

## Covid-19 in Revelation?

2020-06-30

I was curious to know where the Covid-19 pandemic was in the bible, namely the book of Revelation. This is an unprecedented time in history, so I expected to find some connection somewhere. What I discovered was a glimpse of the supernatural realities and a deeper understanding of the revealed Word.

Today the Spirit is pouring out visions and dreams speaking into the global events rocking this world.

Recently hitting the news is that of a growing swarm of locusts.

"According to the UN, the current infestations can be traced back to the cyclone season of 2018-19 that brought heavy rains to the Arabian Peninsula. That allowed at least three generations of "unprecedented breeding" that went undetected. Swarms have since spread out into East Africa, the Middle East and South Asia"

Also, it shouldn't go unnoticed the reports of flying foxes (fruit bats) swarming in Australian cities driven by the extreme heat, drought and bushfires of recent years. Now they're bringing for some a newfound paranoia thanks to a global pandemic that likely sprang from one of their overseas relatives.

As I was reading Revelation 9:1-11 God emphasised to me that bats were portrayed as well as locusts.

*The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.*

*Revelation 9:1-3*

It made sense they came out of a deep hole, they swarm and darken the sky. These critters are even demon like. Yet their scope to cause harm was limited to those not obedient to God. God allows these agents to act this way, that fear may cause some to seek him.

I heard of someone recently who had been living on street for 47 years. Drink had brought him to the point of no hope. But in March in a moment of clarity he had a vision where the pavement opened up he saw hell. This caused him to turn and find salvation.

It reminds also me of a vision someone had of a sword crashing down through the earth and cracks appearing across the earth from which fresh strong sprouts grew and a key unlocking a mechanism within the earth.

Jesus is 'Christ of the Abyss' (1 Peter 3:18-19, Ephesians 4:8-10). As the enemy's stronghold comes crashing down the Rahabs will need help to Rehabilitate. God knows who they are and by his grace, compassion and mercy he marks them as his with a seal.

*They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did*

*not have the seal of God on their foreheads.*

*Revelation 9:4*

Fear of death is the main driver and the 5 months in the next verse is commensurate and perhaps linked with the length of the first wave outbreaks in countries. For Christians it should be a case of death has lost its sting.

*They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.*

*Revelation 9:5-6*

Like when God struck fear into the hearts of the Egyptians, when there was a plague of locusts and darkened skies too - it was to say: Let my people go!

There was not one plague but 10 in the Exodus story, and in a similar way there are many elements brewing up at the moment to make a 'perfect storm'.

Revelation 9 goes on to make evident that these are not normal locusts. The image is quite disturbing.

*The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. They had tails with stingers, like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months.*

*Revelation 9:7-10*

The vision that God brought to the apostle John is multi-layered and faithfully recorded, meant to be understood. Each word is carefully selected to convey the whole message.

For example the word for sting, in the Greek (*kéntron*), is particularly instructive. In this instance it would be fair to say it is a sharp point, spike, spur, sting, whip, goad, centred point.

Minds are being brought to sharp focus on the particular topic they have been trying to avoid - for the Spirit came to "convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment" (John 16:8).

When locusts come, famine comes and for those trapped in the thick of it they know it means almost certain death and they can't but help contemplate the eternal consequences. How much better to be convinced that death has "swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:54).

The swarm in Revelation 9 had a king over them, the Destroyer, again referencing the plagues of Egypt (Exodus 12:23). But like in Job the power to take life was not given, at least not in this first 'woe' (Revelation 9:12).

*They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer). The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.*

*Revelation 9:11-12*

So when I came to look up the Greek used for locusts, 'akrides', things took an interesting twist.

Akrides is mentioned in 4 places; 2 here in Revelation 9 and the other 2 relate to John the Baptist's diet of honey and locusts (Matthew 3:4 and Mark 1:6).

It is far more likely that John the Baptist had a far more vegetarian diet.

Floriana Allmen expands:

<https://m.facebook.com/notes/floriana-allmen/did-john-the-baptist-really-eat-bugs-/10211503286451432/>

"An etymological study of the word akrides ἀκρίδες shows that it is derived from ἄκρᾱ (ákrā), which means "top, peak, extremity". Akris, the genitive form of Akrides, also means "mountain top", or "hilltop". Akrides could indeed describe locusts, plant tips or birds named after the heights they occupy ... However, linguistically, it is more likely that the word akrides, locust insect, was at the time a common homonym of akrides, locust tree...."

Here it points to the long pods of the carob tree that hang down.

"It is sometimes known as locust, or "Saint John's Bread", in the belief that the "locusts" on which John the Baptist fed were carob pods."

The way the pods hang down from the tree is reminiscent of the way bats hang upside down.

The verses (Leviticus 11:22-23) usually linked to John the Baptist's diet of insects seems to be anything but. They are more likely describing the clean and unclean flying animals.

I'll leave you with God's promise to tell us things (note this is not a promise of proof):

'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'  
Jeremiah 33:3

And to surmise:

The vision of Revelation 9:1-12 weaves together multiple visual inputs (and audio as well), one of which is that of a bat. The sting in the tail of the bat has been to produce the strains of Covid-19. But there has been other factors which God is allowing to shake the earth. His Spirit is opening people's eyes to the stark reality of their circumstance. This is so they would look to Jesus and be on the right side of eternity.

*Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28*