

# QUANTOCK MINISTRIES

www.quantockministries.org.uk

---

*A Bible teaching and preaching ministry  
for the Christian community*

**D M HERRING**  
**45 LUXBOROUGH ROAD**  
**BRIDGWATER**  
**TA6 7JN**

**01278 451297**  
**qmins@aol.com**

## COMING OUT OF LOCKDOWN – Part 2

October 2020. The restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic have not ceased, and neither have the implications for us, both as Christians and as citizens. Our freedom to meet together for praise and worship remains under lockdown conditions, and now our thoughts must centre around our responsibility to ascertain and declare to the world what God is saying through all this. From Ezekiel 33 v 1 – 9 we realise we have a duty to be “watchmen on the wall”. I don’t believe that the pandemic is God’s judgement, as we are still living in the day of Gospel grace and it is not yet time for judgement (John 12 v 47 – 48). But we are to explain that this is a warning of the far, far worse time of judgement lockdown that is fast approaching. In His mercy God always gives a warning of His judgements, and the Tribulation judgement at the end of the Church age is prophesied in scripture very clearly.

To summarise the earlier study (Coming out of Lockdown – Part 1), we considered lockdown in its broader, biblical sense of being “a severe curtailment of our ability to live freely in the way God has provided for our enjoyment”. We saw that God created us for freedom to enjoy both fellowship with Him, and His rich provision for our life here on Earth, with responsibility and accountability. Lockdown can arise through many circumstances as a denial of those freedoms, bringing us into bondage, captivity, and despair - the human condition in general over the past 6000 years. However, Jesus has shown that He, and His revelation of truth, can set us free. This leaves Christians living with the conflict between the freedom given to us by Jesus and His Word, and various general lockdown pressures. In this further study on the subject, we look in more detail at the three areas of conflict mentioned in the previous study, and then consider the responsibility we have as God’s people to inform the world what God is saying today.

### 1. All rebellion against God and His ordering of life on Earth – Romans 1 v 18 – 32

In this passage, we see that the wickedness of ignoring God’s invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, leads to the idolatry of giving creation itself the worship due to the Creator. This results in God removing His restraining protection, leading in turn to ultimate moral and social lockdown. The very clear implication is that Christians have a duty to understand and proclaim these fundamental attributes of God, with a deep zeal for His glory. We must explain creation in terms of God’s invisible qualities, and not by physical, material concepts and processes.

**His eternal power.** *From everlasting to everlasting, you are God* (Psalm 90 v 2); *the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity* (Isaiah 57 v 15, AV). God’s Word, the Bible, is an amazing book that starts from eternity, deals with the creation of a temporary era called time, and concludes with eternity when time shall be no more. Eternity didn’t stop with the creation of that period of time; the ever-present God is still eternal, in a timeless “now”, without beginning and without ending. Time has no meaning for God, other than as a part of His material creation along with space, matter and energy, and basically time doesn’t figure in who He is or what He does; God is timeless. (This will be the same for us in eternity!) Science is telling us that time is a very fluid concept anyway and varies dramatically across the universe. So, putting a timeframe on His act of creation is pointless, as by means of His eternal power God can achieve the things we consider “must have taken a long time” in whatever period of time He chooses. Jesus often demonstrated this. When raising Lazarus, He performed the miracle in just the few seconds it took Him to utter the command “Lazarus, come out”. All Lazarus’s organs, his full molecular structure, already in an advanced state of decay and probably causing the smell of death feared by Martha, were instantly recreated, fully functioning. Now, if we know these truths and believe them, then we are released from having to accept a timeframe for creation based on fixed human ideas of the sovereignty of time and the demands that time puts on physical processes such as an imagined big bang and subsequent evolution. It is God who is sovereign, not time, and if in His eternal power He can create simply by declaring it to be so, then a six-day creation presents no problem. In His Word this is what God tells us He did, and in a very different order of creation to the supposed process under the imaginary billions of years of evolution. To do so is entirely within the eternal power of the God we know and worship. Actually, He tells us in Genesis chapter one, referring to the daily 24-hour rotation of the earth, that the days were in fact periods of 24-hours.

**His divine nature.** *God is spirit* (John 4 v 24). As the nature of God is divine, it is “out of this world”. Physicists say that there must be other dimensions in order to explain how all existence could possibly work, and we agree, saying: “Of course there is another dimension - the spiritual dimension!”. This dimension is all-embracing, eternal, centred on God Himself, and from this dimension all other existence arises. Thus, God is the source and essence of all being and existence: *In Him we live and move and have our being* (Acts 17 v 28). This was first revealed to Moses, God stating His name is Yahweh, *I AM WHO I AM* (Exodus 3 v 14). He is the originator and an immanent part of all life, for He designed, created and sustains the particles, elements, molecules and fixed physical laws that make up life, but He Himself transcends everything physical; He is spiritual and outside the physical creation. We partly share His spiritual nature, as He made us in His image, giving each of us an immortal spirit, and clothing it in physical flesh and blood.

So, God’s eternal power and divine nature show that we cannot answer and explain great timeless and spiritual issues, such as the creation and precise ordering of the universe, the origin and meaning of life, the existence of all lifeforms, by reference to materialistic concepts such as periods of time and physical processes. To try and do so, as the theory of evolution demands, is a satanic deception as it completely contradicts the nature and power of the God of the Bible. This is in addition to the fact that if we do try, we make God the author of suffering and death, which is blasphemous and expressly forbidden by the foundational facts of the Gospel (Romans 5 v 12 and 1 Corinthians 15 v 21 – 22 & 26).

## 2. Satan’s activity, leading to spiritual warfare - Ephesians 6 v 10 – 18

The whole state of spiritual warfare usually leads Christians to feel they are in helpless lockdown, facing the power and sheer evil of satanic attack, abuse and destruction. Spiritual warfare is far beyond the ebb and flow of normal human conduct and interaction. It is important we realise the entry point for spiritual warfare, for in Ephesians 6 v 11 we are told that we are specifically fighting against the devil’s schemes. These are not the many irritating things that happen in everyday life and which often cause us to cry out that the enemy is attacking us again. Those are the fiery darts against which we raise the shield of faith. No, we find the best description of the devil’s schemes is given by Jesus Himself in John 8 v 44, where He shows that Satan, the arch-liar from the beginning, has a total propensity to murder the truth (*Has God said?*). It seems he does not mind what people believe, as long as they do not believe the truth of God’s Word. And what people believe determines how they act and the nature of their character. We see the total lockdown mess that satanic deception has wrought in the realms of religion, philosophy, politics, and human pride throughout world history. Humanism, one of the prevailing satanic ideas guiding the nations today, is an obvious example, and we are called to stand against it and its awful consequences with discernment and anointing.

## 3. Hardness of heart and determined unbelief - Mark 3 v 5 – 6

In our dealings with individuals, societies or even nations, it is important to consider that God has said: *My spirit will not contend with man for ever* (Genesis 6 v 3). Our love for people in need of salvation, and our desire to be faithful, may well lead us to continue a work right to the point of the lockdown of our own health and circumstances. Even when the Lord has indicated we should move on (e.g., Matthew 10 v 14 – 16), we can find it very hard to give up. We must remember that God will not move in the life of anyone if there is no repentance. Repentance is key to salvation. If a person resists God’s overtures of mercy by refusing to repent, we must discern and be obedient as to what God is telling us to do, rather than being led by our own thoughts and emotions. People’s rejection of God can mean our time and resources are being wasted when actually God, with His eternal foreknowledge, is telling us that their refusal to repent has passed the point of no return.

Conclusion. Does the Church have anything to say to the world in the light of what is happening on a global scale today? We can see from these three areas of conflict that: a) the world is hopelessly unaware, uncaring or in denial about the glory of God and His invisible qualities; b) satanic warfare is being waged worldwide through profound deception concerning the eternal and absolute Truth underlying the world’s past, present and future; c) there’s a real possibility that God is winding down the day of salvation, due to the degree of unrepentant humanity’s rejection of His free offer of grace through faith in Jesus. All these are issues that should concern and motivate us greatly as Christians. It seems likely the rampant and dangerous physical lockdown brought about by Covid-19 is God’s warning of much greater lockdown through impending judgement. But sadly, the voice of the Church is strangely muted, with most comment limited to a pious hope that we will get back to our cosy church circles as soon as possible.

I am convinced that the powerful voice of prophetic warning is so silent because of the hopeless muddle in the Church over the Lord’s Return. Those who hold to the replacement theology position - that the Church is the new Israel - just cannot see: a) the vast importance of what God has done and is doing in and through Israel at this time; b) the literal reality of a seven-year judgement period under the coming antichrist figure who seals an all-important covenant with Israel; and c) the future thousand year glorious kingdom reign of Jesus on earth from David’s throne in Jerusalem. Above all, the Church shows little sign of being ready for the imminent Rapture of all true Christians as the Bride of Christ, an event when the unseen and timeless spiritual realm of God meets and profoundly touches the physical and locked down realm of humanity on Earth. That will be a moment when the world left behind will be shaken to its core.