

Ebola Under God?

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Ebola is here! In Dallas! Americans are suddenly plagued with fear and uncertainty. We are shocked by bureaucratic bungling that compromised hospital *quarantine* in Dallas. We are unnerved to hear that first responding nurses in Texas have become symptomatic despite elaborate safety protocols to keep them from getting Ebola. Ebola has killed over 4,000 worldwide since it began last Spring.¹ These fatalities include over 200 health care personnel who have succumbed to Ebola, primarily in West Africa. Medical experts' advice on Ebola is confused. Is it safe or is it not safe to board a bus or an airliner? Just when does Ebola become contagious? Good questions!

We are also alarmed about health threats from a flood of "illegals," not screened for Ebola. Recently Gen. John F. Kelly of Southern Command has warned that an Ebola epidemic in Central America could trigger mass migration across our porous southern border.² These Ebola victims would be seeking medical treatment in our urban hospitals with advanced 24 hour ER service. Formerly, immigrants were subject to physical screening and *quarantine* to safeguard public health, as at Ellis Island Immigrant Inspection Station.³ Like the lapse of screening for immigrants, *quarantine* has also been *de facto* dropped for AIDS patients over objections of a majority of Americans.⁴

But, is Ebola really a matter of national security? Or is this Ebola scare the latest CDC "cry wolf" alarm that thankfully fails to materialize. Clearly, modern medical technology is groping in the dark when it comes to Ebola. Like flu viruses, Ebola's mutations can do an "end run" around slowly developed vaccines. Ebola could become a dangerous air-borne pathogen "overnight."⁵ Such viral instability renders Ebola virtually impossible to weaponize. Even in Tom Clancy's fertile imagination ("Executive Orders," 1996), aerosolized Ebola fizzles as an effective weapon for terrorists. This, however, begs the question. Are modern day epidemics actually precursors to a full-fledged pandemic from God: *the Sword of the Lord*? Isn't it high time for Christians to bone up on the many instances of pestilence revealed in the Bible?

Pestilence in the Bible often appears to be rapid in its onset, designed to deliver God's people from oppression of wicked nations. When Jerusalem was besieged by the Assyrian King Sennacherib, God through Isaiah promised, "He [Sennacherib] shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there." Sure enough that night, "the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses" (II Kings 19:32,35). Similarly, during the Exodus, God sent dreadful plagues to deliver Israel from slavery. In one night, a deadly plague killed all the firstborn of unbelieving Egyptians. Israelites were protected from the death angel by the "Passover" lamb's blood on each of their lintels and door posts (Exodus 12:1-13).

Other diseases were endemic and required long-term, continued vigilance. The Lord promised His freed Hebrews, "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, ... to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26). These statutes included detailed provisions for enforcement of *quarantine* to protect Israel from the ravages of endemic leprosy (Leviticus 13:1-14:32).

God also punished King David's hubris in ordering a census, contrary to Mosaic law. The Prophet Gad allowed David to choose his punishment: 3 years of famine, 3 months of military defeat or 3 days of pestilence. David pleaded "let me fall now into the hand of the LORD ... [not] into the hand of man" (I Chronicles 21:13). Since man's machinations were and remain limited to wars and famine, God sent a 3 day epidemic that killed 70,000 men. God halted the death angel's sword at Jerusalem (I Chronicles 21:15). He, who hears "silent screams" of unborn babies, is still "angry with the wicked every day" (Psalm 7:11). The sword of pandemic is drawn. Let abortion death dealers take heed and repent!

Medical leaders remain haunted by "unknowns" of the 1918 Flu pandemic that killed more U.S. service personnel than died in WWI.⁶ We have been left with the W Mortality Curve which shows the 1918 Flu, unlike other flu epidemics, "killed many people who should have been least at risk, those between 20 and 40 years of age."⁷ Rushdoony reports similar lethal fallout in the Black Plague of 1346-1353 A.D. Higher death rates occurred for "those between 20 and 60, whereas the aged, and the very young, suffered much less. ... This same group [of adults] was the most involved in the religious decline and moral decay of the day, and hence more vulnerable." He also notes, "Martin Luther moved freely and boldly among the plague-stricken: he was too concerned with shaping the future under God to succumb. His favorite Psalm expressed his faith 'I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD'" (Psalm 118:17).⁸ **"He that hath an ear, let him hear ..."** (Revelation 2:7).

1. "Global Ebola outbreak deaths exceed 4,000 - WHO" [<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29577175>].

2. "U.S. general warns Ebola could cross U.S. Southern Border"
[<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/oct/9/us-commander-warns-ebola-threat-mexican-border/>]
3. "Ellis Island Immigrant Inspection Station" [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellis_Island].
4. "Poll Indicates Majority Favor Quarantine for AIDS Victims"
[<http://www.nytimes.com/1985/12/20/us/poll-indicates-majority-favor-quarantine-for-aids-victims.html>]
5. "Is Ebola Airborne? Aerial Transmission Of The Virus Cannot Be 'Excluded'"
[<http://www.ibtimes.com/ebola-airborne-aerial-transmission-virus-cannot-be-excluded-1706857>]
6. [<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/american-scientists-controversially-recreate-deadly-spanish-flu-virus-9529707.html>]
7. "The W Curve" of Mortality of the 1918 Flu Compared with Mortality Curve for United States' Deaths from 1911-1917.
[<http://www.umt.edu/memorialrow/influenza/default.aspx>]
8. Rousas J. Rushdoony, "The Myth OF Over-Population", Thoburn Press, Fairfax, Virginia, 1975 (p 46,51).