



THE APOSTOLIC FAITH MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA DIE APOSTOLIESE GELOOF SENDING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

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Covid-19 Vaccines

There is currently a lot of uncertainty about the possible vaccines available to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. Many people are anxious, confused and fearful, mainly due to a number of conspiracy theories that are circulated by people who are neither qualified Scientists nor Theologians. These conspiracy theories, which are presented as Bible based and normative, can cause great damage to uninformed and susceptible believers who take Scriptural quotations at face value.

Considering the seriousness of these allegations and the requests of many Pastors and members, the NOB want to give some guidance on this matter. We shall proceed by asking and addressing some fundamental questions:

What should we as followers of Christ do now? -Should we take a vaccine and how must we conduct ourselves in these uncertain times?

Firstly, we must acknowledge the realities: There is a pandemic, caused by a real virus. All people, inclusive of pastors, church members, health workers, politicians, “high placed” individuals, as well as “ordinary” human beings can be infected. Some get very sick and some even die.

Secondly, we need to resist evil, in whatever form it manifests itself. To focus on and spread the different (and greatly conflicting) conspiracy theories, is in itself playing into the hands of evil. Not only does it take our focus from where it should be as Christians, but it also only results in fear, panic, desperate hopelessness and lies. -All of which is not from God.

It is important to note that through the ages there has always been an increase in so called revelations and prophecies during times of natural or manmade disasters. The greatest danger is the way in which Scripture is interpreted, used, and even abused to fit these revelations and theories. Most of the time there is little if any consistency in the different “revelations”, they rather contradict one another to the point of mutual exclusion.

Although there is always a measure of truth in every conspiracy theory, the bulk of it is usually based on fake news, scant Theology and bad or non-existent Scientific knowledge.

Thirdly, if this pandemic and everything taking place around it, is another chapter in the end time happenings (and it surely is) -how should we as followers of Jesus act? Should we anxiously look around and ask where God is, or should we find hope in the fact that what we are looking forward to as Christians, is falling in place? Is our hope still fixed on an eternal inheritance?

1 Peter 1:3-6 (NIV) *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.”*

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NIV) *“... Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”*

Fourthly, should Christians encounter the pandemic taking precautions, like social distancing, wearing masks and washing hands, and should we take a vaccine -or should we just take our chances?

Would you just sit in your house if it caught fire? Was it wrong of Paul to be lowered in a basket through an opening in the city’s wall, to escape possible death? (Acts 9:23-25) Should Jacob not have fled from Esau, or escaped famine by going to Egypt? Should David not have fled Saul and later Absalom?

-All of them escaped death when it was possible and saved their own lives. Whether your life is endangered by a wild animal, a natural disaster, famine, criminals, or pestilence and viral infections: Danger is danger and death is death...

Christians should therefore consider taking all the necessary hygienic precautions and also consider taking a vaccine against the Covid-19 virus.

Infections and the use of vaccines to fight them are not something new. In 1796 the first successful vaccine against smallpox was developed. In 1853 vaccination against smallpox was made compulsory in England and Wales and thereafter in many other countries, leading to the eventual eradication of smallpox in 1980. Many of us carry the skin mark of that vaccination on one of our shoulders.

Successful vaccines against Polio were developed in 1955 and 1961, fighting the polio virus that caused millions to die, be maimed or paralyzed for life during the 1940’s and 1950’s.

This was followed by the Measles and Mumps pandemics and vaccinations were successfully applied respectively in 1954; and during 1963 to 2000 when measles was eliminated, and in 1967 to 1979 when Mumps were brought under control. The symptoms of both were flu-like and infection spread through coughing, sneezing and close personal contact. -It is interesting to note that there were also people then who described these vaccines as the work of the Antichrist.

Traditional vaccines, like the ones mentioned above, use a weakened form of the virus that it wants to fight, so that the human body can naturally create antibodies to fight infection should it occur. New techniques make the development of vaccines over shorter periods of time possible. It also makes the use of RNA vaccines (which by the way does not contain cells of unborn babies) against Covid-19 possible. Instead of exposing the body to a (weakened) virus so it can build a defence, the so-called mRNA-based vaccines allow our bodies to create a protein that simulates the virus which then causes the human body to create antibodies. This technique can be used against different types of viruses and have been in development for decades.

It would be prudent to remember that God and Science does not necessarily stand in opposition to one another. God also work with and through medical doctors and scientists.

Can mRNA vaccines change our DNA? In other words, can it change your genes? The short answer is no. Any virus or bacteria that enters the human body from time-to-time, deposits genetic material consisting of DNA and RNA into our bodies. Our white blood cells fight it and only occasionally we become sick, like when a Winter flu virus attacks us. Even then the DNA in our cells do not change.

It is also worth noting the following: Most medical injections, especially scheduled medicine, are drawn with a needle attached to a syringe from a vile that is marked by an unique tracking number. The medical practitioner must usually write this number into a book used for verification purposes, accompanied by his/her signature. One vaccine vile usually contains enough vaccine to inject up to five people.

The injection of biochips and so-called vaccine tattooing of people is not possible with this vaccine. It is not physically possible to draw a rice grain size microchip with a needle from a vaccine vile. The microchips placed under the skin of dogs for identification purposes, does not send out a signal (that would require a strong battery) and can only be scanned in close proximity of an appropriate scanner.

Lastly: How should we conduct ourselves during this pandemic and future times of uncertainty?

Hosea 4:6 (NIV) says: *“My people are destroyed (ruined, cut off) from lack of knowledge.”* (of the ways of God). In Matt. 22:29 (NIV) Jesus said: *“You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God...”*

-Many well-meaning Christians are taken on tow and mislead, because they do not have an adequate knowledge of the Bible as a whole and are easily influenced by fake information combined with one or two verses, interpreted out of context and presented as “fact.”

As followers of Jesus, we should:

- 1. Focus on God and not on evil:** Some people seem to know more of diabolical plans and conspiracies than of God and His Word. Phil. 4:8 (NIV) “...Whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -think about such things.” Matt.10:28 (NIV) “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”
- 2. Read the whole Bible and ask God to guide our understanding by His Holy Spirit.**
- 3. Pray for Wisdom, Discernment and Guidance** amidst confusion and misleading agendas.
- 4. Keep on fulfilling our calling and purpose:** Matt. 28:19 “Go and make disciples of all nations...”
1Tim.4:7b-8 (NIV) “...Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”
- 5. Use sound information and good common sense in making decisions about our health.**
- 6. Do not make a matter of personal choice (vaccination) an issue of sin, judgement or condemnation.**

With acknowledgement to:

- Dr. Robert Carter: RNA Vaccines. CMI-USA 3 Dec. 2020.
- Martin Luther: Letter to Dr. John Hess in 1527.
- Christianity today: Should Christians be vaccinated? YouTube 6 Jan 2021.
- Centre of Disease Control and Prevention: Understanding mRNA vaccines. 18 Dec. 2020.
- Vaccine History: Developments by Year. Childrens Hospital Philadelphia. December 2019.

Kind regards and blessings



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