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Plague: the dreadful visitation occupying the human mind for centuries

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Summary

Plague is one of mankind's greatest scourges, which has swept away millions of people over the centuries. The first available record of the

occurrence of this calamity, in humans, is from the Bible, in 1000 BC, in the city of Ashdod. The first definitely identified pandemic originated in Egypt in AD 542 (the Justinian Plague) and is estimated to have caused 100 million deaths. The second one, lasting for three centuries and claiming over 25 million lives appeared in 1334 in China spreading to many spots on the globe. The third pandemic occurred in Europe from the fifteenth to eighteenth century. The current pandemic began around 1860, in the Chinese province Yunnan; it reached Hong Kong in 1894 killing 100 000 individuals. Within 20 years the disease spread from southern Chinese ports throughout the world resulting in more than 10 million deaths. Since the discovery of the causative agent in 1894, there have been remarkable advancements in immunoprophylaxis and chemoprophylaxis. However, the disease is still active in Africa, in Asia and in Americas and has been classified as a currently re-emerging disease. A 'Plague-free World' will probably remain a dream for an indefinite period.

Keywords: [Plague](#), [Black Death](#), [Great visitation](#), [Disaster](#), [Quarantine](#)

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