

FROM OUR PASTOR
January 30, 2016

Warm Sabbath greetings to everyone!

The Fourth Horseman of Revelation 6 is on the ride again! In recent months the ZIKA virus has caused thousands of babies in South America and Mexico to be born with severely deformed heads. The virus, which is spread by the aedes aegypti mosquito—and likely the Asian tiger mosquito—also spreads dengue fever. The official description of the disease from *The Telegraph* is: *"The most common symptoms of the Zika disease are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes), usually lasting from several days to a week, and most patients don't need hospitalization. However the outbreak in Brazil has led to instances of Guillain-Barre syndrome and pregnant women giving birth to babies with birth defects."* Over 150 cases have recently been reported in the US, mostly in Texas, and other nations in Europe are reporting cases. The mosquitoes involved normally only survive in warm climates, but several scientists have posted articles stating that they have evidence that the bugs have mutated and adapted to northern climates. This could be serious.

The ZIKA virus may or may not become a worldwide epidemic, but it made me think of two of the curses on Israel for disobeying God: **"Cursed shall be the fruit of your body"** and: ***The Lord will make the plague cling to you until He has consumed you from the land...***" (Deuteronomy 28:18,21). Our national and individual sins affect our children. One of the statements in the Ten Commandments tell us that the penalties of sin can last for three or four generations. We live in a society that is becoming more self-centered and hedonistic with every passing year. As a result, the blessing of children is not valued as it should be. Caucasian populations in all Western nations are no longer having enough children to maintain population numbers. When the birth control pill was announced in 1973, a short wiry nun from Albania stated, "This is the suicide pill of the West." Mother Teresa was right again.

Let us all be thankful that God designed the family unit so that children are a blessing. One more truth that will have to be restored when the Kingdom of God is established here on earth!

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