

Eye on the World

March 28, 2020

This compilation of material for "Eye on the World" is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of March 28, 2020.

Compiled by Dave Havir

Luke 21:34-36—"But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man" (Weymouth New Testament).



An article by Walter Williams titled "Aesop Revealed How Socialism Works—a Finer Explanation There Has Yet to Be" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on March 18, 2020. Following is the article.

Senator Bernie Sanders' call for socialism has resonated among many Americans, particularly young Americans. They've fallen prey to the idea of a paradise here on Earth where things are free and there's little want.

But socialists never reveal what turns out to be their true agenda.

Let's look at the kind of statements they used to gain power. You'll note that all of their slogans before gaining power bore little relation to the facts after they had power.

- Vladimir Lenin promised, "Under socialism all will govern in turn and will soon become accustomed to no one governing."
- That's Friedrich Engel's prediction about "the withering away of the state."
- Lenin also promised, "Communism is Soviet power plus electrification," and "No amount of political freedom will satisfy the hungry masses."
- Lenin's successor, Joseph Stalin, said, "Advance towards socialism cannot but cause the exploiting elements to resist the advance, and the resistance

of the exploiters cannot but lead to the inevitable sharpening of the class struggle." He also said, "Gaiety is the most outstanding feature of the Soviet Union," and that "Gratitude is a sickness suffered by dogs."

- Then there's China's Chairman Mao Zedong, who said: "Socialism must be developed in China, and the route toward such an end is a democratic revolution, which will enable socialist and communist consolidation over a length of time. It is also important to unite with the middle peasants, and educate them on the failings of capitalism." Mao advised: "A communist must be selfless, with the interests of the masses at heart. He must also possess a largeness of mind, as well as a practical, far-sighted mindset."

- Cuban dictator Fidel Castro said: "Capitalism has neither the capacity, nor the morality, nor the ethics to solve the problems of poverty. We must establish a new world order based on justice, on equity, and on peace." He added, "I find capitalism repugnant. It is filthy, it is gross, it is alienating... because it causes war, hypocrisy and competition."

- Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chavez promised: "I am going to do my best to try to create a country in which children are not living in poverty, in which kids can go to college, in which old people have health care. Will I succeed? I can't guarantee you that, but I can tell you that from a human point of view it is better to show up than to give up." Adding, "I am convinced that the path to a new, better and possible world is not capitalism, the path is socialism."

- His successor Nicolas Maduro said: "Fidel Castro represents the dignity of the South American continent against empires. He's a living legend: an icon of independence and freedom across the continent."

Bernie Sanders' statements are not that different from those of Lenin, Stalin, Castro, Chavez and other tyrants.

- Sanders says, "Let us wage a moral and political war against the billionaires and corporate leaders, on Wall Street and elsewhere, whose policies and greed are destroying the middle class of America," and "We need to change the power structure in America, we need to end the political oligarchy."

Stalin's campaign didn't mention that he would enact policies that would lead to the slaughter of 62 million people in the Soviet Union between 1917 to 1987.

Mao Zedong didn't mention that his People's Republic of China would engage in brutal acts that would lead to the loss of 76 million lives at the hands of the government from 1949 to 1987. The late Professor Rudolph J. Rummel of the University of Hawaii documented this tragedy in his book "Death by Government: Genocide and Mass Murder Since 1900."

Because socialism is a fight against basic human nature, it requires brute force in the attempt to reach its goals.

- The best warning about socialism comes from Aesop, who said, "Those who voluntarily put power into the hands of a tyrant . . . must not wonder if it be at last turned against themselves."

- We shouldn't ignore Martin Luther King Jr.'s warning, "Never forget that everything Hitler did in Germany was legal."



An article by Ron Omri titled "Why Do Some Christians Believe Coronavirus Is An Apocalyptic Prophecy?" was posted at jpost.com on March 26, 2020. Following is the article.

Devout Christians have taken to social media in light of the coronavirus outbreak to show the eerie similarities between current events and the prophecy of the end of the world presented in the New Testament in the Book of Revelation.

The book describes a series of catastrophic events which will ravage the world, some perpetrated by the titular Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, Though the roles of these riders have multiple interpretations, they are often recognized as: War, Plague, Famine and Death.

Similarities between these descriptions and current events appear too similar for some to disregard, and they have taken to social media to declare that we are living at the end of days.

"Those who know nothing of the New Testament or about Armageddon might think this is the end of days, but it really isn't," Jeff Keenley, a theology expert, told Mako.

"In the Book of Revelation it specifies that there will be famine, earthquake and plagues which will strike several point across the world: Clear signs for the gates of heaven opening. Has that happened? No. as such, you can breathe easy. This isn't Armageddon."

This joins a number of other theories regarding the virus which has killed many across the world. Theories that include the virus getting out of a lab where it was developed as a biological weapon among other claims it has been engineered by humans for some unknown purpose.



An article by Sofia Christensen titled "South Africa begins 'unprecedented' military-patrolled lockdown" was posted at afp.com on March 26, 2020. Following is the article.

South Africa came under a nationwide military-patrolled lockdown on Friday, joining other African countries imposing strict curfews and shutdowns in an attempt to halt the spread of the coronavirus across the continent.

Some 57 million people are to be restricted to their homes during South Africa's three-week total lockdown which began at midnight.

Kenya, Rwanda and Mali are some of the African countries that have imposed restrictions to curb the spread of the coronavirus, which has been confirmed to have infected 3,203 people and killed 87.

Although Africa's toll is far lower than in Europe, the United States and the Middle East, health experts say the world's poorest continent is especially vulnerable and the figures likely fall far short of the reality.

Donning camouflage uniform complete with a cap, President Cyril Ramaphosa saw off soldiers before they deployed from a military base in Soweto township outside economic hub Johannesburg.

"I send you out to go and defend our people against coronavirus," Ramaphosa said.

"This is unprecedented, not only in our democracy but also in the history of our country, that we will have a lockdown for 21 days to go out and wage war against an invisible enemy coronavirus," he said.

During South Africa's shutdown there will be no jogging, dog-walking or sale of alcohol across the country, which so far has the highest number of detected infections in sub-Saharan Africa at 927, with Ramaphosa projecting it could reach 1,500 "within a few days."

Nigeria's government warned Thursday that Africa's most populous nation could soon see an "exponential" increase in infections unless contacts of confirmed cases are tracked down quicker.

War against invisible enemy

Kenya, which has 31 cases, on Thursday recorded its first death—a 66-year-old Kenyan man who had travelled from South Africa on March 13.

The east African country will begin a night-time curfew on Friday to try curtail the spread.

In the Sahel, Burkina Faso, which last week recorded sub-Saharan Africa's first death, announced that eight towns, including the capital Ouagadougou, would be "quarantined" from Friday.

"Quarantined means that nobody will enter or leave the towns involved," communication minister Remis Fulgance Dandjinou said, adding that the measure would be applied for "two weeks."

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, authorities ordered a four-day "total confinement" in the capital Kinshasa, starting Saturday.

South Africans have generally embraced the lockdown.

"I think it's a good idea because if we don't go into lockdown we will lose many lives," said Sihle Mthimkulu, a 22-year-old store manager who lives in Soweto.

He works in the eastern Mpumalanga province and did not get back to Soweto in time to buy groceries for himself and his heavily pregnant girlfriend.

Mthimkulu went to a petrol station to buy bread, but there was none left, so he opted for two packets of crisps.

Earlier, panicky Johannesburg residents stocked up on food, alcohol and other supplies with some large supermarkets running out of eggs and the staple maize meal powder.

Elsewhere, thousands of people crammed long-distance bus terminals to escape to the countryside to be with families, raising fears they would transmit the virus to the most vulnerable elderly people who normally reside or retire in farms and villages.

Severe financial impact

South Africa's Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula warned that "if people are not complying, they (the military) may be forced to take extraordinary measures."

Violation of any of the regulations will carry a six-month jail sentence or a fine.

Two men have already been charged with attempted murder for defying a quarantine order after they tested positive for the coronavirus, exposing others to the infection.

Ditebogo Koenaitse, a 27-year-old pilot, said she doubted everyone would be able to follow the rules of the lockdown.

"I think the middle class to upper class will respect the lockdown, however I don't believe that the lower class will be able to maintain social distancing," she said.

"It's harder in the more poverty stricken areas because they are sharing toilets and basic facilities."

Moody's Investors Service warned that the fallout from the border closures, commodity price declines and financial market volatility will have "severe macroeconomic and financial impact on African sovereigns."

In one early indication of the likely impact of the pandemic on Africa's economy, rubber processors in Ivory Coast—the continent's largest producer—said they were bracing for losses of around \$100 million a month as its biggest clients in Asia, Europe and America, shut down.

"The progressive impact of this will be a slowdown in rubber processing activity, even a closedown," said Eugene Kremien, president of industry association Apromac.

"Our industry is already suffering, and it's just the start."



A Reuters article by Carl O'Donnell titled "Coronavirus Could Kill 81,000 in U.S., Subside in June -Washington University Analysis" was posted at reuters.com on March 26, 2020. Following is the article.

The coronavirus pandemic could kill more than 81,000 people in the United States in the next four months and may not subside until June, according to a data analysis done by University of Washington School of Medicine.

The number of hospitalized patients is expected to peak nationally by the second week of April, though the peak may come later in some states. Some people

could continue to die of the virus as late as July, although deaths should be below epidemic levels of 10 per day by June at the latest, according to the analysis.

The analysis, using data from governments, hospitals and other sources, predicts that the number of U.S. deaths could vary widely, ranging from as low as around 38,000 to as high as around 162,000.

The variance is due in part to disparate rates of the spread of the virus in different regions, which experts are still struggling to explain, said Dr. Christopher Murray, director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, who led the study.

The duration of the virus means there may be a need for social distancing measures for longer than initially expected, although the country may eventually be able to relax restrictions if it can more effectively test and quarantine the sick, Murray said.

The analysis also highlights the strain that will be placed on hospitals. At the epidemic's peak, sick patients could exceed the number of available hospital beds by 64,000 and could require the use of around 20,000 ventilators. Ventilators are already running short in hard-hit places like New York City.

The virus is spreading more slowly in California, which could mean that peak cases there will come later in April and social distancing measures will need to be extended in the state for longer, Murray said.

Louisiana and Georgia are predicted to see high rates of contagion and could see a particularly high burden on their local healthcare systems, he added.

The analysis assumes close adherence to infection prevention measures imposed by federal, state and local governments.

"The trajectory of the pandemic will change—and dramatically for the worse—if people ease up on social distancing or relax with other precautions," Murray said in a statement.

The analysis comes as confirmed coronavirus cases in the United States continue to mount, with the World Health Organization saying the country has the potential to become the world's new epicenter of the virus.

The coronavirus causes a respiratory illness that in a minority of severe cases ravages the lungs and can lead to death.

The United States has reported around 70,000 cases of the virus and more than 900 deaths since January. Globally, it has infected more than half a million people, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

The University of Washington has been at the center of the outbreak in United States, which first was detected in the state of Washington and has so far killed 100 people in that state, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.



An article by Matthew Boesler titled "Federal Reserve's Balance Sheet Tops \$5 Trillion for First Time" was posted at bloomberg.com on March 26, 2020. Following is the article.

The Federal Reserve's balance sheet topped \$5 trillion for the first time amid the U.S. central bank's aggressive efforts to cushion debt markets against the coronavirus outbreak through large-scale bond-buying programs.

Total assets held by the Fed rose by \$586 billion to \$5.25 trillion in the week through March 25, according to data published Thursday on its website. Borrowing by banks from the Fed's discount window jumped to \$50.8 billion.

The central bank has rolled out several liquidity programs over the last few weeks to keep credit flowing in financial markets and the economy amid investor panic over the global spread of the virus. The scale of its current bond-buying efforts already dwarfs that of the purchase programs it undertook in the wake of the last financial crisis.

The Fed is also expected to establish a Main Street Business Lending Program to provide help to smaller firms.

Borrowing under its Primary Dealer Credit Facility was \$27.7 billion as of Wednesday, with the Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility standing at \$30.6 billion. Borrowing by foreign central banks soared to \$206 billion—the highest since 2009—following the Fed's March 19 announcement that it would expand dollar swap lines to a larger group of nations.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Term Limits Aren't the Answer" was posted at patriotpost.us on March 21, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

I have never understood the clamor for term limits. I think people confuse cause and effect. They seem to think that by merely spending too much time in Washington, D.C., Sacramento, Albany, Springfield, Trenton, Austin, Phoenix or Madison, honest people are corrupted. That's not the problem. Unfortunately, it's the people who tend to be attracted to politics in the first place. They're people who actually think they should be deciding how other people should live.

Plus they're people who don't have a passion, be it for medicine, the law, engineering, business, architecture, dentistry, farming or the arts. As a rule, they take up the law but get bored with it and decide to get into something where they don't have to work too hard, put in long hours and still figure to get rich and possibly famous. And suddenly there's politics beckoning to them like a cheap hooker at the end of the bar.

We seem to think that if we only had term limits, people like Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi wouldn't accrue so much power. But whoever becomes the House Speaker or the Senate Majority or Minority leader will have that power.

Does anyone really think Chuck Schumer is an improvement over Harry Reid? They're different individuals, of course; Reid was a Mormon from Nevada, Schumer is a Jew from New York. But, for all intents and purposes, they're the same.

It is always that way. Henry Waxman retired and the folks on the westside of L.A. naturally replaced him with Ted Lieu. Lieu is younger, Waxman was smarter. But, otherwise, nothing has changed.

Here in California, we have term limits for state offices. Big deal. So when some clodhopper gets termed out of the State Assembly, he or she simply runs for the State Senate or Congress or maybe for Lieutenant Governor.

The good (but not too bright) people of West Virginia keep electing Joe Manchin because they know he supports the Second Amendment and can be counted on to vote against additional gun control laws. And because Chuck Schumer knows that Manchin has to be allowed to differ from the party if he's going to have any chance of winning his next election, he allows Joe to go off the reservation. On every other issue, Manchin toes the line and votes exactly like Dick Durbin, Elizabeth Warren and Cory Booker.

■ Trump makes me laugh

I contend that Donald Trump is not only the best of our 45 presidents, but also the funniest.

Ronald Reagan, a former actor, certainly knew how to deliver a line, but he had professional writers coming up with those memorable lines. That's not to say he never changed a word or two, as actors are wont to do, but I can assure you that Reagan wasn't the guy who came up with "The most terrifying words in the English language: I'm from the government and I'm here to help" or "Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed, there are many rewards; if you disgrace yourself, you can write a book."

But Donald Trump actually makes me laugh, sometimes with a line, a word or even a physical action.

For instance, when, at his rallies, he turns himself into a robotic version of a proper and solemn president, playing off the complaint that he lacks presidential decorum, the man's hilarious.

It was pure Trump when at his Scranton, PA, rally, he conjured up the perfect Michael Bloomberg image by slowly lowering himself until only his eyes could be seen peering over the lectern.

I even got a belly laugh when, referring to commonsense safeguards against the Chinese virus, he said he hadn't touched his face in weeks, adding with perfect timing, "And I've missed it."

The man has earned the title "The Comedian-in-Chief."

■ Quip about China

Kent Boom, ever the bearer of glad tidings, suggests that the good news about the coronavirus is that it was made in China and, therefore, won't last long.



An article by Burt Prelutsky titled "Fighting on Various Fronts" was posted at patriotpost.us on March 23, 2020. Following are excerpts of the article.

In response to a rocket attack launched by the Iran-backed militia in Iraq that killed two Americans and a Brit, we hit back with that the Pentagon called a "defensive and proportional response."

Why on earth would we strike back in a proportional manner? A proportional strike doesn't bring back those three people. Since when is our mighty military supposed to be engaging in a game of tit-for-tat? Were we thinking in proportionate terms when we crushed Germany and Japan 75 years ago?

Could this possibly explain why we are still in Afghanistan for all these years, unable to defeat tribal herdsmen?

Why on earth did President Trump insist on all that money to rebuild our military? Was it all to be spent purchasing more medals and providing larger pensions for all those armchair generals at the Pentagon?

■ Fauci and Trump

For a while, I thought I was the only person who recognized Anthony Fauci as a dedicated Never Trumper who seemed to see his role to be spreading fear of the Chinese virus rather than calming the panic and bringing logic and information to the problem.

It seems that Ralph Barnett agrees with me about the 79-year-old head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases: "We are taking advice from the guy who heads up the department that is responsible for testing the diseases but is not prepared to test for diseases? And on top of that, he's throwing Trump under the bus for not being prepared?"

"Exactly," I replied. "I think Trump is very impressive, but I don't expect him to keep track of how many bandages or facemasks are on the shelves at Bethesda. In addition, although we keep hearing that we know very little about the Chinese virus, including whether it is seasonal or how long the virus will remain contagious on, say, a table top or a file cabinet, Fauci keeps reminding us that things will get a lot worse before they get better. How the hell does he know? The fact is, Ralph, that we're both in the high risk group, both of us being over 70. So, speaking for myself, I don't mind dying. But I'd sure hate to have my death blamed on Trump."

■ Blaming the wrong people

In a similar vein, one of my readers found it amusing when I pointed out that when people like Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris blame their failed campaigns on sexism and racism, they seem to forget that it's only Democrats who get to vote in their primaries.

In response, I wrote: "These ignoramuses have grown so accustomed to blaming Trump and other Conservatives for everything, including their hangnails and their hangovers, that it becomes a habit with them. So it's not too surprising they don't even notice when their actual targets are their own voters or non-voters, as the case might be."

■ Scrap metal to Japan

Back in the 1940s, when I was a kid, I recall people talking about how stupid and short-sighted this country had been in the '30s when we'd sold scrap metal to the Japanese, which they'd then returned to us at Pearl Harbor in the form of planes, bombs and bullets.

■ Entire industries to China

If we were stupid then, how much dumber have we become in the intervening years that we'd turn over entire industries, including the all-essential pharmaceutical industry, to Communist China?

■ 5 memes

Among my favorite memes of the past week are the following five:

"What can we do to stop mass shootings? Shoot back."

A photo of polar bears accompanied by a caption reading: "When Al Gore was born, there were 7,000 of us. Today, only 30,000 remain."

A photo of masked Antifa thugs: "We cover our faces so our parents don't ground us."

"What should we do with people who rely on government handouts but are too lazy to work? Kick them out of Congress."

"Who was responsible for protecting America from Russian interference during the 2016 election? CIA Director John Brennan, DNI Chief James Clapper, FBI Director James Comey, Attorney General Loretta Lynch and President Barack Obama. But Donald Trump is the only one who has to answer for it?"



An article by Walter Williams titled "'Progressive' Cities Giving Blacks Kids an Education, Alright—in Betrayal" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on March 25, 2020. Following is the article.

A recent report by Chris Stewart has shed new light on some of the educational problems faced by black youth.

The report is titled "The Secret Shame: How America's Most Progressive Cities Betray Their Commitment to Educational Opportunity for All."

Stewart is a self-described liberal and CEO of Brightbeam, a nonprofit network of education activists who want to hold progressive political leaders accountable.

The report asks, “So how do we explain outstandingly poor educational results for minority children in San Francisco—which also happens to be one of the wealthiest cities in the country?”

“The Secret Shame” reports that progressive cities, on average, have black/white achievement gaps in math and reading that are 15 and 13 percentage points higher than in conservative cities.

For example, in San Francisco, 70% of white students are proficient in math; for black students it’s 12%—a 58-point gap. In Washington, D.C., 83% of white students scored proficient in reading compared to 23% of black students—a 60-point gap.

Yet, three of the 12 conservative cities researchers looked at—Virginia Beach, Anaheim and Fort Worth—have effectively closed or even erased the gap in at least one of the academic categories studied, achieving a gap of zero or one.

“The politically conservative Oklahoma City has even turned the tables on our typical thinking about race-based gaps,” says Stewart. Black students in Oklahoma City even have higher high school graduation rates than white students.

Had the “Secret Shame” study analyzed other cities, it would have found that educational outcomes for most black youngsters is a national disgrace.

- As of 2016, in Philadelphia, only 19% of eighth-graders scored proficient in math, and 16% were proficient in reading.

- In Detroit, only 4% of its eighth-graders scored proficient in math, and 7% were proficient in reading.

- In 2016, in 13 of Baltimore’s 39 high schools, not a single student scored proficient on the state’s math exam. In six other high schools, only 1% tested proficient in math. Only 15% of Baltimore students passed the state’s English test.

National Assessment of Education Progress tests (also called the Nation’s Report Card) give further testament to the tragedy.

- In Philadelphia, 47% of its students scored below basic in math and 42% scored below basic in reading.

- In Baltimore, it was, respectively, 59% and 49%.

- In Detroit, 73% scored below basic in math and 56% in reading.

Below basic means that a student is unable to demonstrate even partial mastery of knowledge and skills fundamental for proficient work at his or her grade level.

Then there’s gross fraud practiced by the education establishment. High school graduation rates for black students range from a high of 84% in Texas to a low of 57% in Nevada and Oregon.

However, according to ACT data, the percentage of black students judged to be college-ready in English, math, reading and science ranges from 17% in Massachusetts to only 3% in Mississippi.

One concrete example of this fraud is the fact that Baltimore's Frederick Douglass High School has a graduation rate of 70% while not a single student tested proficient in mathematics and only 3% did so in reading.

"The Secret Shame" report didn't say why the black/white achievement gap was smaller in conservative cities compared to their progressive counterparts. But permit me to make a suggestion.

An Education Week article reported that in the 2015-16 school year, "5.8% of the nation's 3.8 million teachers were physically attacked by a student."

The Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics show that in the 2011-12 academic year, there were a record 209,800 primary- and secondary-school teachers who reported being physically attacked by a student.

A National Center for Education Statistics study found that 18% of the nation's schools accounted for 75% of the reported incidents of violence, and 6.6% accounted for half of all reported incidents. These are schools with predominantly black student populations.

My guess is that part of the reasons black academic achievement is greater in conservative cities is that schools are less tolerant of crime whereas schools in progressive cities make excuses.



Isaiah 55:6-11—"Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."