

“Interventions”



The Geneticist Francis Collins During the Period of the Coronavirus

The leading geneticist Francis Collins, formerly Director of the Human Genome Project and now Director of the National Institutes of Health in the U.S.A., is well known for his conversion to Christianity and for his profession of faith.



His astounding book *The Language of God* has already been featured on our website (see www.imoph.org/pdfs/2020/06/11/20200611aGlossa-Theou.pdf).

Here we will present two statements of his made during the current period of the pandemic:

“There is no way that this particular virus could be the product of purposeful human manipulation. Once you scrutinize it, you understand that this is impossible.”¹

This obviously means that the current pandemic is a test from God and consequently must be confronted first and foremost through repentance.

Also relevant are the following statements:

“Believers and unbelievers pose the question: If God is all-powerful and loves mankind, why do humans suffer?”

“During the time that I was undergoing my own ordeal and I saw others undergoing much worse ordeals, I had the same question. Sometimes, of course, our trials and tribulations are the result of our own mistakes, and we cannot blame God for them. But other times it is difficult to explain why, for example, a child suffers from cancer or some people are struck by an earthquake. So what does all this mean?”

“We simply have to take a step back and consider that perhaps there is something beyond our brief sojourn on this planet. And certainly there are moments in our life when, from experiences we would not have chosen ourselves, we learn much more about ourselves and God than we would if every day went by smoothly.”²

1. The quotations in this document were drawn from a Greek-language blog (<https://www.exapsalmos.gr/2020/11/06/o-francis-collins-tin-periodo-tou-koronoiou/>). We have not been able to locate the original (English) sources for these statements. However, there are many instances of comparable pronouncements. E.g., for the present quote: “Researchers said [there is] strong evidence that that new virus was not the product of purposeful manipulation in a lab. In fact, any bioengineer trying to design a coronavirus that threatened human health probably would never have chosen this particular conformation for a spike protein,” <https://directorsblog.nih.gov/2020/03/26/genomic-research-points-to-natural-origin-of-covid-19/> [*trans.*].

2. *Idem.* See, again, the following parallel statements: “That is the most fundamental question that all seekers have to wrestle with. First of all, if our ultimate goal is to grow, learn, and discover things about ourselves and things about God, then unfortunately a life of ease is probably not the way to get there. I know I have learned very little about myself or God when everything is going well. Also, a lot of the pain and suffering in the world we cannot lay at God’s feet....The harder question is when suffering seems to have come about through no human ill action. A child with cancer, a natural disaster, a tornado or tsunami. Why would God not prevent those things from happening?” <http://inters.org/Collins-Scientist-Believer>. Similarly: “I grieve at the suffering and death I see all around, and at times I confess I am assailed by doubts about how a loving God would permit such tragedies. But then I remember that the God who hung on the cross is intimately familiar with suffering. I learn and re-learn that God never promised freedom from suffering—but rather to be ‘our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble’ (Psalm 46),” <https://www.templetonprize.org/laureate-sub/prepared-statement-by-francis-s-collins-2020-templeton-prize-laureate/> [*trans.*].

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