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“WHEN SCOFFERS WILL AROUND”

The return of Christ will not come until God’s prophetic warning to His people is fulfilled: “*There shall come in the last days scoffers*” (2 Peter 3:3). Jude tells us the same thing: “*How they [the apostles of Christ] told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts*” (Jude 18).

Our Lord Jesus Christ describes how worldly-minded many people will be in the years before His Second Coming: “*As in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark...so shall also the coming of the Son of man be*” (Matt. 24:37-38).

So here we are given a clue as to how society will be in the period of time before our Lord’s return. True religion, being the duty which God requires of fallen sinners, will be the subject of scorn and scoffing in that period of time which will precede the glorious Second Coming of Christ.

Many of the most precious truths of God are nowadays treated by worldly-minded people as a joke. Among them are these: the miracles of Christ, the view that the Bible is infallible, the doctrine of Creation, the divinity of Christ, and His Second Coming.

The Apostle Peter gives special attention to the scoffers who will, in the last times, seek to make the subject of Christ’s Second Coming a matter for ridicule and contempt. These scoffers are described as men and women who “*walk after their own lusts*” (2 Peter 3:3). God inspired Peter to warn us that these scoffers will be full of foolish self-confidence and will attempt to give convincing arguments to show why they, and others, should treat the doctrine of the Second Coming with scorn and contempt.



The argument of the scoffers is based on history – or so they think. It is to this effect, that in all human history there has never been such a world-shaking catastrophe as the Second Coming of Christ threatens to be. It is a plausible argument for the secular-minded people of this world who do not know the Bible.

Put simply, it is this: “There never has been a universal catastrophe in the past. Why then should we allow ourselves to think there will be in the future?” Peter’s answer to the scorners is to remind them of the Flood of Noah’s day, which was a world-wide catastrophe from which only eight people escaped because they had faith in God’s warning of a coming flood. The Second Coming will be, like the Flood, a worldwide catastrophic event.

Peter now goes on to explain why such a long period of history has passed and yet there has been no Second Coming. No doubt the scorners tried to strengthen their scoffing by emphasising that there had passed by several hundreds of years since the first Coming of Christ and yet there had occurred no Second Coming over all these years of time.

Peter points out that God’s relation to time is not like ours: “*One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day*” (2 Peter 3:8). When we think sensibly, we realise at once that God calculates the passing of time in a very different way from the way we think of time. God is eternal and His purposes are ordered on a scale vastly more wonderful than man’s plans.

Further, Peter argues that God’s grace, love and mercy are related to the long period of time that has led Him to delay the Second Coming. God intends to bring people to heaven who as yet have not come to faith in Christ. It is God’s love to sinners which has led Him to hold open the door of salvation for two thousand years. He intends to save multitudes who will yet hear the gospel but have as yet not heard it. He has in His mercy to fallen mankind delayed the Second Coming of Christ so that many more fallen sinners may hear the gospel and be spared.

Peter’s argument should make the scoffers feel deeply ashamed: “[God] is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

However, argues Peter, the Second Coming of Christ now certainly will take place when God’s appointed time arrives. It will come as “*a thief in the night*” (2 Peter 3:10). There is a most serious warning to us all in this illustration of the thief in the night. The message is: Make sure you are ready and prepared. Tragically the scoffers who are scoffing when the great Day occurs will be caught by Christ’s sudden appearing in glory.





The sudden appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ in all the glory and majesty of His Godhead will be the end of time, the announcement of the Day of Judgment and the commencement of that renewed universe from which all scoffers will be expelled and all true believers will be eternally glorified.

The majority of that glorious Second Coming of our blessed Saviour is conveyed to us in vivid biblical language: "*His glorious appearing*" (Rev. 1:7); "*he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels*" (Mark 8:38); "*when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God*" (2 Thess. 1:7-8); "*the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory*" (Mark 13:25-26).

One thing is sure and certain. However loudly the scoffers now laugh at this doctrine of Christ's second-coming, their laughter will be turned into cries of terror when they, with their own eyes, see the blessed Son of God appearing in all His glory and preparing to burn up with fire this sin-damaged universe. No wonder the Word of God tells us that the unbelievers will, when they see Christ coming in His majesty on the last day, cry out to the mountains and rocks and say: "*Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb (Christ): for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?*" (Rev. 6:16-17).

We do not know the day or hour when Jesus will come. But our wisdom is to ignore all scoffing and scorning. Blessed will all those people be who daily seek to obey Christ and to be ready for His coming.



Rev Maurice Roberts
Free Church of Scotland Continuing

MAKING SENSE OF THE
SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD
AND HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY IN A GLOBAL CATASTROPHE



Grace Reformed
Evangelical Church, HK
Online Special Meeting

October 1, 2021
10:00 to 16:00
(lunch break 12:30 to 14:30)

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jack Sin, Pastor, Sovereign Hope BP Church

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81831477101>
Meeting ID: 818 3147 7101

Topics:

1. The Sovereign God, Global Catastrophe and Human and Church Responsibility
2. Coping with Phobia and Anxiety in a Pandemic and Post Pandemic World

SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH REFORMATION

PRESENTS



MOVIE
SCREENING

HOW THE BIBLE CAME TO BE



SEMINAR

LESSONS & LEGACIES FROM THE ENGLISH REFORMATION

BY REV DR JACK SIN

Zoom Webinar
Saturday, 9 Oct 2021, 3-5pm



Practical Precepts on How to Get the Most Out of the Bible

The Christian is governed by a Book. The word of God is a lamp unto our feet and light to our path (Psa. 119:105). We need to get our bearings and direction right each day. Let us consider these 8 thoughts on how we may read the bible with great profit to our souls.

1. Resolve to **read, study and meditate diligently your Bible daily.** (Rev 1:3) The way to do a thing is to start and make a conscious effort to do it; and the way to read the Bible — is actually to set a time in the day to read it! DIN is what we tell our students in the Bible College, it stands for “*Do It Now*” or “*Delay It Not*”. It is not merely meaning, or wishing, or resolving, or intending, or thinking about it. There is no easy way in this matter, it requires much discipline and planning. Make an endeavour to meditate on the words. Scripture must actually get into your mind, so spend time pondering deeply on it (Jos 1:8). Listen to the Sunday sermons preached or Sunday School class lesson or Neighbourhood Bible Class or prayer meeting with all eagerness to learn much from it.
2. **Read the Bible earnestly to understand and apply it. Don't** turn Bible reading into a mere enforced ritual. Settle it down in your mind as a general principle, that a Bible not understood — is a Bible that does no good! As often as you read, ask “*What is this mean to me and what is it all about today in my situation?*” Dig deeply for its meaning and get to the bottom of it like a man digging for gold with zest. Seek to know and meditate on it and to practice it (Jas 1:22).
3. **Read the Bible faithfully and with humility.** Open your heart and mind as you open God's book, and say, “*Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening!*” Resolve to believe implicitly whatever you find there, however much it may be contrary to your own desires and prejudices. Resolve to receive heartily every statement of truth — whether you like it or not. Beware of that habit which some readers of the Bible fall into — they receive some doctrines because they like them; and they reject others because they condemn them. Are we to be judges of what ought to be in God's Word? Do we know better than God? Settle it down in your mind — that you will receive all and believe all, and that what you cannot understand — you will take on with faith and trust in God humbly. Remember, when you pray — that you are speaking to the almighty God, and God hears your cry and intercessions. But, remember, when you

read Scripture — that Jehovah God is speaking to you, and you are not to "dictate," but to listen humbly and intently and obey!

4. **Read the Bible obediently and with discernment.** Sit down to the study of it with a daily determination that you will live by its rules, rest on its statements, and act on its holy commands. Consider, as you go through every chapter, *"How does this affect my thinking, my goals and my daily conduct? What does this guide counsel or teach me and do I need to change?"* It is meaningless to read the Bible from mere curiosity, and for speculative purposes — in order to fill your mind with mere opinions; while you do not allow the inspired book to influence your heart and life. That Bible is read best — which is practiced most in our lives!
5. **Read and listen to the Bible attentively and with a pen and prayer.** Make it a part of every day's business to read and meditate on some portion of God's Word and make notes of it. Private means of grace are needful every day for our souls just as food and clothing are for our bodies. Yesterday's food will not feed us today; and today's food will not feed us tomorrow. Do as the Israelites did in the wilderness. Gather your manna fresh every morning in your daily devotion as David did (Ps 5:3). Do not rush over and hurry your reading in just 5 to 10 mins. Give your Bible the best time, and not the worst part of your day and search the word carefully, writing down what you learn from it! Short notes are better than long memories. Let it be a rule of your life to visit the throne of grace and God's Word every day (Acts 17:11; Heb 4:16).
6. **Read all of the Bible fervently and systematically.** There are many parts of the Word which some people never read at all. (i.e. the minor prophets). This is to say at the least, a very presumptuous habit. *"All Scripture is profitable and not some of it."* [2 Timothy 3:16]. To this habit may be traced that lack of interest in bible truths. Some people's Bible-reading is a system of perpetual selective 'dipping and picking'. They do not seem to have an idea of regularly going through the whole book with a proper system or in an orderly manner, i.e. in studying each book of the NT or OT in the bible. Have a good reformed study Bible if necessary, with sound end or foot notes, to help you with understanding.
7. **Read the Bible literally unless otherwise required.** Discipline and determine to take everything in its plain, obvious literal, meaning unless the context require otherwise — and regard all forced interpretations in the text with great suspicion. As a general rule, whatever a verse of the Bible seems to mean in its obvious form — that is what it actually means! Cecil's rule is a valuable one, *"The right way of interpreting Scripture is to take it as we find it, without any attempt to force it into any particular theological system."* Read

2Tim2:15 for this and there are metaphors and allegories too, but the context will inform you.

- 8. Read the Bible purposefully with a Christocentric view.** The primary objective of all Scripture is to glorify and testify of Our Lord Jesus Christ! Old Testament antitypes and ceremonies are pictures and shadows of Christ (i.e. the Passover lamb), Old Testament judges are types of Christ and Old Testament prophecies are full of Christ's sufferings, and of Christ's glory yet to come. The first coming and the second coming; the Lord's humiliation, His teachings and His glorious kingdom; His death at the cross and the crown of victory, that shine forth everywhere in the Bible. Be attentive and alert and look out for Christ in all these and hold onto this precept, then you will read the Bible aright so that it will transform your heart and mind!

Conclusion

There is so much in this inspired, infallible and sufficient reservoir of truth found in the canonical scriptures of 66 books, that we need to meditate and memorise and study and apply daily. Let us be attentive to the word of God preached to us every sabbath too and read it ourselves too, to get the maximum out of its precious content for eternity's sake.

Jack Sin

(Expanded and edited from J.C. Ryle)



A Biblical Paradigm for Triumphant Christian Service

Lord's Day Programme
October - December 2021

OCTOBER

- 3 A Love for God and the Brethren (Neh 1:1-11)
- 10* A Heart of Prayer and Action (Neh 2:1-20)
- 17 How to Renew & Repair our Lives (Neh 3:1-10)
- 24 The Elements of Healthy Church Life (Neh 4:1-9, 16-23)
- 31 **REFORMATION SUNDAY**
The Call & Convictions of the Reformers (Phil 1:12-27)

NOVEMBER

- 7 Dealing with Opposition Wisely (Neh 5:1-19)
- 14* When the Enemy Closes in (Neh 6:1-15)
- 21 Lesson from the Genealogy (Neh 7:1-6, 73)
- 28 Awakenings from the Word (Neh 8:1-18)

DECEMBER

- 5 The Exemplary Fervent Intercession (Neh 9:1-21,35-38)
- 12* Why we Need to Keep the Covenants (Neh 10:28-39)
- 19 Serving with Accountable Stewardship (Neh 12:31-47)
- 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE GOSPEL SERVICE**
When God became Man (1 Tim 3:16)
- 26 Biblical Separation Learnt & Practiced (Neh 13:1-31)
- 31 **WATCHNIGHT COMBINED SERVICE**
A Better Heavenly Place (John 14:1-6)

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Memory Verse

Isaiah 25:4 For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks today on “**Consider God in Troubled Times**” (2 King 4:1-11), concluding this quarter’s theme on “*Finishing Well the Race of Life*”.
3. Pastor speaks next Sunday on “**A Love for God & the Brethren**” (Neh 1:1-11), commencing the new quarterly theme of “**A Biblical Paradigm for Triumphant Christian Service**”.
4. Sunday School classes continues after worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - New Testament Survey – Choo Siang/Joseph
 - Studies in Numbers – Dn Kwong Leen
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren.
6. Pastor will minister at the Grace Reformed Evangelical Church (Hong Kong) Special Online meeting on **Fri 1 Oct 2021** on “**Making Sense of the Sovereignty of God & Human Responsibility in a Global Catastrophe**”. Topics include “*The Sovereign God, Global Catastrophe and Human and Church Responsibility*” & “*Coping with Phobia and Anxiety in a Pandemic and Post Pandemic World*”.
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The Sep prayer list is available in church.
8. Neighbourhood Bible Class meets monthly on the first Friday of each month in church on the study of 2 Samuel.
9. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com.
10. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
11. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**
