

## Why Did Coronavirus Come Now?

April 11, 2020

Li Na had just been home to see her parents as she had some work vacation to use. She had just returned home and had been home for a week and back to work when her mother called and said that she was sick and had been so for several days. Her mother wanted to make sure she was ok. Li Na asked her mother if her father was doing ok health wise and her mother said for now, he was doing fine. Li Na told her mother she was feeling fine. She also asked her mother if she was getting better or worse and her mother said that she was not getting better and if anything, a little worse. Li Na then asked her mother how she was getting worse. Her mother responded by saying she was getting a little fever, cough and even a little short of breath, which each day was getting a little worse. Li Na was concerned as she had just started hearing about some new type of infection and this seemed to be like that infection, though she could not recall its name. She called her mother back after doing some research on-line of this new virus called the Coronavirus, which can cause death quickly. She told her mother that she was going to come home as she just lived a two-hour drive away and she had her own car. Li Na said she would be there in about three hours and they would go to the hospital.

Li Na on the way over to the hospital wanted to know why did this Coronavirus come now? Things were going well with her life; her family's life and it seemed her whole country. Could this have been prevented? Li Na had a degree in history, and she had a course in health care history and knew that there were many plagues in the history of man, which seemingly came on their own. However, why now? She has always since she was a young teenager had asked questions like this. Soon she was arriving to her mother's house and she wanted to put these thoughts out of her mind and focus on her mom.

After arriving at her mother's house Li Na saw that her mother was sicker than when she recently saw her. Li Na was concerned and wanted to quickly get her to the hospital, though she was not familiar with any of the hospitals as she had never been as she had rarely if ever been sick. She hoped she could find someone to help her. She let her mother out at the Emergency Room to wait for her and on the way back from the parking lot she met a friend from high school who was a doctor at this hospital and Li Na found out that she knew how to help her mother and this was such a relief.

Li Na's doctor friend told her that she and her mother should go to the main entrance and they will direct her to appropriate care. So, they went to this entrance and they said that her mother might have Coronavirus due to her having fever, cough and shortness of breath and as such should get testing as to whether she has the Coronavirus or not. Also, since her mother was short of breath, she needed to get a chest x-ray so that they can know if she has pneumonia. Her doctor friend told Li Na that she cannot go with her mother as she could pick up the Coronavirus from people and the hospital is trying to prevent non-patients from getting this infection from those with the infection.

Li Na waited outside where her doctor friend found her. She asked her doctor friend the question she had been thinking about. That is why did the Coronavirus occur now and not at some other time? Her doctor friend said it is probably because this particular virus had been around for a long time and had some type of mutation, which allowed it to enter into other animals and/or into humans. Further, there is a lot of movement of people, which allowed it to spread quickly. Thirdly, it is spread by cough and this is easily moved around. Fourthly, asymptomatic people can have the virus and shed the virus for fourteen days and not know it. Fifthly, there is no treatment either by antibiotics and/or immunizations, which help. All of these her doctor friend said could allow for it to enter and move quickly into the human population around the world.

Li Na told her doctor friend that this information is helpful, but it really doesn't answer the reason as to why now and not last year, ten years ago or even a hundred years ago or why not into the future. She said the issue of population pressures forcing mutations is certainly a plausible answer but there were population pressures ten years ago and this did not happen. Though helpful the answer was not satisfying. Li Na's doctor friend said that she wondered if she was more a philosopher than an historian as her question was leading to the cause of origins in life.

Li Na's doctor friend asked her if she knew the cause of the earth's beginning and Li Na said that it just happened. There was no cause as it just happened. If that is so Li Na's doctor friend, then asked her why is it important to know the cause of origin's if they just happen? Li Na admitted that this was a good question. Her doctor friend told her that the Bible said that the earth was created by God out of nothing. She said that the Bible says, 'in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.' Further the Bible says that 'For by Jesus Christ (who is the Son of God) all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him (that is Jesus Christ) and for him. He is before all things and in him all things hold together.'

Li Na had never heard anything like this. She had always assumed the world had just started and randomly hold together and has no purpose in its existence. Though she had to say that this was fascinating to hear as she was always thinking about cause and effect. She was also thinking why things occurred but so often she had no answer and in one way her doctor friend's answer was the best she had ever heard before whether she would believe this or not.

She asked her doctor friend again why the Coronavirus started now. Her doctor friend said that she did not know. But she said that the Bible says that all God created was very good. However, sin or disobeying God entered into the world. Then everything changed when sin entered the world and 'death through sin,' and creation itself 'was subjected to futility.' Further, she said, the Bible speaks clearly on the Lord God's ability to heal and cause illness through the prophet Moses over 4500 years ago. Moses wrote down what God said saying, 'See now that I myself am he (that is the Lord God)! There is no God besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded, and I will heal.' So, Li Na's doctor friend said it is clear that the cause and effect of health and illness and disease is from God ultimately. It is he that allows illness and healing.

Li Na said that this goes a long way to understanding the cause of events even if it doesn't explain her primary question as to why now? Her doctor friend said that though she cannot answer that question exactly as Li Na asked, she did say that the Bible says that through King David who lived about 3000 years ago, 'But I trust in you, O Lord; I say You are my God. My times are in your hands.' Her doctor friend went on to say, it is not so important to know the exact times God does things or why he does them at those times but to trust him that his ways are true, right and sure and he does that which he does to serve both his purpose but to bring those who do not know him to know him.

Li Na became more interested and wanted to know how to trust in this God she had heard about from her doctor friend. She did not have all of her questions answered but they were answered enough for her to want to believe in this God who could create the world, hold it together and is in control of disease cause and also disease healing. She asked her doctor friend how to trust in this person Jesus Christ. Just then they heard from the doctor who was taking care of Li Na's mother. He said that she did have Coronavirus and pneumonia, but her oxygen was good, and she could go home. However, the doctor said that she should be alone in her room for two weeks and could not come out except to go to the bathroom. Further Li Na would need to get alcohol and wipe down the whole house. Though upset her mother had this virus she was glad she was not sicker and did not have to be hospitalized.

Li Na's doctor friend told her that her mother needed to rest, drink a liter of fluid each day and then take Tylenol for fever or pain and if she worsens in the sense of having more shortness of breath they should return to the hospital. Li Na asked her doctor friend when they could talk again about her knowing how to believe in Jesus Christ and she said that tomorrow she could come by her home and discuss. Li Na took her mother home and cleaned for two hours the whole house with alcohol. She was tired after a very long day but was glad she had been able to help her mother. She was most excited about this day as it unfolded for her to be able to know about life more clearly and the cause of it all is through the person of Jesus Christ.

The next day Li Na went to her doctor friend's house. She asked again how to trust in Jesus. Her doctor friend said that in the Bible is a story about a family of three children, Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Lazarus the brother had died and Jesus, who was a friend of theirs brought him back to life after three days of death. Jesus told his sister's before he raised their brother from the dead, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' Li Na's doctor friend explained that Jesus came down from heaven to this earth, even though he created and sustained the earth every moment. Jesus came to die for our sins that we may have a new life in him now and forever more. Li Na wanted to believe in this Jesus and asked what she should do. Her doctor friend told her that what we do is believe in what Jesus has done for us and nothing else. We are 'saved by grace through faith and salvation is a gift of God so that no one can boast.'

Li Na's doctor friend told her to pray and believe what she will pray, and God will grant her eternal life. She followed her doctor friend by praying, 'Dear Jesus, thank you that you are my

Lord, the Creator and Sustainer of the world. Thank you that you came to die on the Cross for my sins and that you have removed those sins now and forever from me. I believe that you died on the Cross for me, were buried and three days later rose again from the day with a new resurrection body and now are with your Father in heaven.' Not only did Li Na pray this prayer but she believed every word and was so happy and joyful at that time. She now was not so concerned in the timing of events but knowing now the one who creates events and holds the world in his hands, Jesus Christ.

Li Na returned home and was glad her mother was better but mostly glad that she had eternal life through Jesus Christ, and she wanted to tell her mother about this man Jesus Christ so she too may have eternal life.