**Sunday 15 March 2020**

**LOOK UP!**

**Introduction:**

1. Not claiming to have THE WORD on the current situation (no shortage of good words out there). I can only say what God has said to me.
2. Not here to tell you how you should specifically respond/behave (each of our circumstances are – our circumstances!).
3. Except, obviously we must comply with government regulations and guidance.

As some of you might remember God had me reading Revelation from late October 2018 to mid-February 2019.

Very early in January 2019, I was reading **Rev. 6.**

I’m going to read it to you now. It’s scary!

**v 5-6** talk about serious food shortage.

**v 7-8** talk about death and Hades being given, *“,,, authority over one fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, famine, pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.”*

That’s more than just the corona virus! For example, how quickly we’ve forgotten:

The recent floods;

War in Syria;

Bush fires in Australia;

Homeless refugees, etc. etc.

After I’d read **Rev. 6** God took me to **Psalm 46** and wrapped it around **Rev. 6**.

Please pause to read **Psalm 46** before reading further. Thank you.

I’m now going to take us through **Psalm 46** using one or two other translations from time to time.

**Psalm 46:** *“God is our refuge and strength. A very present (“well proved”) …”*

Time to remember how God has helped you in the past – proved Himself.

*“…* ***Therefore,*** *we will not (“need not”) fear …”*

If we truly know how much God has helped us in past troubles then we **need** not fear now!

“… *though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea. Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling* (tsunami?).

*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy* (= ‘set apart’) *habitation of the Most-High. God is in the midst of her,* ***she shall not be moved****. God will help her when morning comes …”* (morning follows night, light follows darkness).

*“… The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters his voice, the earth melts.* ***The Lord of hosts is with us;*** *the God of Jacob is our* ***fortress****. Come …”* (God calls us to come!) *“… behold the works of the Lord …”*

(To ‘behold’ – focus on – the works of the Lord feeds our faith and leads to confidant trust.)

*“… how he has brought desolations on the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.*

***Be still and know that I am God.*** *…”*

Being still comes first! We will not know that he is God while rushing around in a panic!

Allow God to settle you down. Then, when you’re still – and only when you’re still – will you **know**.

In all that is going on God says, *“… I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! …”*

Our response? *“… The lord of hosts is with us the God of Jacob is our fortress.”*

In **Luke 21** the disciples ask Jesus how it will be at the end of the age. Jesus talks of several events that point toward its arrival and tells them this will be your opportunity to be a witness to Me (see also **Acts 1:6-8**)

Then, in **Luke 21: 28,** He says,

*“Now when these things begin to take place,* ***straighten up and raise your heads****, because your redemption is drawing near.”*

Don’t look down Don’t look around

That will feed fear not faith.

**LOOK UP** to the God of **Psalm 46.**

**LOOK UP!**