THE GREATEST THREAT

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> *...Britain faces a "serious and sustained" threat from al-Qaeda and other suicide bombers and others prepared to use chemical, biological and nuclear weapons in the name of Islam.*
>
> *But it concluded that a flu pandemic posed a graver danger. The Government is to work with international health bodies on early warning systems and preparing vaccines ahead of an outbreak.* Read More

I find it fascinating that despite the continuing talk of terrorism, all of the hassle with security at airports and the fascination with CCTV and identity cards, the government reckons that greatest threat to the British public actually comes from a virus.

I think there is an important point here. We tend to overestimate our ability to make ourselves safe. Human threats such as terrorism and war are dreadful - but they are also within our scope. We fool ourselves into thinking that we can protect ourselves because we underestimate the threat. But in reality the forces of the fallen creation are far beyond our scope. World War One was unspeakably horrible, but the influenza pandemic of 1918 killed more people world wide.

In Job 38 God taunts Job about how little understanding and power he has over creation and his words still challenge our generation despite all of our knowledge and technology.

> *31 "Can you bind the beautiful Pleiades?*
> *Can you loose the cords of Orion?*
>
> *32 Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons*
> *or lead out the BearÂ with its cubs?*
>
> *33 Do you know the laws of the heavens?*
> *Can you set up God's dominion over the earth?*
>
> *34 "Can you raise your voice to the clouds*
> *and cover yourself with a flood of water?*
>
> *35 Do you send the lightning bolts on their way?*
> *Do they report to you, 'Here we are'?*