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Jesus Christ's Miracles

by Louis A. Palivos



Healing of Natural Diseases/Sickness



In the New Testament, the four Gospel writers Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John have written of over 37 miracles that the Lord Jesus Christ did. These miracles are in four different areas: healing of natural diseases/sickness, healing of demonic afflictions, power over the physical environment and the resurrection of persons. The reasons the Lord Jesus Christ did these miracles are, compassion, mercy, faith, intercession by a third person, to obey the Jewish law and His power over death, proves His divinity.

The Lord Jesus Christ healed lepers, servants, Peter's mother-in-law, a paralytic, a woman hemorrhaging for 12 years, two blind persons, a paralytic hand, an epileptic boy, two other blind persons, a deaf, another blind person, a woman who for 18 years in the synagogue bend over with infirmity, dropsy/fluid retention, 10 lepers, the ear of the high priest's servant, a young boy, a person who was for bedridden 38 years, and a person born blind from birth.

Some of these healings were done as an act of compassion and mercy by the Lord Jesus

Christ. Some were done because of the person(s) requesting a healing and their faith, some were healed because of the interacting by a third person and their faith. Some were healed to demonstrate that the Lord Jesus Christ had authority over matter, disease, or sickness.

(continue p.2)

Greece calls for volunteer doctors to help state hospitals with Covid-19



Greece on Wednesday urged doctors to volunteer their services to the state health system as it struggles to rein in fast-spreading Covid-19 infections.

"We are at the most critical juncture of the pandemic," Health Minister Vassilis Kikilias told a weekly briefing, calling for general practitioners and pneumonologists to volunteer to work in state hospitals.

He said that if some 200 doctors did not respond to his call in the next 48 hours he would recommend to the prime minister to allow health authorities to force them work for the state health system.

Two private hospitals were enlisted last week to treat Covid-19 patients in Athens, where half of the country's 11 million population lives, and Kikilias said that another would be repurposed to take Covid-19 patients.

With more than 7,000 coronavirus-related deaths in total, Greece has fared better than many other European countries.

Authorities have tightened and loosened movement restrictions since November, hired health staff and set up new intensive care units to fight the pandemic.

But infections were still high and the health system, badly hurt by a decade-long financial crisis, was struggling to treat 4,648 Covid-19 patients across the country – 1,000 more than to last week – Kikilias said.

Some 3,465 new daily cases were reported on Wednesday, bringing the total number of infections in the country during the pandemic to 227,247.

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Jesus Christ’s
Miracles

Jesus Christ’s
Miracles

events violate the laws of nature. But it is manifest obvious that there is a higher law that supersedes the Natural Law in which humanity operates. This law is the Spiritual Law. Spiritual Law manifests and supernatural events take place in the natural realm. “For God nothing is impossible.” Lk. 1:37.

Have miracles ceased since the time of the Lord Jesus Christ’s ministry? The answer is a simple no! Since the Lord Jesus Christ’s resurrection, He has appeared numerous times, to numerous persons, at numerous places and He still has mercy and compassion for humanity, continuing to do miracles. A look at You Tube and one can hear and view of many testimonies of the Lord Jesus Christ appearing to diverse persons like Muslims and other faiths.

St. Paisios’ vision of the Lord Jesus Christ’s face was that it was “very illuminated,” that it was hard to look at Him and that His face was like “late growing wheat.”¹

It is so simple for all of us to call on the Lord Jesus Christ and ask: “Lord Jesus Christ, please have mercy on me”. Also, a third person can also intercede, just like during the Lord Jesus Christ’s ministry, even today, and call, on the Lord Jesus Christ, “Jesus Christ, please have mercy on this or that person.”

Lastly, there are other supernatural events that the Lord Jesus Christ performed that are not recorded in Holy Scripture.

And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen. Jn. 21:25

1. Ieromonaxos Christodoulou, Mount Athos, O Gerontas Paisios, Published by Panagia Earo Ginakio Isecharistirio, Panagia E Fovara Prostasia, Chalkidiki, Greece, 2009.

(From p. 1)

Healing of demonic afflictions



The Lord Jesus Christ healed persons who were afflicted by demonic spirits. The Lord Jesus Christ healed the two Gadarenes, a deaf person, a blind and deaf person, the daughter of the Syrophenician mother, and a man in the synagogue with an unclean spirit.

Authority over nature

The Lord Jesus Christ had authority over a storm at sea, he walked on water, fed 5000 persons, fed 4000 persons, instructed Peter to find a shekel in the mouth of a fish, cursed a fig tree and it withered, a catch of fish, another catch of fish, and turning water into wine.

Resurrections



The Lord Jesus Christ resurrected the following persons: Jairus’ daughter, the son of a widow and Lazarus. After the Lord Jesus Christ yielded His spirit, “the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they went into the holy city and the appeared too many” Mat. 27: 52-53.

These supernatural healings and events over nature were instantaneous. Some would say these supernatural

The contraction in the
first quarter of 2021
will be worse than
projected



The contraction in the first quarter of 2021 will be worse than projected due to the extended lockdown, according to Finance Ministry estimates, while the fiscal figures will suffer a further setback in March and the next two months.

The better-than-expected picture in the first couple of months of 2021 that Wednesday’s figures showed was mainly thanks to the postponed payment of road tax from December to February, as Alternate Finance Minister Thodoros Skylakakis stated.

Tax revenues in January and February came in at 102 million euros or 1.3% more than the budget’s provisions, with the primary deficit amounting to •1.5 billion against a target for •2.7 billion.

Skylakakis said the March lockdown has already affected this month’s state revenues and is certain to continue affecting the budget in April and May, while the Q1 recession will be higher than anticipated in the budget.

Government ‘praying’ for reopening

Staikouras stresses that safety is paramount, but adds each lockdown week costs •750 mln The increase in coronavirus cases and the repeated disappointments as far as the reopening of retail is concerned are increasing the pressure on the Finance Ministry, which changes its plans from week to week.

It is now leaving open the possibility of an eighth phase of the cheap state loans program, without the seventh having started yet as it is expected to next month.

“We’ll see,” is the vague response ministry officials give to questions regarding another stage of the so-called “Deposit To Be Returned” program, with one of them adding that “we will support the enterprises that will remain shut.” Therefore the longer the lockdown is extended, the stronger the likelihood of a new phase. The upcoming seventh phase is projected to have a budget of 1 billion euros, against less than •500 million in the sixth.

Meanwhile the bill for the support measures keeps growing. Sources say the total cost has already topped the European Commission estimate of •11.6 billion by more than a billion. Estimates now put the total figure close to •13 billion – while the budget had provided for •7.5 billion.

Minister Christos Staikouras told Skai TV on Wednesday that the cost of extending the lockdown after March 22 will amount to •750 million each week. Half of that would be the loss of state revenues, and the rest from the additional expenditure required. He reiterated that the total cost of the full lockdown comes to •3 billion every month. The minister stressed that the government has to be cautious so that the budget is not derailed and for the country to continue to tap the money markets. “We are praying for the economy to operate with safety,” he responded to a question as to whether the ministry is praying for the market to reopen quickly. Staikouras also expressed hope that part of the •20 billion in savings will be channeled into the market, with •10 billion concerning household savings and •10 billion saved by enterprises.



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How much vaccine has the EU been exporting?



Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, has said that if Covid vaccine supplies in Europe do not improve, the EU "will reflect whether exports to countries who have higher vaccination rates than us are still proportionate". Post-Brexit disagreements between the EU and the UK have been heightened by the diplomatic row over the export of the vaccines.

The European Council president, Charles Michel, claimed last week that the UK had imposed an "outright ban" on the export of vaccines and their components - there is no ban though, and his claim was dismissed by the government as "completely false". But Mrs von der Leyen says the EU is still waiting for exports from the UK, and it wants reciprocity.

How much vaccine has the EU been exporting?

The issue of vaccine exports from the EU - and a potential ban - is being raised because the EU is struggling to get sufficient supplies to accelerate its own vaccination programme. And the number one export destination for vaccines manufactured in the EU is the UK. Mrs von der Leyen says 41 million vaccine doses have been exported from the EU to 33 countries in six weeks.

More than 10 million of them have gone to the UK. That is more than the total number of vaccines administered in the UK in the month of February, and (as of 17 March) more than a third of the total number of UK vaccinations so far.

As of 11 March, 3.9 million doses had also been exported from the EU to Canada, and 3.1 million to Mexico. One million doses have been sent to the US, even though it is a major manufacturer in its own right and has not exported any vaccines to the EU.

The US is using export controls under the Defense Production Act, first introduced during the Korean War in the 1950s, to prevent companies exporting vaccine doses or ingredients without federal government authorisation.

What about UK exports to the EU?

There has been no public announcement of any vaccine exports from the UK, and no evidence that any have taken place. The Department of Health said it didn't know whether there had been any, and AstraZeneca did not respond to a request for a comment. "Let me be clear, we have not blocked the export of a single Covid-19 vaccine or vaccine components," Prime Minister Boris Johnson told the House of Commons on 8 March.

The government is keen to highlight that the UK has donated £548m to the Covax initiative, set up to distribute vaccines around the world. But that doesn't mean there have been exports of vaccines themselves. "The British prime minister has made it clear to me that obviously his first priority is to vaccinate his people," Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin said on 9 March.

"Until then he won't be in a position to give vaccines to anybody, and he has made that point to me."

No official ban

So, there is no export ban, but publicly available information suggests vaccines are not being exported from the UK. The government argues that is driven by the contractual obligations which vaccine suppliers have to their customers, rather than by the demands of politicians.

In January, the head of AstraZeneca, Pascal Soriot said of his company's contract with the UK that it was a case of "you supply us first".

Now, Mrs von der Leyen has stepped up the warnings. "If the situation does not change, we will have to reflect on how to make exports to vaccine-producing countries dependent on their level of openness," she said.

In response, the UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock said the government had legally signed a contract for the delivery of the first 100 million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, and added that "the supply of vaccines from EU production facilities to the UK is fulfilling contractual responsibilities and we fully expect those contracts to be delivered on".

EU's vaccine rollout

The EU has faced a series of problems with its vaccine rollout and has controls on exports, requiring manufacturers to seek permission from national governments for planned sales.

Earlier this month, Italy blocked a shipment of 250,000 doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to Australia. But it is the only one of more than 300 vaccine export authorisations that has been refused.

The crunch could come in the second quarter of 2021 when supply problems may intensify. Then, as Mrs von der Leyen indicated, the EU may have to decide whether to block other shipments, including to the UK, to protect its own interests.

EU, Germany and skepticism about a vaccine

Alexis Papachelas



Keeping our faith in Europe is important, but not always easy.

When the European Union came into being, it was regrettably designed neither for pandemics nor for debt crises. Solutions to the problems that arise are always found in the end, but they take time and usually emerge through lengthy and, occasionally, chaotic procedures. We saw it happening during Greece's economic crisis and we are seeing it once again with Europe's reaction to the coronavirus pandemic.

Meanwhile, we have learned one more thing. Europe is very much influenced by political developments in Germany. During the Greek crisis, analysts here often attributed Berlin's hardline stance toward the debt-hit nation to some election in one of the federal states. Chancellor Angela Merkel and Wolfgang Schäuble, her finance minister at the time, were seen as calculating the political cost of their each and every move.

German political leaders are now kicking the EU. They believe they have an interest in doing so in light of Merkel's departure. Skepticism about a specific vaccine has, in part, become a political instrument.

This is an incredibly shortsighted policy because it undermines the public's confidence in the vaccination process. Politicians are effectively pouring oil onto the flames of anti-systemic protests. That said, the dependence of the bloc's course on domestic developments in Germany will not stop.

Strong leaders are in short supply these days. It is still too early to have a clear idea of what the Continent will look like without Merkel - who may not have been solid as a leader, but was nevertheless prudent and responsible. Merkel became a point of reference at a time of rapid developments and growing irrationality worldwide.

With or without Merkel, it is certainly safer for a small country like Greece to be inside the EU rather than outside of it. Greek citizens have some good reasons to be frustrated but, at the same time, they know that many of the things that we now take for granted in this land are thanks to the fact that the country belongs to the Union's hard core.

Maybe it's because we realize that this is what keeps us safely on track when our "bad self" appears to take control whenever we are infected with the virus of irrational division or we are too scared to make the changes we need to survive.



NEWS FROM GREECE

Joint United States-Greek military exercises in the Mediterranean

The presence of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean has provided the Hellenic Armed Forces with the opportunity to conduct several exercises with their American counterparts. The Hellenic



National Defense General Staff (GEETHA) stated that, among others, it has planned aeronautical exercises with the American forces. The joint exercises will not only increase the combat capabilities of the units involved but will increase interoperability between the two allies.

"The participation of the Hellenic Armed Forces in this operation proves the important role held by Greece and the United States in the defense and security of the wider region of the Mediterranean and the Middle East, especially in the framework of the updated Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement" stated the press release by the GEETHA.

As part of these exercises, the Hellenic Navy frigate "Psara" was embedded with the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group (IKE CSG). Two Hellenic Navy submarines and several fighter aircraft will also participate in the exercises.

AstraZeneca warns of further delays in EU vaccine delivery



British-Swedish pharmaceutical AstraZeneca has announced on Saturday that there will be further delays in the delivery of its Covid vaccine to the European Union citing export restrictions and production problems.

A company spokesperson warned of reduced vaccine deliveries in the first quarter of 2021 and said that delays could also potentially stretch into the second quarter of the year.

The pharmaceutical has been using production facilities located outside the European Union to help meet EU demand for its Covid vaccine.

The future of social democracy

Is there a future for European (and Greek) social democracy? I could provide a straightforward answer: Given their existing organizational structures, their sadly inadequate leaderships and their parochial ideological and political character, Europe's social democrats are not very likely to win back their once-prominent position in the European political system. They will, at best, be in a position to operate as political supplements for a few more decades until they are replaced by new forces that will have come into existence in a 21st century setting.

The continent, both North and South, has for years been observing the electoral demise of social democratic parties. Europe's social democrats have all suffered heavy election defeats. The latest victims were Italy's Democratic Party, who saw their popularity sink below 20 percent after losing about nine percentage points compared to the previous election. Before them, their German counterparts suffered yet another heavy election defeat, in what marked one of their worst performances ever. The hemorrhage is strong enough to threaten their status as Germany's second-biggest party. According to political science professor Gerassimos Moschonas, social democracy is now a family of parties with medium – and in some cases medium-to-small – power.

The causes behind this slow death are diverse and have been systematically analyzed in the past: a) the shrinking of social democracy's social base – i.e. the industrial working class; b) the emergence of new parties with a fresh ideo-

logical agenda and particular appeal to young voters (for example the greens, the liberal or alternative left, and the radical left); c) their failure to put forward a convincing economic policy due to the dynamics of globalization; and d) the success of far-right populists in luring a chunk of the socially vulnerable classes.

Social democracy has become obsolete. It belongs to a different century and different living and working conditions. It was established at the peak of the industrial revolution and the nation-state, in the world of heavy industry and production chains. It was born together with the idea that conquering political power can bring about the radical transformation of the world. The collapse of the Iron Curtain in 1989 also clearly marked the end of that idea. The early 1990s saw dramatic changes around the globe. Most importantly, the nation-state lost much of its power as a result of globalization and European integration.

These developments left social democracy seriously damaged. Social democrats appear to have no clear idea of what section of society they want to express, or what direction they want to take. Representatives of corporative interests within the state or via the state can aspire to a good government tenure only if two conditions are met: a) if the European Union opens its purse strings and channels funds into key sectors of the economy; and b) if the nation-state can borrow and then spend money on state investments or to serve client-patron relations – i.e. what is often called "social policy." The global recession exposed the shallowness of the social democratic dogma in the context of globalization. The liberals and the conservatives, familiar with the market and with a culture of fiscal discipline, had something to propose. Meanwhile, the populists of the radical right addressed the concerns of the losers of globalization due to the opening up of borders. Left-wing populists and radicals brought the debate about injustice and poverty back to the agenda. Social democrats were left without a strategy: not very convincing as responsible managers, and even less convincing as the voice of the poor. Amid the present conditions, it turned out that the only people with something to say are either those who trust the market and open society or those who hate it. The crisis revealed the broken compass of the European socialist left, which shifted either to the right, grudgingly and reluctantly accepting the neoconservative and neoliberal policies, or dizzily following the populism of parties like the Spanish Podemos, Italy's Five Star Movement or Jean-Luc Melenchon.

In Greece, as well as in Europe, when social democrats turn to the right, they start to look a lot like the conservatives (even if they pretend otherwise); and when they move to the left they turn into sad populists, occasionally of a nationalist tendency, and do not hesitate to work with far-right parties in their bid to come across as anti-systemic. And now what? Should the friends of social democracy just sit around and wait for its official death certificate, or mourn for the voters defecting in other directions? For any supporter of the values of Enlightenment, of open society, of equal opportunity, of progress for all and tolerance, the answer can only be a negative one. Europe – and this country – must not allow itself to fall prey to all sorts of enemies of liberal democracy or the conservative champions of closed borders, nationalism and religious bigotry.

Nikos Marantzidis is professor of political science at the University of Macedonia. He is also visiting professor at Charles University in Prague.

Ankara accuses Greece of harboring terrorists



The Turkish Foreign Ministry on Friday accused Greece of harboring terrorists following the airing of an interview with Fethullah Gülen on Greek television. Specifically, the Turkish ministry claims that Greece is providing refuge for members of the Gülen movement (FETO) which it has designated as a terrorist organization and has accused of orchestrating the 2016 attempted coup against the Erdogan government. It also decried the interview as inexcusable public propaganda.

"Greece has become a safe destination for members of the FETO, as there they can move unimpeded and work to achieving their goals. Alongside them are the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party) and other terrorist organizations who continue to operate in Greece" said Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hami Aksoy.

Aksoy also called on Greece to co-operate with Turkey on the extradition of FETO members in Greece and stated that FETO is a threat to the safety of all states and not just Turkey.

This accusation comes mere days before exploratory talks between Greece and Turkey are set to resume on March 16.

EastMed pipeline viability under scrutiny

Uncertain funding and EU climate change policy could stand in way of ambitious project

The construction of the EastMed pipeline, which would reduce the European Union’s dependence on Russian gas, could turn out to be no more than a pipe dream as its economic viability is increasingly coming under question.

The 1,250-kilometer underwater pipeline to bring gas from Israel, Egypt and Cyprus through Greece to the European Union has provided a political narrative



for the states that will work together to realize it; however, the numbers are at risk of not adding up.

While its budget ranges from 6 to 10 billion euros, the minimum quantities of certified gas deposits have not been secured, raising questions as to whether it can pay for itself.

To make matters worse, European climate change policies under development provide for a zero carbon footprint by 2050.

A possible abandonment of the EastMed project would lead to the activation of Greek and Cypriot commercial shipping for the transport of gas by special vessels (LNG carriers) to European and Asian terminals.

The issue of financial viability is not lost on Mikhail L. Myrianthis, energy expert and member of the advisory committee of the Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) think tank.

“The first and main condition for the creation of an interconnection gas pipeline between Greece and Egypt is the proof of its economic viability,” he wrote in an article for the Greek edition of Kathimerini, adding that the project has similarities with the Turkish-Austrian Nabucco pipeline which was ultimately abandoned.

“A project of enormous size and importance, analogous to the current EastMed or Nord Stream I & II, its implementation would decisively upgrade Turkey’s energy and geopolitical role,” he said, while also noting that both the EastMed and Nabucco pipelines envisioned the reduction of EU energy dependence on Russian gas. The two pipelines, with respective flow rates of 10-23 billion cubic meters per year and 10-20 bcm/y, are politically supported by the EU, US and international credit institutions such as EIB, EBRD, IFC etc.

Another common feature, Myrianthis noted, is their huge budgets, with the 1,329-kilometer Nabucco in the range of 8-10 billion euros and the 1,250 km EastMed (underwater route only) in the range of 6 billion euros. “The estimate of 6 billion euros is clearly underestimated. Costs similar to Nabucco, which had no extra costly underwater links, are more realistic,” he said.

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Kathimerini and SKAI office building attacked



A group of unidentified assailants launched improvised Molotov cocktails at the New Faliro office building shared by Kathimerini and the SKAI television channel in the early hours of Saturday morning. The attack was carried out by a group of 3-5 hooded persons and a total of 5 Molotov cocktails were thrown at the building, with two crashing against the outer wall and three landing within the building’s grounds. No damages have been reported.

The attack has been condemned by parties and individuals across the Greek political spectrum.

“An attack on the media is an attack on the freedom of speech, a basic tenet of Democracy” said government spokesperson Aristotelia Peloni. This sentiment was echoed by the spokesperson of the ruling New Democracy party Tasos Gaitanis who stated that “the attack on SKAI is another attempt to intimidate and halt free speech.”

“We unequivocally condemn the attack on the SKAI television station. Attacks on any media organization are an attack on the freedom of press” stated the opposition SYRIZA party in its press release on the attack.

The police detained a number of individuals in the area, but it remains unclear if these are related to the attack.

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EU worried by shooting incidents near Turkish border with Greece



The European Union’s top migration official says she’s concerned about a spike in shooting incidents on the Turkish side of the country’s land border with Greece near where EU border officers were patrolling.

At least three incidents involving gunfire into the air during the night by uniformed Turkish personnel have been reported recently.

EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson said Friday that she’s “concerned when there are shootings close to EU external borders.”

Frontex officers must now wear bulletproof jackets when patrolling in the Evros region.

Border tensions between EU member country Greece and Turkey have long simmered. They spilled over into violence a year ago after Turkey waved thousands of migrants through to Greece. [AP]

Gaia's Diet

online chat

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Covid stimulus: Biden signs \$1.9tn relief bill into law



US President Joe Biden has signed a \$1.9tn (£1.4tn) economic relief bill that aims to help Americans impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic into law.

The bill includes \$1,400 payments, an extension of jobless benefits, and a child tax credit that is expect to lift millions out of poverty.

Mr Biden said the relief package will rebuild "the backbone of this country".

The spending bill, one of the largest in US history, passed Congress without a single Republican supporter.

Mr Biden is due to give a primetime address later on Thursday to tout the bill's provisions. He and other Democrats will also hold a signing ceremony at the White House on Friday.

This sixth Covid-19 relief bill is a major legislative win for Mr Biden.

The package has been broadly popular among Americans.

A March Pew Research Center poll found that 70% of US adults surveyed expressed support for the bill, including 41% of Republicans.

Unemployment skyrocketed over the last year, with a current rate of 6.2%, according to the US Labor Department.

Joe Biden was originally expected to sign the ambitiously named "American Recovery Plan Act" at the White House on Friday. Instead the final step in enacting the president's first significant piece of legislation was moved up to Thursday afternoon.

An official ceremony is still planned for Friday, but the scheduling change reveals an administration anxious to get busy selling the American people on the benefits of this massive and multifaceted piece of government spending.

This - and Biden's address to the nation Thursday night - are the opening gun of a two-week public-relations blitz, including presidential travel, to highlight the legislation. It shouldn't be too hard a sell, as opinion polls indicate widespread support for the law even among Republican voters.

What Biden and the Democrats don't want is a repeat of the 2009 Great Recession relief bill passed under President Barack Obama. Many in the party believe that Democrats did not claim enough credit for the law's benefits - and that voters had forgotten about their efforts when they cast their ballots in the 2010 congressional mid-term elections (and roundly voted Democrats out of office).

What's in the bill? The act includes one-off direct payments worth \$1,400 to be sent off to most Americans. It extends weekly jobless benefit payments of \$300 until September. It also allocates \$350bn to state and local governments, some \$130bn to school reopening, \$49bn for expanded Covid-19 testing and research, as well as \$14bn for vaccine distribution. A proposal to raise the national minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 per hour became a sticking point in the Senate and did not make it into the final version of the bill.

When will stimulus money be deposited? White House officials say that direct payments, the third payments of the pandemic, will begin before the end of March. Previous cheques were sent out by tax officials within one to two weeks of the bills' passage. Individuals earning up to \$75,000 will receive a \$1,400 payment. Tax officials at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) use tax statements to determine the exact size of each person's payment. For that reason they have urged Americans to quickly file their tax returns, which are due 15 April. Stimulus cheques sent out by Mr Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump, included the former president's personal signature. But Mrs Psaki said Mr Biden's signature will not be on these payments.

What does the child tax credit do? Currently, American couples are able to apply for a \$2,000 per child under the Child Tax Credit, a 24-year old government programme. This law increases the tax break to \$3,000 for every child age 6 to 17. Children under the age of 6 will receive a \$3,600 benefit. More than 4 million children - more than half of the total - could be lifted out of poverty, according to analysis from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. It also extends access to lower income families, even those that pay nothing in taxes, by making the credit refundable. The programme is temporary, and will expire after one year.

What did Biden say?

Before signing the bill in the White House Oval Office, Mr Biden said the bill is about "rebuilding the backbone of this country and giving people in this nation, working people, middle class folks, the people that built the country a fighting chance.

Prince Harry and Meghan: Where do they get their money?



Prince Harry says his family cut him off financially after he and wife Meghan "stepped back" from being senior royals and moved to California.

So, where do they get their money from?

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex announced in January 2020 that they wanted to stop being working members of the Royal Family and would "work towards" being financially independent.

It was understood the couple would continue to receive money for a time from Harry's father under the new agreement, although it is unclear whether that would come from the Duchy of Cornwall - a vast portfolio of property and financial investments - his personal wealth, or a combination of the two.

Prince Charles's accounts suggest about £5.6m was spent funding the activities of both the couple and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in the year to March 2020.

But Prince Harry told Oprah Winfrey the Royal Family had "literally cut me off financially" after that point.

It's not clear whether he was referring to the money the couple previously received from Prince Charles's income from the Duchy of Cornwall, the taxpayer-funded sovereign grant, or both.

Details from Prince Charles's accounts for this period have not yet been released, and his private office declined to comment.

12 things we learned from Meghan's Oprah interview

Harry and Meghan rattle monarchy's gilded cage

Harry and Meghan's interview with Oprahimage copyrightGetty Images

Are the Duke and Duchess of Sussex wealthy?

Both the Duke and Duchess have considerable personal wealth.

Prince William and Prince Harry received the bulk of the £13m fortune left by their mother Princess Diana.

Speaking of their move to the US, he told Oprah that "I've got what my mum left me and without that we wouldn't have been able to do this".

Prince Harry is also thought to have been left millions of pounds by his great-grandmother, the Queen Mother, says BBC royal correspondent Nick Witchell.

During her acting career, the Duchess of Sussex earned a reported payment of \$50,000 (£38,300) per episode for the legal drama *Suits*. She also ran a lifestyle blog, and designed her own fashion line for a Canadian brand.

What other income do they have?

As they are no longer "working royals," Harry and Meghan are free to make their own income

The couple were not paid for the interview with Oprah, but since moving to the US they have made deals with streaming services Netflix and Spotify. There has been speculation that these deals are worth millions.

They have set up an organisation called Archewell, which has production arms alongside a non-profit foundation.

Who pays for their security? When the couple lived in the UK they were given a security detail provided by the Metropolitan Police. It's not known how much this cost.

After the Canadian government announced it would stop providing security for the family, Harry and Meghan decided to move to the US.

There, American billionaire and media mogul Tyler Perry offered the couple a home to stay in and security during the early months of lockdown, the couple revealed. Asked by Oprah how the couple would respond to accusations of being "money-grabbing", Prince Harry said the deals with Netflix and Spotify were "never part of the plan", but were necessary. "From my perspective all I needed was enough money to be able to pay for security, to keep my family safe," he said.

Who funded the couple when they were working royals? Before deciding to step back from their royal duties, 95% of the couple's income came from Prince Charles's income from the Duchy of Cornwall. Money from the Duchy - just over £5m in total in 2018-19 - covered the public duties of Prince Harry and Meghan, as well as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and some of their private costs. The taxpayer-funded Sovereign Grant made up the other 5% of their income. Harry and Meghan's weddingimage copyrightGetty Images. This grant is paid from the government to the Royal Family to cover expenses for official duties and looking after royal palaces. It is worth a total of £85.9m this financial year and is funded by profits from the Crown Estate - commercial properties owned by the Crown.