**R798\_Rumination for May 17, 2020 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme:  **How Long?** berita-bethel-ung.com

The **T**ext: *They cried with a loud voice, saying,* ***How long****, O Lord, holy and true…?* Rev. 6:10

The **T**hots:

Intro.: The **C**ommon question **C**irculating the world today is “***How long more*** *will* ***C****OVID\_19 last*?

“*How Long*…?” too is a **C**ommon question in the Bible, occurring over 50 times. Here are 2 **C**onsiderations:

1. **How Long More before the Saviour’s Second Advent?** **II Pet. 3:3, 4**
2. The **P**ointed **P**rediction **C**oncerning **C**oming **S**coffers - *Knowing this first, that…*
3. *There* ***S****hall come in the last days* ***S****coffers – Gk. Empaikte = a derider, i.e. mocker, scoffer.* Strong
4. Their **S**inful **S**tyle of **L**ustful **L**iving – *walking after their own lusts*
5. The **P**retentious **P**resumption of these **C**ritical **S**coffers: II Pet. 3:4
6. Their **M**ockery – *Where*…**How long more**… *is the promise of His coming?*
7. It is a **M**yth – **C**ompare their **C**laims to uniformitarianism today: Wikipedia

*The assumption that the same natural laws and processes that operate in our present-day scientific observations have always operated in the universe in the past and apply everywhere in the universe.*

1. They Wilfully refused to **C**onsider the **C**ataclysmic **C**hanges in History as taught in Scripture! 3:5

*for since the fathers fell asleep, all things* ***C****ontinue as they were from the beginning of the* ***C****reation*

1. So they **C**onclude there would be no Second **C**oming of **C**hrist! – *Where is the promise of His* ***C****oming?*
2. Their **P**urposeful **P**utting aside of the **C**ondition of the Earth: *For this they willingly are ignorant of* 3:5

*Willingly* is Gk. *thelō* = to determine…i.e., choose or prefer (literal or figurative)… Strong

1. The Creation of the **W**orld was by the **W**ord of God. 3:5, NKJV

*For this they* ***W****illfully forget: that by the* ***W****ord of God the heavens were of old,*

*and the earth standing out of* ***W****ater and in the* ***W****ater.*

Cf. *And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place,*

*and let the dry land appear: and it was so.* Gen. 1:9

1. The **D**estruction of the Earth by the **D**eluge. II Pet. 3:6

*Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*

Cf. *And the flood was forty days upon the earth…* Gen. 7:17

 *All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.* Gen. 7:22

1. However, the **F**uture **D**estruction of the present Earth and Heavens will be by **F**ire. II Pet. 3:7

*But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store,*

*reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

1. By His Word, God **D**estroyed the Earth and the ungodly inhabitants by the **F**lood.
2. By His same **W**ord, God will **D**estroy these **W**icked men on the Earth by **F**ire!
* That is the **P**ledge and **P**lan of God when **C**hrist **C**omes to judge them and send them to **P**erdition!
1. Meanwhile, what is the **P**rospect of the “**S**lack”? II Pet. 3:8-10.
2. The **P**erspective of Eternity – a Long Period in Time is Infinitely Short in Eternity. 3:8

*Be not ignorant…that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

1. Its **P**urpose: *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness…* 3:9

*but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*

1. The **P**rogramme when the “Slack” ends. 3:10

*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away*

*with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works*

*that are therein shall be burned up.*

* Will you be Ready when He Comes?
1. **How Long More before the Martyred Saints’ get Avenged? Rev. 6:9-11**
2. The **S**cene of the **S**lain **S**ouls in Heaven **-** *I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain*
3. They were Slain *for the* ***W****ord of God,* Rev. 6:9
4. *and for the testimony* (**W**itness) *which they held:* Rev. 6:9
5. The **S**upplication of the **S**lain **S**ouls. Rev. 6:10
6. The Cry for **A**ction – *And they cried with a loud voice, saying,* ***How long****, O Lord, holy and true* …?
7. The Cry to be **A**venged – *dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*
8. The **S**olace for the **S**lain **S**ouls. Rev. 6:11
9. They were given white **R**obes – *And white robes were given unto every one of them*
10. They were told to **R**est awhile – *and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season,*
11. The **R**etribution would soon come! – *until their fellowservants also and their brethren,*

 *that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.*

* **W**hat **W**ill come, **W**ill come! Just **W**ait for it!

*How long, O Lord, our Savior, Wilt Thou remain away?*

*Our hearts are growing weary At Thy so long delay.
Oh, when shall come the moment, When, brighter than the morn,*

 *The sunshine of Thy glory Shall on Thy people dawn?* James G. Deck

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 798**

1. How long will the pandemic Covid\_19 continue to take its toll?

As on Friday, 15 May, 2020, the statistics stood at:

 **Total cases: Worldwide** (Source: Wikipedia)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Confirmed**4.44M (+81,576) | **Recovered**1.59M | **Deaths**302K (+4,246) |

Imagine the multitudes of souls ushered into eternity without a second chance every second with multitudes more waiting at the doorstep to cross over the threshold in just a split second and never more to return. All (without exception) will have to keep their appointment - *As it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:* (Heb. 9:27)…*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* (Rom. 6:23)

Unless of course, they have accepted the gift of God which is eternal life after death, hence, no judgment for these recipients. The Lord Jesus Himself had promised:

*Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.*

 (Jn. 5:24, NRSV)

*But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God.* (Jn. 1:12, NRSV)

Every one is at the risk of being infected by COVID\_19 with its potential death –

Remember it respects no national borders, no age or gender, no racial or religious barriers, no social or economic status, whatever and whoever, everyone and anyone anytime anywhere is at risk of being infected by it to a lesser or fatal degree depending on God’s grace and compassion extended to one; once caught in the clutches of death, one either faces judgment for one’s sin or pardon for it and enter into eternal life.

How prepared are you for this deadly meeting? **REFLECT**.

1. How long will Covid\_19 last?

Here is an attempted answer in an article in - <https://asb.edu.my/>

“A lot of people are asking, *How long will Covid-19 last? Is the shutdown worth the cost?* and *Will we have shutdown, after shutdown?* Nobody can answer the *How long?* question, at this stage. In this note, we ask what bounds we can put around that number, depending on the approaches we take.

The simplest answer to *How long?* is until we get a vaccine or treatment, or until we get to “herd immunity” or we get the reproduction number below one. There is a lot of promising work on vaccines, but a vaccine that works may be a year or 18 months away.”

A year or 18 months? Even then, no one can be sure.

Also that time is not for anyone to claim. No one can boast of the morrow. Thus, James writes: **-** *Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.* (James 4:13, 14)

No one can ever be sure of the morrow, or for that matter, even the next minute!

Only **NOW** is yours and mine to use and to decide as Paul says:

*For He* [God] *saith…behold,* ***now*** *is the accepted time; behold,* ***now*** *is the day of salvation.* (II Cor. 6:2)

Do not ask **How Long** More? **Now** is the moment for you to act. **REFLECT**.

**Points to Ponder:**

***P****ostponement is not* ***P****rocrastination – God has His* ***P****urposes,* ***P****lans and* ***P****rogramme!*