

## **As God's children, what is our responsibility?**

True, we are going through a testing time. Nevertheless, with confidence, let us look to the Lord rather than to secular systems for answers. In this context, it is worth reminding us of 1 Corinthians 10:13, which reads.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

While there is no direct reference to COVID19 in the Word of God, there are several instances when God's people were in similar situations recorded for our learning. One such instance was the wilderness when the children of Israel encountered the fiery serpents. The Lord's solution was the lifting up of the brazen serpent. Let us thank the Lord for the verses that provided the context for John 3:16, which reads as follows:

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:14-16).

May the Lord help us keep our minds' eyes on the centre cross lifted up on mount Golgotha while we go through this trying time. Under lockdown conditions, we don't have the company of God's people, but His presence is with us, and so is his Word in our hands. May we find ourselves meditating on the Word day and night. Let us take heed to the words of Joshua in his later years to the children of Israel.

Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside there from to the right hand or to the left (Joshua 23:6).

In Acts chapter 12, we have the account of the believers facing persecution. Herod killed James, the brother of John, and had Peter put in prison. He would have executed Peter, but for the feast of the unleavened bread. This was a trying time for the believers of that time, perhaps worse than what we are experiencing. Verse 5 tells us how the believers handled the situation.

Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

While the believers prayed, we read in this chapter that the Angel of the Lord went into the prison and rescued Peter.

And, behold, the Angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

The Herod of this time is just as active as the one in the first century. May we find ourselves, like the believers in Acts 12, praying for the COVID19 situation. We can pray as individuals, families and small groups. Let us fervently pray, looking to the Lord to cause this COVID chain to fall off. May our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ restore our meetings to the pattern given by the Apostles, even as we wait for His soon coming.