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The Cure Is Killing Us

COVID-19 will eventually go away, but what will be the long-term impact of the drastic countermeasures taken to fight the disease?

- Stephen Flurry
- [13-04-2020](#)

In two lightning-quick weeks in March, America, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Israel and other mighty nations worldwide went from *caution* to *hysteria* to *lockdown*. You'd have thought people were dropping dead in the streets by the millions.

Not so. Out of the 7.8 billion people on Earth, only a few thousand had actually died from the Wuhan virus. Yet these governments tilted into full-scale panic.

Granted, this particular coronavirus seems especially contagious, and it poses significant risk for people with chronic health problems. Initial expert projections about death rates were shockingly high, some of them in the scores of millions.

However, while politicians, the press and public fixated on infection rates and death counts, evidence that the virus's lethality was *far lower* than originally believed was ignored. When prominent authorities *backed away* from their worst-case scenarios, it went virtually unreported. The world was too busy executing the strictest response to a disease ever recorded.

Each day brought new and more heavy-handed restrictions and wilder interventions: Sports leagues, suspended. Flights, grounded. Schools, closed. Public gatherings, dispersed. Nonessential shopping, banned. Leaving home, illegal. Trillions of dollars, spent. Government emergency plans were more draconian than perhaps any modern peacetime measures, and more expensive than anything in history.

These measures will no doubt save lives that would have been cut short by this virus. But they are also coming at incalculable cost—to our economies, our livelihoods, our civil liberties and freedoms, our social cohesion, even mental and physical health. In many ways it appears the ramifications of the *reaction* to the coronavirus will dwarf and far outlive the virus itself.

The God of This World

When people panic, they tend to do unreasonable things. To whatever degree this happened on a national and a global scale with this pandemic, it is important we understand why *this* danger is potentially so much more serious than the physical threat of a contagious virus.

To grasp this, you must understand a fundamental truth revealed in your Bible: *This is not God's world!* Yes, God created the Earth and human beings, and He intervenes in world events to ensure His will and prophecies are fulfilled, but God did not create this world's governments, institutions and laws. *You are living in Satan's world.* This is why the Bible describes our present world as *EVIL* and says the *WHOLE WORLD* is deceived (Galatians 1:4; Revelation 12:9). Satan is its *god* (2 Corinthians 4:4). Unknowingly, our modern world actually *worships* Satan.

Ephesians 2:2 describes Satan as “the prince of the power of the air.” Herbert W. Armstrong likened the devil to a master broadcaster. It’s as if Satan fills all the airwaves with his attitudes: selfishness, vengefulness, impulsiveness, recklessness, negativity, deception, violence.

“People have no realization of the tremendous POWER of Satan,” he wrote in *Mystery of the Ages* “The human spirit within each human is AUTOMATICALLY TUNED to Satan’s wavelength” (emphasis added throughout). *This is why the world is what it is—* a world drenched in sin and suffering all forms of physical and spiritual disease (see Isaiah 1:4-6; Jeremiah 17:9; Revelation 18:5).

In his March 2020 *Trumpet* article, “America Has Been ‘Fundamentally Transformed’” (theTrumpet.com/21850), my father wrote that while Satan brims with hatred for humanity, especially vicious and irrational is his hatred for physical and spiritual Israel. After he was cast down to Earth around the time of Mr. Armstrong’s death in 1986 (Revelation 12:9-12), he immediately launched an attack on God’s Church, which is spiritual Israel (verse 13). After wrecking the Worldwide Church of God and deceiving most of God’s people, Satan then launched a barrage of attacks at the modern nations that descended from ancient Israel: chiefly America, Britain and the Jewish state in the Middle East.

The Bible shows that God has done His work through the ages through physical Israel and then spiritual Israel. Satan’s principal objective, then, is to *blot out even the name* of Israel!

But Satan’s hatred and rage are not aimed at Israel *alone*. As my father wrote, “Satan hates EVERYTHING God is about.” He hates God’s plan of salvation. He hates that man is made in the image and likeness of God. He hates that man has the potential to be born into the Family of God. He hates that God is reproducing Himself through man. He hates that Jesus Christ has already qualified to replace him, and that Christ will soon establish God’s Kingdom on Earth and rule all nations with a rod of iron (Revelation 2:26-27; 11:15; 19:15). This is the true gospel message Jesus proclaimed during His earthly ministry.

Satan HATES this truth. He wants to blot it out. 2 Corinthians 4:4 says Satan has BLINDED human beings to the TRUTH of Christ’s gospel. Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44). He wants to hide the truth about God’s soon-coming rule. He doesn’t want this world looking to God and His law of love for solutions to its problems and troubles. He wants us to remain buried in rebellion and lawlessness (1 John 3:8). It is Satan who is behind mankind’s built-in *hostility* toward God’s law (Romans 8:7).

Knowing this revealed knowledge enables us to make sense of the hysteria brought on by this disease. These past few months have showcased a wild range of behavior stamped with the devil’s imprint. It started with whatever wrong practices produced this disease in human beings. It continued with the disease spreading due to ignoring biblical laws of health, sanitation, hygiene and quarantine. It continued with the cover-up by China’s police state government, which worked harder to stop the spread of *news* about the virus than to stop the virus itself.

Once the virus spread beyond China, we saw the World Health Organization (WHO), an agency of the United Nations, provide cover for the Communist Chinese government. The WHO director general downplayed the disease’s seriousness in January and said China’s government had done an outstanding job of containing the virus.

Following the impeachment trial of United States President Donald Trump in February, we saw his enemies in the media pivot *immediately* to propagating coronavirus panic. An army of medical experts rushed to the spotlight, equipped with incomplete data, wild speculation and frightening comparisons. *Millions* were about to die, they said. At the breathless demands of medical and media experts, governments hastily began closing entire economies. Citizens’ rights evaporated. One after another, like dominos, whole nations went into shutdown.

Panic ensued, not just because of the disease, but also because of government overreach. Hoarders and profiteers cleared supermarket shelves and loaded their pantries and closets with cleaning supplies and toilet rolls. Everyone, it seemed, exploited the crisis. Those who didn’t seemed content to follow the confused and disoriented herd off the cliff.

Buried deep beneath this mass hysteria, sensational and politicized reporting, authoritarian overreach, and audacious assault on liberty was the first casualty of this contagion: the TRUTH.

Communist Cover-up

In mid-December 2019, the Chinese city of Wuhan began witnessing an uptick in pneumonia cases. Local doctors realized they were dealing with a new disease and began to sound the alarm. They were quickly silenced by the Chinese government.

By month’s end, after a weeks-long outbreak, China finally alerted the WHO that it was dealing with an unknown contagious disease. During those crucial weeks, 5 million people had traveled through Wuhan. On January 15, the first case arrived in the U.S.

On January 23, with the disease already far beyond its borders, China’s regime decided to lock down Wuhan. It enforced the quarantine just as you’d expect an authoritarian government to: Police drones watched foot traffic and blared commands at people not wearing facemasks. The government started tracking smartphones to monitor individuals who may have been exposed to the virus. Those who’d been exposed couldn’t simply isolate themselves: Video footage revealed police

dragging people from their homes to put them into quarantine camps.

On January 30, WHO Director Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, a Marxist from Ethiopia with no medical experience but a noticeable loyalty to China, declared a public health emergency. He tweeted, “In many ways, China is actually setting a *new standard* for outbreak response. Our greatest concern is the potential for the virus to spread to countries with weaker health systems”

The next day, President Trump took the first serious action to stop the spread of the contagion by restricting travel into the U.S. from China. One doctor quoted in the *New York Times* called this decision “more of an emotional or political reaction.” Presidential candidate Joe Biden later said it was hysterical and accused President Trump of xenophobia and fear-mongering. Other detractors called the president a racist. Even the WHO director general criticized the travel ban. On February 4, he said, “Such restrictions can have the effect of *increasing fear and stigma*, with LITTLE PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFIT.”

Meanwhile, mainstream media showed no interest in COVID-19. On February 1, *Washington Post* ran this headline: “Get a Grippe, America. The Flu Is a Much Bigger Threat Than Coronavirus, for Now.” *USA Today* reassured us that “Coronavirus Is Scary, but the Flu Is Deadlier, More Widespread.” At that time, the talking heads were too busy trying to convict President Trump of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress so they could remove him from office.

On February 5, the Senate acquitted Mr. Trump. The Democrat media complex *immediately* pivoted to the story it had ignored for weeks: coronavirus.

Weaponizing the Crisis

On February 12, the Dow Jones Industrial Average peaked at 29,551, its highest mark in history. It didn’t stay there for long. Around that time, COVID-19 was spreading rapidly in Iran and southern Europe. To that point, President Trump had been the one Western leader who took measured action to actually contain the outbreak. But suddenly, pundits began saying he wasn’t doing enough.

At a campaign rally in South Carolina on February 28, President Trump accused Democrats and the major media of using the epidemic to try to destroy his presidency. “This is their new hoax,” he said. The radical left swiftly accused him of saying the virus *itself* was a hoax.

At the end of February, columnist Roger Kimball predicted, “No one knows exactly how far or how fast the coronavirus will spread. Nor does anyone yet know what its toll will be. ... But those predicting—at times, their eagerness makes it seem they are hoping for—something as deadly ... as the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918 (when some 50 million were killed) are likely to be disappointed” (*Spectator*, February 28).

The day after his rally in South Carolina, President Trump called for calm. “We would respectfully ask the media and politicians not to do anything to incite a panic,” he said. “There’s no reason to panic at all. This is something that’s being handled professionally.”

In Europe, many talking heads were panicking for other reasons. Medical experts were saying the disease was spreading so fast that Europe’s nationalized health-care systems would be overrun with sick patients. Something drastic needed to be done to “flatten the curve.”

A Perfect Storm

On March 3, WHO Director Tedros—who had praised China for containing the virus and criticized President Trump for the travel ban—made this shocking announcement: “Globally, about 3.4 percent of reported COVID-19 cases have died. By comparison, seasonal flu generally kills far fewer than 1 percent of those infected.”

It turned out that Tedros was frightening the world with dishonest math. He based the death rate for influenza on the *estimated* number of people infected with the common flu each year. He based the alarming 3.4 percent figure on the number of *known* cases of coronavirus—those who actually test positive for the disease. (The vast majority of those infected are never tested.) Other experts issued even more-ominous death rate predictions, some as high as 4 and 5 percent.

To his credit, President Trump dismissed these terrifying predictions. He said on March 5 that the 3.4 death rate was a “false number” because of all the mild cases of coronavirus that are never reported to doctors. Regarding the actual death rate, Mr. Trump said he believed the number would be “way under 1 percent.” For this, he was castigated as being ignorant and irresponsible. *He doesn’t even believe the virus is real*, said the radical left.

On March 9, America’s anti-Trump media had seen enough. CNN chief medical correspondent Sanjay Gupta said, “Starting today, you will notice that CNN is using the term *pandemic* to describe the current coronavirus outbreak. It is not a decision we take lightly. While we know it sounds alarming, it should not cause panic”—which it immediately did. That day, the U.S. stock market plunged more than 2,000 points.

Why would CNN be *ahead* of the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in declaring

COVID-19 a pandemic? Because like so much of what CNN now does, its organizational aim is not to report news, but to make news—much of it to hurt the president.

Fox Business commentator Trish Regan noted this on her show the same day Gupta was inflaming coronavirus hysteria. She accused the radical left of weaponizing the health crisis against Donald Trump without regard to how much it might hurt the U.S. economy and ordinary Americans. This caused a storm of criticism, and by the end of the week, Fox News executives had suspended Regan, buckling under pressure from leftists who denounced the network for “downplaying” the crisis and covering up President Trump’s “mismanagement” of it. They later fired her.

The World Health Organization followed CNN’s lead on March 11, declaring COVID-19 a global pandemic. President Trump responded by broadening the travel ban to include incoming flights from Europe. On March 13, he declared a national emergency.

But the response measures, drastic as they were, had barely begun.

Junk Science

Together with the radical left, the Democrat media complex, the WHO and China’s Communist government, plenty of Western scientists and medical experts were available to create terrifying models, charts, graphs and reports to show that COVID-19 was a catastrophe in the making. For the United States and Britain, the most authoritative and influential team of experts came from Imperial College London. The *New York Times* wrote, “With ties to the World Health Organization and a team of 50 scientists, led by a prominent epidemiologist, Neil Ferguson, Imperial is treated as a sort of GOLD STANDARD, its mathematical models feeding directly into government policies” (March 17).

What did the “gold standard” of scientific research uncover about COVID-19 and its threat to society? According to the Imperial model, if we took no action to arrest the virus’s spread, 510,000 people in Britain and 2.2 million in America would DIE of the Wuhan flu. “These kinds of numbers are deeply concerning for countries with top-drawer health-care systems,” wrote the *Washington Post*. “They are TERRIFYING for less-developed countries, global health experts say” (March 17). In other words, if the U.S. and Britain lose 2.7 million people, think about what that means for the rest of the world.

Ferguson’s March 16 report began by saying the public health threat of COVID-19 “is the most serious seen in a respiratory virus since the 1918 H1N1 influenza pandemic.” It said that if the U.S. and Britain employed more ambitious measures to mitigate the spread (case isolation, household quarantine and social distancing of the elderly), the death count could be reduced to 1.1 million in the U.S. and 260,000 in the UK.

“Finally,” wrote the *Post*, “if the British government quickly went ALL-OUT to suppress viral spread—aiming to reverse epidemic growth and reduce the case load to a low level—then the number of dead in the country could drop to below 20,000. To do this, the researchers said, Britain would have to ENFORCE social distancing for the entire population, isolate all cases, DEMAND quarantines of entire households where anyone is sick, and close all schools and universities.”

In other words, do what the Chinese did in Wuhan: LOCK IT DOWN. China’s crackdown, remember, was praised by Tedros as a “new standard” in confronting outbreaks. And Western officials see Ferguson’s team of epidemiologists as the “gold standard” of scientific research and theory. Not surprisingly, the Imperial team, with its “ties to the World Health Organization,” reached the same conclusion the WHO did.

Ferguson told the *New York Times*, “Based on our estimates and other teams’, there’s really NO OPTION but follow in China’s footsteps and suppress.” *Follow Communist China’s lead, or millions and millions of people will drop dead*

And how long would Western governments need to impose a Communist-style lockdown? The “gold standard” recommended up to 18 months. Shutdowns, social distancing the entire population, quarantining the infirmed and their families—for a year and a half! And even then, the UK death count projection would be 20,000 people. According to the BBC, this scenario represented a “good outcome” for Britain.

COVID-19 task forces in London and Washington accepted the catastrophic Imperial forecast without objection. As the *New York Times* opined, “It wasn’t so much the numbers themselves, frightening though they were, as who reported them: Imperial College London.”

The “gold standard” had spoken: LOCKDOWN is our only option.

The Rule of Experts

Before Imperial spoke, governments in America and the UK both favored promoting commonsense guidelines: wash hands frequently, sneeze or cough into your folded arm, stay at home if you are sick, etc. Both President Trump and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson were disinclined to use government agents to enforce more stringent guidelines. The virus might spread more rapidly without strict measures, they reasoned, but the vast majority of people survive and build up a greater “herd immunity,” which helps shield the public from disease in case it returns next season.

Over the weekend of March 14-15, the Trump and Johnson administrations were briefed on the Imperial College forecast. The sudden, profound impact this model had on both countries, and indeed the world, was disastrous.

The president's own medical expert, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Anthony Fauci, took to the Sunday shows on March 15 and said, "If it looks like you're overreacting, you're probably doing the right thing." Even if you are young and healthy, he said, you could be a "carrier" who might spread it unknowingly.

On March 16, President Trump's COVID-19 task force released its 15-day "stop the spread" campaign. During the briefing, the president emphasized the commonsense guidelines, but also admonished *all* Americans to avoid gatherings of more than *10 people* and eliminate discretionary travel; he also asked the elderly and vulnerable to self-quarantine.

Prime Minister Johnson also encouraged the British public to take more drastic action to arrest the spread. Then, after his public address, Johnson's team briefed reporters off camera about "jaw-dropping numbers from some of Britain's top modelers of infectious disease"—this would be Neil Ferguson's 20-page forecast of 2.7 million casualties in the U.S. and Britain alone. According to the *Washington Post*, Ferguson's forecast was "QUICKLY ENDORSED BY JOHNSON'S GOVERNMENT" and it was "ALSO INFLUENCING PLANNING BY THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION."

In the Trump briefing in Washington, Dr. Deborah Birx referred to models the coronavirus task force had been working on with "groups in the United Kingdom." It was Ferguson's forecast, the *New York Times* wrote, that "triggered a sudden shift" in America's and Britain's "comparatively relaxed response to the virus." Thus, it was the Imperial College model, which was essentially based on the WHO model, which was essentially based on the Communist Chinese model, that "jarred" the U.S. and UK into taking the actions that would fundamentally transform the U.S. and Britain in ways a contagious disease never could.

World War Flu

The week before the Imperial model was published, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte imposed a national quarantine on Italy. This followed earlier lockdowns in the regions of Lombardy and Lodi. On March 14, Spain and France closed their borders, shut down businesses, and chased people off the streets.

In the United States, the changeover was swift. On March 10, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said that for most people, this disease "basically acts like a common cold or flu" and that the elderly and sickly were most vulnerable. He gave commonsense guidelines for city residents to remember to protect the elderly. But on the whole, New Yorkers are "pretty tough," he said, adding, "We cannot shut down because of undue fear." Just *four days later*, this same mayor said his staff was on "full crisis footing" and had entered a "wartime dynamic."

Many state governors and city mayors followed a similar pattern. That same weekend, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine ordered all bars and restaurants to close. He had to take this action because his chief medical adviser said the state already had 100,000 cases of COVID-19 and that it would double every six days. Hospitals, he said, needed to prepare for inundation. Just days into the crisis, COVID-19 was shutting down America in ways that the Second World War never did.

Media sensationalism played a significant role in stoking fear and panic. Columnist Peggy Noonan wrote, "'Don't Panic' Is Rotten Advice," on March 12, saying "Sometimes paranoia is just good sense."

On March 14, the *New York Times* "reported" that as many as *214 million* Americans could be infected, 21 million could require hospitalization and 1.7 million could die. This invisible killer would rampage for months, maybe more, and we would have to go to war to stop it.

"I think this could be a six-, seven-, eight-, nine-month affair, watching the trajectory of the virus," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on March 13. Coronavirus, said one Bloomberg headline, would change the way we shop, travel and work FOR YEARS.

The Solution: Socialism

Is it a coincidence that these dire predictions have major *political* ramifications? Is it a coincidence that the solutions demanded by the press and the political left are massive *socialistic interventions*? Is it coincidence that disobeying COVID-19 guidelines feels like the new racism, and that governments are encouraging people to report their neighbors for such "crimes" as taking a walk?

Is the coronavirus reaction *interrupting* the radical leftist agenda, or is it *part of it*?

In the week that followed the publication of the Imperial model, Prime Minister Johnson's government laid the groundwork for a total lockdown in Britain. Every year, on average, 17,000 people in the UK die from influenza; experts said COVID-19 would be much worse. The *Guardian* reported that the health crisis might last well into next year and that 7.9 million people could be hospitalized. As many as *80 percent* of Britons could ultimately be infected! And with a death rate somewhere between 1 and 3.4 percent, the number of COVID-19 deaths would fall somewhere between 500,000 and 1.8 million people *in the UK alone.*

The UK health minister said anyone over 70 may have to self-isolate in their homes for four months. Britain's chief medical officer advised people to brace for months of emergency restrictions. "This is not *two weeks and we're done*," he said. "This is a significant period of time." On March 20, Boris Johnson called on all pubs, restaurants, cinemas and gyms to close. At that time, only 177 people across the UK had died from the virus.

Meanwhile, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak hastily prepared Britain for a quick transition into a wartime economy. The *Spectator* called Sunak's plan "one of the most radical experiments in modern economic theory" (March 20). It allowed companies to defer value-added tax, reduced taxes for the self-employed, and obliged the *government itself* to pay 80 percent of workers' salaries who couldn't work due to the government quarantine. "It is the most extensive intervention in the economy ever made by a supposedly free-market government anywhere in the world. In effect, *we will all soon be working for the government*" (ibid).

Liberals and conservatives alike called on Mr. Johnson's government to fully embrace socialism to *save* Britain's economy. And did he ever! Economically, it took only a *few days* of COVID-19 hysteria to effectively turn Johnson and the Tories into an army of Jeremy Corbyns.

On March 23, Mr. Johnson then lowered the boom on British liberty. In a nationally televised address, he ordered Britons to stay home, except for "very limited purposes," and to avoid public gatherings of more than *two* people. As part of the nationwide ban, the prime minister also ordered all shops selling "nonessential" goods to shut down.

Incredibly, the nation of Magna Carta, Habeas Corpus and the Bill of Rights was put under house arrest en masse. Even more incredibly, the British public didn't seem to mind. A YouGov poll found that 76 percent of people in Britain "strongly" supported the national lockdown. Most commentators and talking heads also commended the measures.

British online magazine Spiked marveled at the near-total absence of dissent over the decision: "The authoritarian instincts of the chattering classes have been on full display in this crisis," wrote editor Brendan O'Neill. "You can see it in their daily pleas for Boris Johnson to turn the UK into a police state. You can see it in their sneering at people who visit parks or take a walk on a beachfront. And you can see it most disturbingly in their implacable rage against anyone who deviates from the COVID-19 script and asks if shutting down society really is the right thing to do" (March 23).

You're 'Supposed' To

The day after Boris Johnson locked down Britain, Narendra Modi locked down India. At the time, his nation of 1.3 billion people had suffered just *10 deaths* linked to COVID-19. Modi's decree triggered an immediate run on stores across the country. The BBC reported, "Correspondents say it is not clear how—or even if—people will now be allowed out to buy food and other essentials" (March 25).

That same day, a reporter asked President Trump about the U.S.'s heavy-handed COVID-19 countermeasures. He pointed at the medical experts. He said that a "few people" walked into his office and said, "We have to close up the country." The president added that had he not taken these draconian steps, America would have been "unbelievably criticized." He then made this remark: "Somehow the word got out that this is the thing we're supposed to be doing."

It's *NEVER* been done before, but *somehow*, this is what we're all supposed to be doing. This is the new normal. This is World War Flu. We're fighting for our survival, and we've all suddenly decided that a sort of public health totalitarianism is our only hope.

The same week President Trump released his 15-day plan to stop the spread, the Department of Homeland Security began to distribute passes to broadcasters allowing them access to their facilities, to travel "during curfews and restricted travel periods," during these uncertain times. Before 2002, Homeland Security *didn't even exist*. Today, it has 240,000 employees and the power to decide which Americans are important enough to travel unmolested.

Then, the last week of March, Congress passed the \$2.2 *trillion* Cares Act—the biggest spending bill in the history of human civilization.

The act "cares" about ordinary Americans—and also the Kennedy Center, the National Archives, NASA, the Forest Service, the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities, and the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development—all of which received generous coronavirus "relief."

Kimberley Strassel wrote at the *Wall Street Journal*, "A rough calculation suggests the single biggest recipient of taxpayer dollars in this legislation—far in excess of \$600 billion—is *GOVERNMENT ITSELF*" (March 26). As liberals often say, *never let a crisis go to waste!* Strassel wrote, "This legislation may prove the biggest one-day expansion of government power ever."

America's "cure" for the crisis is not unlike Britain's: Broaden the power of the central government, expand the welfare state, and mortgage our future and the future of our children.

Republican Rep. Thomas Massie made the mistake of clinging to some principle of constitutional representative government: He demanded that all members of Congress be *present* for the vote on the \$2.2 trillion bill, thus delaying the

House vote. He said legislators should be in some small way *accountable* for the largest expenditure in human history by at least signing their names to it. Judging by the vitriolic reaction to Massie, you might have thought *he* was responsible for spreading COVID-19. President Trump called Massie a “third-rate grandstander” who only wanted “publicity.” Republicans called on Massie to lose his primary to another Republican challenger during the next election cycle. Former Secretary of State John Kerry said Massie needed to “be quarantined to prevent the spread of his massive stupidity.”

Massie became the least popular man in Washington for demanding *recorded* tally for the vote, rather than the anonymous “voice vote” directed by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and preferred by almost every other powerful member of Congress. Pelosi quickly assembled enough representatives in the chamber to overrule Massie, and the voice vote easily moved the bill through to the president’s desk.

Rep. Peter King of New York later said that if anyone in Congress got infected with the virus as a result of having to be present at the capitol to overrule Massie, Massie would have BLOOD ON HIS HANDS

This is how it works during this “wartime dynamic.” Constitutional norms are suspended. Lockdowns are commonplace. Big government determines who’s essential. And obscenely huge bailouts meet with zero resistance in Congress.

Anyone who would dare question these wartime rules and regulations must immediately be silenced or branded as a heretic. Everyone must go along. It’s what we’re “supposed” to do.

The Still-Elusive Death Rate

On March 21, Medium ran an article questioning many of the outlandish predictions for COVID-19. To author Aaron Ginn, a Silicon Valley technologist with no background in medicine or infectious disease, the numbers didn’t add up. He said that as testing for the virus increased, the mortality rate would inevitably decline. And sure enough, the two nations that have tested for the disease the most, the United States and Germany, had mortality rates of 1.7 and 0.78 percent at the time of this writing. These rates were not as low as the seasonal flu, but nowhere near as high as Tedros predicted on March 3.

The death rate of 0.1 for seasonal flu is based on the *estimated* number of flu cases, not of patients who are actually tested. Since we don’t know the number of mild cases of COVID-19 that go unreported, the actual death rate for the disease is probably much lower than 1 percent. This was the main point of Ginn’s post. Soon, Medium deleted it for violating Medium rules.

As more information on the COVID-19 crisis emerges, it is not Ginn who is being proved wrong, but the public health experts.

On March 25, just nine days after releasing his frightening report, Neil Ferguson told British members of Parliament that the UK death toll could end up being “substantially lower” than 20,000. Furthermore, he testified that the overall impact on the deaths in the UK this year might be negligible because most of the COVID-19 victims would have died of other health complications anyway.

Had Ferguson said any of this just a few days earlier, it might have prevented the U.S. and Britain from plunging headlong into the financial abyss.

Even with his newly revised forecast, Ferguson believes the UK government was right to lock it down. He said it probably saved the National Health Service from disaster, but did acknowledge that because of the economic impact, we will be paying for this “for *many decades* to come.”

At some point, COVID-19 will go away. But the “cure” will remain.

The day after Ferguson quietly backtracked from his Imperial model, another study in America received a lot of attention. It was headlined “U.S. Virus Deaths May Top 80,000 Despite Confinement.” With most of America now glued to the daily death tracker, this study was used to incite *more* fear and hysteria. The truth behind the headline, however, is that it represented another rapid retreat from the original projections of Spanish flu-like devastation. Eighty thousand deaths from coronavirus is NOT a repeat of the 1918 pandemic. It’s more comparable to the ferocious flu season of 2017–18, when 45 million Americans were infected, 810,000 were hospitalized and 61,000 died (0.14 death rate). That happened *two years ago*. And no one cared.

CNN’s Sanjay Gupta also reversed course on March 27: “The vast majority of people, *even if you are elderly*, aren’t going to need hospitalization. The vast majority are going to recover. The vast majority are not going to die.” *Just one week before*, Gupta said U.S. hospitals were unprepared for what was about to happen. And the week before that, when Gupta declared COVID-19 a pandemic, he relied on case studies in China that said *5 percent* of those infected became critically ill.

Even Anthony Fauci, who had originally said COVID-19 was “10 times more lethal” than the common flu, wrote in the March 26 *New England Journal of Medicine*: “If one assumes that the number of asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic cases is several times as high as the number of reported cases, the case fatality rate may be *considerably less than 1 percent*. This suggests that the overall clinical consequences of COVID-19 may ultimately be more akin to those of a severe seasonal influenza ... or a pandemic influenza.”

After the Virus Dies

By the end of March, President Trump hinted at a possible end to the lockdown madness, sooner rather than later. “We cannot let the cure be worse than the problem itself,” he said on March 22.

Two days later, during a virtual townhall at Fox News, the president spoke about how contagious and deadly *influenza* can be, but America never closes down. *We can't let this virus destroy our country*, he said. “We have to get back to work.” He suggested April 12 as a possible date for reopening the U.S. economy.

This statement alarmed the experts. Even as they were dramatically lowering their early death toll projections, America was still in grave danger. Fauci rushed to the media, telling them America might lose 100,000 to 200,000 people even under a strict lockdown. The president again decided to comply with their counsel and extended the social-distancing guidelines through the end of April. The experts, you see, are right, even when they get it spectacularly wrong.

As for the left-wing media, they are committed to sensationalizing this crisis for as long as possible. The longer it lasts, the more it benefits their ratings and their political objectives. Though early polls suggested that a majority of Americans were pleased with how President Trump handled the crisis, the Democrat media complex knows that the only chance for success at the ballot box in November is if the coronavirus death toll keeps rising and the stock market and the economy keep dropping.

Whenever America finally does reopen for business, the president seems confident of a turnaround: “We will come back strong,” he said. And that might be true, at least for the *short term*.

But what will be the long-term cost of all these “cures”? Once the virus subsides, will governments roll back the socialist programs and release the authoritarian reins? Will the radical left ease off on their unrelenting, irrational and vicious attacks against the presidency and America’s founding principles? Will this be the end of sensational reporting and scaremongering? Will teams of experts return to the university and correct the mistakes that helped to incite a worldwide panic and economic meltdown?

We’ve seen large numbers of people whipping themselves into a frenzy before. The world has grown more and more radical, emotional and panicked, especially over the last few decades. But nothing has illustrated this quite like the reaction to *COVID-19*.

We shut down the world, suspended our constitutional republic, ground economies to a halt, drove millions to joblessness, drained the stock market, spent more money than ever before, massively expanded and empowered government, and ballooned the size of the welfare state. In the end, will it prove to all be in hasty response to the equivalent of, as Dr. Fauci said, a bad flu season?

None of this makes sense—unless you realize that it all traces back to one cause. I’m not talking about leftists in America or in other countries, I’m talking about the original source. That one source is Satan the devil.

Satan is a real, actual evil spirit being. He is active in the world. In fact, he has power to influence people, and he has successfully deceived the whole world. As Ephesians 2:2 says, the god of this world actually isn’t God the Father or Jesus Christ, it’s Satan! That’s what *your Bible* says. Isn’t that what you’re seeing on the news right now?

It is crucial to understand how Satan preys on out-of-control emotions! “Whenever people are fighting to survive and emotions are flying,” my father writes, “the devil is going to exploit that every time!” ([America Under Attack](#) - English Only).

Whether *COVID-19* has affected or will affect your health, your livelihood or your freedoms, you need to take note of what has just happened to the world. The immensely powerful and self-destructive reaction to a bad flu season illustrates the power of Satan to prey on emotions. He can wreak havoc worldwide. And he can do it in your life too. The battle here is not just against a virus or confusion or misinformation or an agenda. For the world and for you individually, it’s against Satan. The world won’t see it until it’s too late, will you?