

strike the earth with all plagues



- **Coronavirus Pandemic (sickness & death)**
- **Businesses, Schools, Churches CLOSED**
- **Sporting events CANCELED**
- **Store shelves are EMPTY**
- **Stock Market collapsed 40.6%**
- **Panic in Streets (74% believe they will contract the virus)**
- **The entire world economy has been adversely affected**
- **Life as we've known it has CHANGED**

The Present Distress

1 Corinthians 7:26

- Don't know what it was (perhaps famine, Acts 11:28, or persecution, 1 Cor 15:32; or something else unknown).
- Paul advises altering the “norm” during their time of difficulties (7:27-28). Paul was not against marriage—but during that time it might be prudent to delay it.
- Such altering was a matter of judgment, not a command from God (7:25).
- Today, elders/churches are using prudent judgment to deal with our present distress.
- No one is changing God's word for assembling—instead we're trying to navigate our way through these murky, uncharted waters of this “Present Distress.”

During this Present Distress

- **Need to alter activities/behavior**
 - ✓ **Worship (Heb 10:25; Eph 5:19; Acts 20:7)**
 - ✓ **Greetings (Rom 16:16; Matt 10:16)**
 - ✓ **Collective Bible Study (Rom 10:17; 2 Tim 2:15)**
- **O.T. Precedent for such Isolation as we are experiencing (Rom 15:4)**
 - ✓ **Lepers (Lev 13:3-8; 45-46)**



During this Present Distress

remember God is still in Control

A person is standing on a reflective surface, looking away. The person is wearing a dark jacket and pants. The surface is highly reflective, creating a clear mirror image of the person below them. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory! And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

Isaiah 6:1-4

During this Present Distress

do not be overcome by fear

On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, let us cross over to the other side. Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, teacher, do You not care that we are perishing? Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, peace, be still! And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?

Mark 4:35-40

During this Present Distress

trust there is a better home awaiting

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 4:16—5:1

During this Present Distress

develop a servant's heart

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Galatians 5:13-14



