

Is the concept of quarantine found in the Bible?

Today those in authority are asking us to self-quarantine to slow down or stop the spreading of COVID-19. This brings up the question, "Is the concept of quarantine found in the Bible?"

There are incidences in the Bible where people were placed under quarantine to protect a disease from spreading. In Leviticus 13, Moses is addressing those infected with the disease of leprosy. After being examined by a priest, if diagnosed with leprosy, the person was quarantined to stop the spread of the disease. We read this in the Law of Moses, "And the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean. All the days wherein the plague shall be in him, he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be" (Lev. 13:45-46). Isn't it amazing that over 3,000 years ago, God gave the Hebrew people the practice of quarantine for their protection and to stop a disease from spreading.

As we consider the hotspots for COVID-19 in our country and around the world, we see thousands of people infected and many deaths. Just think if the ones who were carriers were quarantined early in the process, the world might not be facing such a big crisis.