**These Perilous Times**

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**“The Sunday Matinee is Now Playing at the World Theater for All to See”**

“Now learn a parable from the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise, ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors… Therefore, be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” Matthew 24:32, 33, 44 KJV

“And now I have told you before it come to pass, that when it is come to pass you, ye might believe.” John 14:29 KJV

 When looking at the results of Covid-19’s impact on the world “environment “and eco-

systems, environmentalists agree that it affected *planet earth* in a positive way. In the midst of this crisis the air quality and our ecosystems has improved dramatically-due in part to less auto emissions from less travel, and factory pollutants because of fewer fossil fuels being expended. These beneficial effects derived from government restrictions, and mandated lockdowns globally!

 However, many influential voices in high places (not just religious leaders) are using this scientific statistic of a healthier environment to their advantage. Calling for a *national rest day*, *or days*. Some are calling for re-enforcement of the Sunday “Blue Laws,” stating that a national rest day is beneficial to people’s health and that of the environment.

 Unfortunately, during this devasting pestilence (plague) *people* around the world have suffered immensely! Tens of thousands have lost their lives, their jobs, and people are still dying. Recently there has been a surge of covid-19 infections in many states due to people blatantly ignoring the seriousness of this killer virus; selfishly putting themselves and others in imminent danger!

**What does this mean for us?**

**Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season**

**Counsel from God’s inspired messenger**

 “…Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of *unprepared souls*. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows… (Remember Job’s afflictions at the hand of Satan).

 While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until popular cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornados and terrific hail storms, in tempest, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power.

 He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. **He imparts to the air a deadly taint**, *and thousands perish by the pestilence*. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous… (see Matt. 24). The great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils.

 The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God’s commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the “Sunday Sabbath;” that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until *Sunday observance shall be* *strictly enforced*; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity… [[1]](#footnote-1) (Emphasis supplied).

 Friends, don’t be deceived. Satan, is a highly skilled tactician of evil and he is using this pandemic and the political arena as decoys to destroy God’s people. When our main focus becomes the things of this world, we are taking our eyes off of Jesus. He is coming soon and Satan knows it, so he is employing his most strategic distractions to divide God’s people.

 Jesus stated in John 14:6: “I am the way, the truth and the life…”

**The show is almost over-Turn your eyes upon Jesus!**

**The Defense Rests!**

1. E. G. White. The Great Controversy, pp. 589, 590. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)