Many people have asked, “Why does God allow pandemic diseases such as Ebola, H1N1, and now, the Covid-19 (Corona Virus)? Science and medicine always attempt to give a ‘How’ and ‘What’ answer for these matters. Both those answers are incredibly important and valuable as we combat these issues. But the Bible always gives a ‘Who’ and ‘Why’ answer so let’s turn our attention there.

FOUR BIBLICAL TRUTHS

First, all sickness and disease is the result of living in a ‘FALLEN’ world.

What do we mean by a ‘fallen’ world? The word fallen is used in the Bible to describe that moment when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and they ‘fell’ from their perfect state with God to a ‘degraded’ state with God. They fell from God’s original plan. Their sin infected the entire human race (the ultimate pandemic). All have sinned therefore we live in a ‘fallen’ world.

Israel is described as “fallen” (Amos 5:2), as are angels (Isaiah 14:12; Revelation 12:4) and the glory of mankind (1 Peter 1:24). Each of these has fallen away from God’s perfect will for them, fallen into sin, and therefore fallen under the just wrath of God. We’ve all been infected. We have fallen...

• ...from friendship with God, to enemies of God (Genesis 2:16; 3:2-19; Exodus 15:26; Deuteronomy 30:15–20).
• ...from our full reflection of His likeness into a shattered, distorted image, suffering the results of our brokenness (Genesis 6:5; Matthew 15:19; Romans 1:14—2:16; Romans 3:9–20)
• ...from joyful obedience to God so as to fulfill His design for our lives into lawless rebellion and constant frustration and warfare at every level of society (Genesis 3:14–16; James 4:1–10)
• ...from the beauty, tranquility, and vitality of a godly family life into a cesspool of sexual-identify confusion, domestic strife, and aimlessness (Genesis 3:16; Romans 1:14—2:16; Galatians 5:19–21)
• ...from the trustees of God’s world into a selfish exploitation of the land and ecological disaster (Genesis 3:17–19; Ecclesiastes 5:8–17; Haggai 1:6)
• ...from knowledge of God’s truth into the darkness of ignorance and the confusion of depraved minds (Genesis 2:17; Proverbs 1—31; Judges 1—21; Romans 1:28)
To live in a fallen world means we will struggle with heartache and pain. We will witness natural disasters and plagues. Injustice, inhumanity, and falsehood will hold sway. Discord and trouble will be commonplace. None of this was God’s original plan for humanity. We fell from our original position in the Garden of Eden. We now live in a fallen world, and all creation “groans” under the consequences of our sin (Romans 8:22).

The good news is that God does not intend His world to forever groan. Jesus Christ came the first time to restore friendship between us and God. Through His death on the cross and resurrection He promised us eternal life by trusting in Him (John 10:10; 15:15; Romans 3:21–31; 5:1–11; 6:1–14; 8:1–4; 8:22–23; 1 Corinthians 15:26; Ephesians 1:3—2:22; Colossians 1:15–22). He is coming the second time to set everything right on earth (Isaiah 2:2–4; 25:6–9; 65:17–25; Revelation 20—22).

To all reading this paper, don’t miss God’s invitation in the last Book of the Bible to all fallen people: “Come!” (Revelation 22:17). All who come to God by faith in Jesus Christ will be restored.

Second, God used pestilence and plagues to judge those who stood against His plans, purposes, and people.

Throughout the Exodus God declared His power over Pharaoh and the false Egyptian gods by bringing a series of plagues upon them. Moses quoted God as he addressed the Egyptian king...

(Exodus 9:13-16)- ‘Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: “Let My people go, that they may serve Me, 14 for at this time I will send all My plagues to your very heart, and on your servants and on your people, that you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth. 15 Now if I had stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, then you would have been cut off from the earth. 16 But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.

In the final plague, the death of the first-born not covered by the blood of a lamb, God demonstrated His sovereign control over diseases and other afflictions.

(Exodus 12:13)- Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

God told Moses to tell Israel...

(Exodus 15:26)- “If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all
His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you.”

In 1 Kings 19 the Assyrians, under the leadership of King Sennacherib, threatened the existence of Judah and King Hezekiah. Hezekiah prayed to God and received assurances from the Prophet Isaiah that the Assyrians would not prevail. The night before the Assyrian attack the Bible says this...

(1 Kings 19:35-36)- And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh.

Was it some kind of plague or pestilence sent through the camp? We do not know for sure but it fits all the criteria of a deadly pandemic racing through the camp.

Third, God also used plague and pestilence to warn and discipline His own people.

Israel received very clear but stern warnings from the Lord concerning disobedience to His commands. One of the ways He would judge their disobedience was through pestilence and plague.

(Leviticus 26:21)- ‘Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins.

(Leviticus 26:25)-...when you are gathered together within your cities I will send pestilence among you;

During the wilderness days of Israel two instances of rebellion and disobedience brought on the wrath of God as a terrible plague came through the camp. The first plague involved Israel’s complaining against God and Moses’ leadership.

(Numbers 16:46-49)- So Moses said to Aaron, “Take a censer and put fire in it from the altar, put incense on it, and take it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them; for wrath has gone out from the LORD. The plague has begun.” Then Aaron took it as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the assembly; and already the plague had begun among the people. So he put in the incense and made atonement for the people. And he stood between the dead and the living; so the plague was stopped. Now those who died in the plague were fourteen thousand seven hundred, besides those who died in the Korah incident.
The second act involved an unspeakable act took place at the door of the Tabernacle. Again the result was pestilence and plague in the camp. After the plague ended there was great loss of life.

(Numbers 25:9)- So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. 9 And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand.

In the blessings and cursings of Deuteronomy 28 there is this dire warning to Israel if they chose to be disobedient...

(Deuteronomy 28:21-22)- The LORD will make the plague cling to you until He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess. 22 The LORD will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish.

Did God provide His people with a remedy? Yes!

(2 Chronicles 7:13-14)- When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, 14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

The good news in the New Testament is that when Jesus came He healed all kinds of diseases.

(Matthew 9:35)- Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

(Matthew 10:1)- And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.

(Mark 3:10)- For He healed many, so that as many as had afflictions pressed about Him to touch Him.

Surely, by His stripes we are healed (Is. 53:5).

Finally, plague and pestilence is one of the signs of the end of the age and the return of Jesus.

Both in Matthew 24 and Luke 21 a sign of the end times is plague and disease.
(Matthew 24:7)-....there will be famines, *pestilences* (plural), and earthquakes in various places.

(Luke 21:11)- And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and *pestilences*; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

We know that someday the Two Witnesses described in the Book of Revelation will go forth in the name of the Lord with incredible power...

(Revelation 11:6)- *These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.*

Also, seven angels will be dispatched from Heaven pouring out God’s wrath upon the earth unleashing seven different plagues upon mankind (See Revelation 16).

There is no way to determine whether this pandemic has a specific spiritual cause, but I believe we can conclude that what we are going through right now will fit under one of these four categories. Thank God as believers we know that God has sovereign control over all things (Romans 11:36) and will work all things together for the good of those who know and love Him (Romans 8:28).

Life is very brief.

For those who do not know Jesus Christ as Savior, this pandemic should be a reminder that life on this earth can be lost at any moment. As bad as pandemics are, hell will be worse.

The Christian, however, has the assurance of salvation and the hope of eternity because of the blood of Christ shed on the cross for us (Isaiah 53:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:28). No matter what happens, we win because we have trusted in the risen living Lord Jesus Christ!