

## Thought for the Day 20th may - John Reed

Read Galatians 1:1-10

Have you ever looked at the clouds and seen shapes in them – maybe a horse, or a dolphin, or a flying pig? Well, apparently, people living in Montemorelos in Mexico have experienced hail stones that they say look like the coronavirus.<sup>1</sup> They have interpreted this as an “omen,” a message from God to remind people to stay put at home.

Now, it’s true that the coronavirus is a real problem in Mexico. According to the latest figures from Johns Hopkins University, they have registered 51,633 cases and 5,332 deaths. By comparison, in Australia (where we have about 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the population of Mexico), we have had 7,069 cases and 100 deaths.

But is God sending messages to the Mexicans in hailstones?

It’s true that God has spoken to people in a wide range of ways. There have been angels, of course. And dreams and vision. He has used signs, such as Gideon’s wet fleece (Judges 6:36-40). And even donkeys (see Numbers 22:28). So it can’t be ruled out that he *might* speak in hailstones. But ...

But God’s clearest message has been in his Son, Jesus. As the writer to the Hebrews put it: *“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son ...”* (Hebrews 1:1-2).

Jesus is the ultimate expression of God’s love, truth, and grace.

And while there are many who claim to have had God speak to them in various ways, we must beware of false prophets (Matthew 7:15; 24:11-36; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 2 Timothy 4:3; 2 Peter 2:1) and test the spirits (1 John 4:1-6). Above all, the apostle Paul writes to the church in Galatia warning them not to listen to anyone who claims to speak for God, but contradicts the gospel of Jesus: *“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed”* (Galatians 1:9).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/coronavirus-shaped-hailstones-are-message-22051402>