

Spiritual Preparation for Corona Virus  
(March 22, 2020 By Rev. Anthony Menzel)

1. Pray/fast as you are led

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+7&version=NKJV>

When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the <sup>[a]</sup>temple. <sup>2</sup> And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house. <sup>3</sup> When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the LORD, *saying:*

"For *He is good,*  
For His mercy *endures forever.*"

<sup>4</sup> Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD. <sup>5</sup> King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. <sup>6</sup> And the priests attended to their services; the Levites also with instruments of the music of the LORD, which King David had made to praise the LORD, *saying, "For His mercy endures forever,"* whenever David offered praise by their <sup>[b]</sup>ministry. The priests sounded trumpets opposite them, while all Israel stood.

<sup>7</sup> Furthermore Solomon consecrated the middle of the court that *was* in front of the house of the LORD; for there he offered burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar which Solomon had made was not able to receive the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat.

<sup>8</sup> At that time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the<sup>[c]</sup> Brook of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> And on the eighth day they held a sacred assembly, for they observed the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days. <sup>10</sup> On the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people away to their tents,

joyful and glad of heart for the good that the LORD had done for David, for Solomon, and for His people Israel. <sup>11</sup> Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king's house; and Solomon successfully accomplished all that came into his heart to make in the house of the LORD and in his own house.

### God's Second Appearance to Solomon

<sup>12</sup> Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. <sup>13</sup> When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer *made* in this place. <sup>16</sup> For now I have chosen and <sup>[d]</sup>sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and <sup>[e]</sup>My eyes and <sup>[f]</sup>My heart will be there perpetually. <sup>17</sup> As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, and do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, <sup>18</sup> then I will establish the throne of your kingdom, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail *to have* a man as ruler in Israel.'

<sup>19</sup> "But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them, <sup>20</sup> then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have <sup>[g]</sup>sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

<sup>21</sup> "And *as for* this <sup>[h]</sup>house, which <sup>[i]</sup>is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and this house?' <sup>22</sup> Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and embraced other gods, and

worshiped them and served them; therefore He has brought all this calamity on them.' ”

Today each follower of the Lord Jesus Christ is the temple of God  
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+3.16-17&version=NKJV>

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? <sup>17</sup> If anyone [a] defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.

B.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joel+2.12-19&version=NKJV>

<sup>12</sup> “Now, therefore,” says the LORD,  
“Turn to Me with all your heart,  
With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”

<sup>13</sup> So rend your heart, and not your garments;  
Return to the LORD your God,  
For He *is* gracious and merciful,  
Slow to anger, and of great kindness;  
And He relents from doing harm.

<sup>14</sup> Who knows *if* He will turn and relent,  
And leave a blessing behind Him—  
A grain offering and a drink offering  
For the LORD your God?

<sup>15</sup> Blow the [a] trumpet in Zion,  
Consecrate a fast,  
Call a sacred assembly;

<sup>16</sup> Gather the people,  
Sanctify the congregation,  
Assemble the elders,  
Gather the children and nursing babes;  
Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber,  
And the bride from her dressing room.

<sup>17</sup> Let the priests, who minister to the LORD,  
Weep between the porch and the altar;

Let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD,  
And do not give Your heritage to reproach,  
That the nations should [b]rule over them.  
Why should they say among the peoples,  
'Where *is* their God?' "

### The Land Refreshed

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD will be zealous for His land,  
And pity His people.

<sup>19</sup> The LORD will answer and say to His people,  
"Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil,  
And you will be satisfied by them;  
I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.

This, our prayers are extremely important. They will help to determine what happens in our society in a way that corresponds to how prayer in Solomon's temple helped to determine what happened to the people of God during the times of Solomon.

1. Put the Blood of Jesus Christ on your doorpost physically and through repentance

I really like what Rev. Luís did at his home: He put oil on the main entrance of his home just like the Israelites put the blood of the Lamb on their doorposts when the Angel of Death was passing through the Land of Egypt before the Israelites were set free from slavery.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+12.21-28&version=NKJV>

<sup>21</sup> Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover *lamb*. <sup>22</sup> And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip *it* in the blood that *is* in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that *is* in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. <sup>23</sup> For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the [a]lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike *you*. <sup>24</sup> And you

shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever. <sup>25</sup> It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service. <sup>26</sup> And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' <sup>27</sup> that you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.' " So the people bowed their heads and worshiped. <sup>28</sup> Then the children of Israel went away and did so; just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

Each one of us is the temple of the Third Person of the Godhead, also known as the Holy Trinity, who is the Holy Spirit.

Thus, we can also anoint ourselves as a sign that we belong to the Lord Jesus.

This is a way to protect ourselves as we leave our homes for necessary reasons, such as trips to the supermarket and pharmacy, doctor's visits, and jobs that are deemed essential which cannot be performed remotely.

Now it is very important that this anointing be combined with sincere repentance:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+58&version=NKJV>

"Cry aloud, [a]spare not;

Lift up your voice like a trumpet;

Tell My people their transgression,

And the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup> Yet they seek Me daily,

And delight to know My ways,

As a nation that did righteousness,

And did not forsake the ordinance of their God.

They ask of Me the ordinances of justice;

They take delight in approaching God.

<sup>3</sup> 'Why have we fasted,' *they say*, 'and You have not seen?

*Why* have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?'

“In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure,  
And [b]exploit all your laborers.

<sup>4</sup> Indeed you fast for strife and debate,  
And to strike with the fist of wickedness.  
You will not fast as *you do* this day,  
To make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup> Is it a fast that I have chosen,  
A day for a man to afflict his soul?  
*Is it* to bow down his head like a bulrush,  
And to spread out sackcloth and ashes?  
Would you call this a fast,  
And an acceptable day to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup> “*Is* this not the fast that I have chosen:  
To loose the bonds of wickedness,  
To undo the [c]heavy burdens,  
To let the oppressed go free,  
And that you break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> *Is it* not to share your bread with the hungry,  
And that you bring to your house the poor who are [d]cast out;  
When you see the naked, that you cover him,  
And not hide yourself from your own flesh?

<sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the morning,  
Your healing shall spring forth speedily,  
And your righteousness shall go before you;  
The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
You shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I *am*.’

“If you take away the yoke from your midst,  
The [e]pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

<sup>10</sup> *If* you extend your soul to the hungry  
And satisfy the afflicted soul,  
Then your light shall dawn in the darkness,  
And your [f]darkness shall *be* as the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually,  
And satisfy your soul in drought,  
And strengthen your bones;  
You shall be like a watered garden,

And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

<sup>12</sup> Those from among you

Shall build the old waste places;

You shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach,

The Restorer of [a]Streets to Dwell In.

<sup>13</sup> "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath,

*From* doing your pleasure on My holy day,

And call the Sabbath a delight,

The holy *day* of the LORD honorable,

And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways,

Nor finding your own pleasure,

Nor speaking *your own* words,

<sup>14</sup> Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD;

And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth,

And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father.

The mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Now I know that there are some things in this passage that will be difficult for us to do:

V. 7 and 10, for example

We have to use wisdom...

Sister Lorena has shared a rhema word with the church a number of times:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+26.20-21&version=NKJV>

<sup>20</sup> Come, my people, enter your chambers,

And shut your doors behind you;

Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment,

Until the indignation is past.

<sup>21</sup> For behold, the LORD comes out of His place

To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity;

The earth will also disclose her [a]blood,

And will no more cover her slain.

I believe that CDC guidelines eventually change and allow for more people to meet together. At that point, we will still have hybrid services, where people can attend church both in person or virtually so that people in at-risk groups like the elderly can still attend church without fear and so that those who are contagious with an illness can also attend church.

However, even now the Lord may give us opportunities to share with others.

He may give us times where we can put other people in our own households first...

(Inn of the Sixth Happiness...the missionary gave part of her food to the children she helped to escape from the Communist takeover of China)

We can certainly not use times of fasting to hurt or use other people or to speak badly of them...

According to v. 13, we can spend time with the Lord Jesus...

1. Focus on the Lord Jesus to keep your peace/remember Psalm 141:3 when you want to lose it

This point is very important...

Many of us are not used to being home all of the time...

Cabin fever can become a real psychological condition...

Many days it may not be warm enough yet for the elderly or small children to go for walks outside. If it's raining, walking and being outside is also not feasible...

The devil wants us to divide families...

He wants us to get frustrated with each other...

Now more than ever it's important to apply Psalm 141:3 when we get frustrated or annoyed...

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+141%3A3&version=NKJV>

Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;  
Keep watch over the door of my lips.



The devil wants to divide us...

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+12.24-26&version=NKJV>

<sup>24</sup> Now when the Pharisees heard *it* they said, "This *fellow* does not cast out demons except by <sup>[a]</sup>Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

<sup>25</sup> But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. <sup>26</sup> If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?"

Our families can be destroyed if we don't stay unified during this difficult time...

While the devil wants to divide us, the Lord Jesus wants us to grow in love...

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+13%3A4-7&version=NKJV>

<sup>4</sup> Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not <sup>[a]</sup>puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, <sup>[b]</sup>thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

When you get irritated with family members, in your head, ask the Father in Jesus Christ's name to put a guard over your mouth...

Be silent...

If the other person insists that you speak, tell them "I love you, but I don't feel up to talking right now."

As soon as you can, go to another room, where you can get away from the situation.

Let the Lord Jesus fight your battles...

Then Miriam and Aaron <sup>[a]</sup>spoke against Moses because of the <sup>[b]</sup>Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. <sup>2</sup> So they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard *it*. <sup>3</sup> (Now the man Moses *was* very humble, more than all men who *were* on the face of the earth.)

<sup>4</sup> Suddenly the LORD said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tabernacle of meeting!" So the three came out. <sup>5</sup> Then the LORD came down in the pillar of cloud and stood *in* the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both went forward. <sup>6</sup> Then He said,

"Hear now My words:

If there is a prophet among you,  
*I*, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision;  
I speak to him in a dream.

<sup>7</sup> Not so with My servant Moses;  
He *is* faithful in all My house.

<sup>8</sup> I speak with him face to face,  
Even plainly, <sup>[c]</sup> and not in <sup>[d]</sup> dark sayings;  
And he sees the form of the LORD.

Why then were you not afraid  
To speak against My servant Moses?"

<sup>9</sup> So the anger of the LORD was aroused against them, and He departed. <sup>10</sup> And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam *became* leprous, as *white as* snow. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper. <sup>11</sup> So Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord! Please do not lay <sup>[e]</sup> *this* sin on us, in which we have done foolishly and in which we have sinned. <sup>12</sup> Please do not let her be as one dead, whose flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb!"

<sup>13</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "Please heal her, O God, I pray!"

<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut<sup>[f]</sup> out of the camp seven days, and afterward she may be received *again*." <sup>15</sup> So Miriam was shut out of the camp seven days, and the people did not journey till Miriam was brought in *again*. <sup>16</sup> And afterward the people moved from Hazeroth and camped in the Wilderness of Paran.

Here we have three siblings...

Two go against the third one, the baby brother, Moses, but God defends Moses did not have to do anything to defend himself...

If we do our best to follow the Lord Jesus, then we can trust in this promise that God gave to King Jehoshaphat when Israel was being attacked by 3 different armies at once:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Chronicles+20.17&version=NKJV>

<sup>17</sup> You will not *need* to fight in this *battle*. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD *is* with you."

Once we remove ourselves from the situation that is upsetting or hurting us, then we can pray until the Lord Jesus gives us back our peace...

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A6-7&version=NKJV>

<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.