

2020, WHAT WAS THAT?

Ecclesiastes 7:10 Say not, "Why were the former days better than these?" For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

That God is powerful and we are fragile

- I'm not implying that this virus was from God, but it reminded me of God's power.
- Consider the 10 plagues and how they humbled a nation. Do you think this was too difficult for God?
- **Isaiah 50:2** Is My hand shortened, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Behold, by My rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a desert; their fish stink for lack of water and die of thirst.
- **Luke 7:21** In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight.
- This should remind us to completely trust in the Lord.

A reminder that this world is not our home: racism, lack of trust in people what we're told.

- **John 16:32-33** Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."
- **John 10:7-10** So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

A reminder to have compassion for others and to pray

- **1 Kings 17:10-12** This was during a 3 1/2 year drought.
- **Matthew 14:13-16** Jesus had the same spirit about Him.
- **Matthew 25:34-36** "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.'"
- It's good to show sympathy. We desperately need this attitude before we can help others.

A reminder to appreciate our families and slow down

- I grew up between Littlefield and Lubbock, TX. Things were over all slower and I miss that aspect of life.
- **Matthew 14:22-23** Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.
- After feeding the multitude. Sometimes, after caring for others, you've got to take a break.

- **Psalms 127:3-5** Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.
- **Matthew 19:13-15** Then children were brought to Him that He might lay His hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." And He laid His hands on them and went away.

That being idle can be dangerous

- **2 Thessalonians 3:6-12** Don't slow down too much. Some people will take advantage and it doesn't work out well.

That being together is a blessing and we need to be patient with each other

- Isolation can be very difficult and
- **Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
- **Philippians 1:27** Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,
- **Philippians 2:25-28** "I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious."

That we should strive to look for the good during difficult times:

- **Job 2:9-10** Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die. But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.
- **Ecclesiastes 7:14** In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.
- **James 1:2-4** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- **Ecclesiastes 7:8** Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.