



**BIBLE STUDY DURING THE 2020 PANDEMIC**

**WHY DOES GOD ALLOW PLAGUES AND  
PANDEMICS?**

**MAY 14, 2020**

**ABOLISH IDOLATRY**

**TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH, DC**

**719 DIVISION AVENUE, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20019**

**REV. CLARENCE J. PARKS**  
*SENIOR PASTOR*





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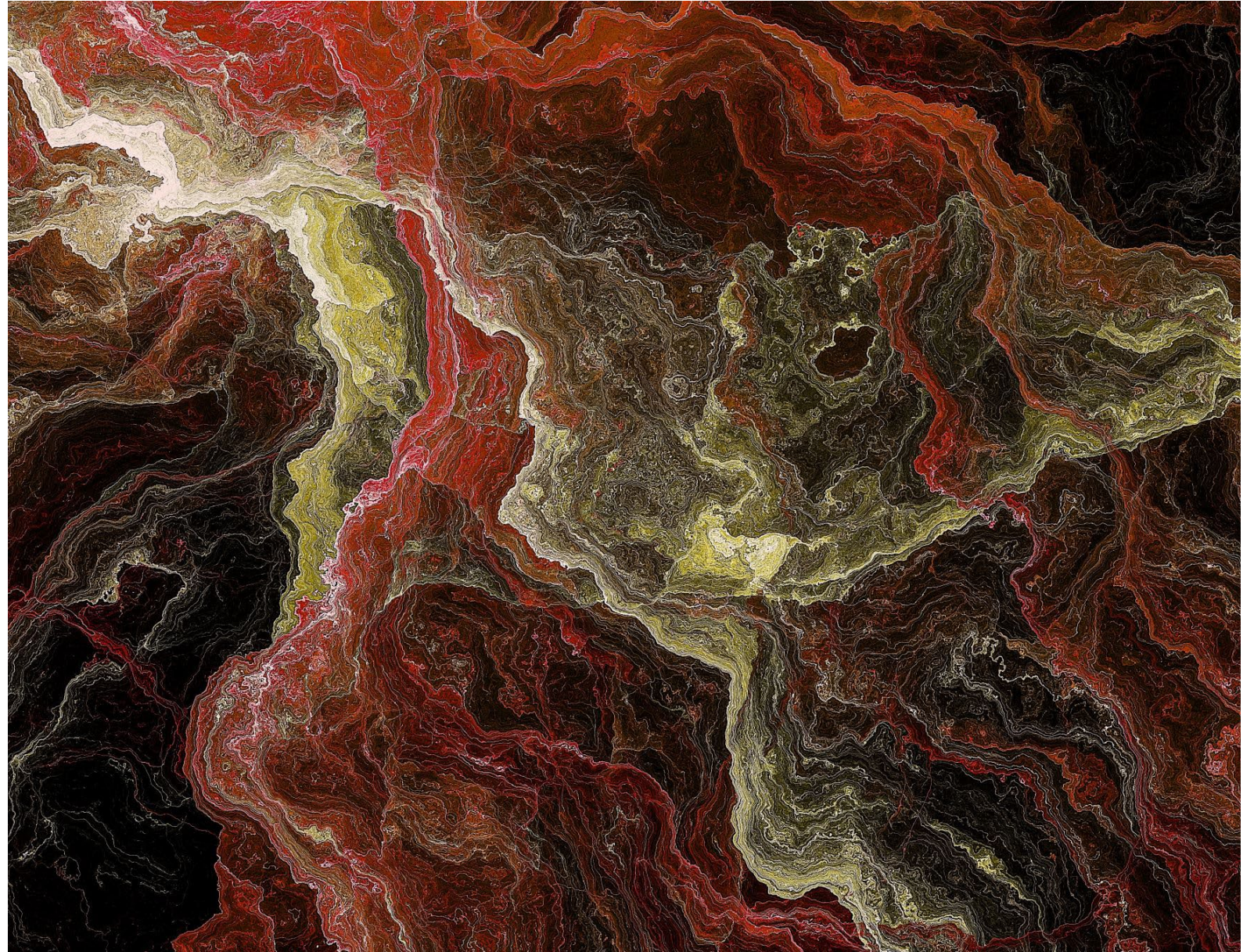
**THERE ARE AT LEAST 7 REASONS WHY GOD MAY ALLOW PLAGUES AND PANDEMIC:**

- To Accomplish His Purposes
- To Teach Obedience
- To Oppose Pride
- **To Abolish Idolatry**
- To Teach Gratitude
- To Defend His Holiness
- To Reveal His Power



# WHY DOES GOD ALLOW PLAGUES AND PANDEMICS?

- Foundational Principles:
- God loves us—Heb 12:6-7
- Tribulation is imminent—John 16:33
- We have freewill choice, Genesis 2:15-17





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# WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

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- Dictionary Definition: extreme admiration, love, or reverence for something or someone.
  - New Testament: Colossians 3:5-6
  - Old Testament: Exodus 20:5
  - OT Consequences: Ezekiel 7:1-27

## BACKDROP OF EZEKIEL 7

## BACKDROP FOR PLAGUES AND JUDGEMENT

- Approximate Date: 586 B.C.
- The “Ways” of the People: Ezekiel 7:3
  - vv. 19-23 (violence, bloodshed, extortion, bribery, worshipping false gods, etc)
- Purpose of plague/judgement of exile:
  - “To Know The God is God– v. 4

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## THE IMMINENCE OF JUDGEMENT

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### -EZEKIEL 7:5-9

- **NOTE: RECURRING WORDS MEAN IMMINENCE AND SEVERITY**
  - **END IS**
  - **COMING**
  - **NOW**
- **PEOPLE WERE IN DENIAL THAT THERE WAS AN IDOLATRY PROBLEM; AND THEY WEREN'T LISTENING TO THE PROPHETS.**

## THE INSTRUMENT “ROD” OF JUDGEMENT

### EZEKIEL 7:10-11

- LIKELY KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR
- SEE, DANIEL 3:1-7
- NOTE: GOD MAY ALLOW FOR A WICKED RULER TO RISE UP AS A “ROD” AN INSTRUMENT OF JUDGEMENT.

### EZEKIEL 7:12-19–THE JUDGEMENT

- ECONOMIC TURMOIL; PLAGUE AND PANDEMIC; WAR
- NOTE: UNDER JEWISH LAW PROPERTY USED TO PAY FOR DEBT WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE OWNER. BUT HERE THE BUYER AND SELLER WOULD LOSE BECAUSE PEOPLE WOULD BE IN EXILE. (DEUTERONOMY 15:1-2; LEVITICUS 25:13-16)
- HEIGHTENED MOURNING FOR SURVIVORS.
- POINT: CONTEMPLATION AND REPENTANCE VI 6-18

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# GOALS FOR US



- GOAL 1: DON'T LOVE OF MONEY (1 TIMOTHY 6:10)**
- GOAL 2: HOLINESS (HEBREWS 12:11-14)**
- GOAL 3: GET OUR HEARTS RIGHT (JAMES 5:7-9)**
- GOAL 4: KNOW TIME IT IS (1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31)**