is not new. It has happened before. When I was young, a Swine Flu outbreak happened in 1976. Serious epidemics in years past include smallpox, polio, Spanish flu, and others.

Such things can cause widespread panic, as people try to avoid being infected, especially those most vulnerable to sicknesses. Have you wondered why viruses and diseases exist?

We live in a cursed world, cursed by sin. God created the world “very good” (Gen. 1:31), therefore there was no infectious diseases in the original creation. But after Adam sinned he was told, “Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you...” (Gen. 3:17, 18). A cursed, deteriorating world not only has thorns and thistles, but germs and disease. Man is now born to die, whether by old age, accident, or disease. Disease and sickness are a part of life on this earth. Modern medicine is a blessing that helps the natural abilities of the body to fight disease, but it will never eliminate all sicknesses.

People in the Bible struggled with sickness and disease. Job was afflicted with painful sores from his head to his feet compliments of Satan himself (Job 2:7-8). Hezekiah suffered from a fatal sickness (2 Kgs. 20:1) as did Lazarus (Jn. 11:1) and Dorcas (Acts 9:37). Naaman was a leper (2 Kgs. 5:1).

Jesus healed the sick, such as Peter’s mother-in-law (Mk. 1:30-31), the paralytic man (Mk. 2:1-12), and a woman who had a flow of blood (Lk. 8:43-48). Healing the sick fulfilled Isaiah’s prophecy that Jesus “took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses” (Matt. 8:16-17). His power over physical disease was a sign of His power over sin and the devil.

While our bodies are susceptible to sickness, our souls can remain strong in the Lord. We long for that eternal city where there will be no more pain or death (Rev. 21:4). No more viruses to fear, only eternal life with God.
