



BIBLE STUDY DURING THE 2020 PANDEMIC

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

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TO DEFEND HOLINESS

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH, DC

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

REV. CLARENCE J. PARKS
SENIOR PASTOR



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

- 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



WHAT IS HOLINESS?

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- Greek Definition: Strong's #3741 & 3742: *Hosios* Purity from defilement; undefiled from sin; religiously observing every moral obligation; pure and holy; right relationship with God; associated with righteousness.
 - Holiness is Super-Important to God
 - New Testament: Ephesians 4:17-32 (Focus: v24)– New Man = Divine Nature formed in Christ: Colossians 1:20-23, 2 Peter 1:3-4.
 - Bottom Line: Be Holy! (1 Peter 1:15-16) Make a Presentation of self: (Romans 12:1-2)

OLD TESTAMENT IMPORTANCE OF HOLINESS

EXAMPLE OF IMPORTANCE OF HOLINESS

- **1 Samuel 5:1-12 (Focus v 6, 11) (ESV)**
 - **Backdrop: 1 Samuel 4**
 - Israelites were defeated by the Philistines in battle vv 1-2
 - Israelites moved the Ark of the Covenant (which contained the pure and holy presence of God) to protect it vv 3-4
 - Philistines captured it back, vv 5-11
 - **God's Response to Defend His Holiness:**
 - **Defeat of Idol of Dagon** (Hebrew: fish-god): vv 1-5
 - **Plague of Tumors** vv 6-8 (Some say Hemorrhoids [emerods]); also some Greek translations included a plague of mice because of the gold mice guilt offering made by the Philistines (Chapter 6:1-5;)

GOALS FOR US

-- GOAL 1: OBTAIN IT IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT

- ENTER INTO RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH CHRIST JESUS— ROMANS 1:3-5; ROMANS 6:22; ROMANS 10:9-10

--GOAL 2: MAINTAIN IT IF YOU HAVE IT

- 2 CORINTHIANS 7:1; I THESSALONIANS 4:7; I THESSALONIANS 3:13 (MAINTAIN THROUGH PRAYER);

-- GOAL 3: REGAIN IT IF YOU LOST IT

- REGAIN THROUGH CHASTISEMENT- HEBREWS 12:5-15

