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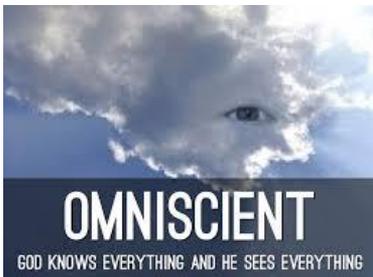
## The Biblical Contemplation of the Nature of God

There is an English saying, "Time and tide waits for no man." What can we do to contemplate on the past year and the new year? **We shall consider Psalm 139 as it is a profound and practical passage for contemplation. It was written by King David, towards the later part of his reign when he was old.** He went through much trials in his life, such as being chased by Saul, and almost got dethroned by his son Absalom. His experiences led to further sobering thoughts of contemplation of life and God and eternity.



### 1. An Omniscient God who Knows Us Thoroughly and Constantly (v1)

**Our God is all-seeing and all-knowing, and He is supreme and sovereign over all. God knows our down-sitting, uprising and thoughts (v2).** He is acquainted with all our ways (v3). His omniscience extends to everything, including what we want to say, think or do and the events to come (v4). In fact, the word "known" is used four times in Psalm 139. **Is God's omniscience good news for you? Is our God and His ever presence a comfort to you or a discouragement?** For people who love the Lord, such news is comforting, for God understands and comforts them. But for those who sin against God, that would not be the case, for God knows what they have done.



In v6, it is written: "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it." This verse can be viewed in a positive way, for it blows my mind that God's thoughts is so great and He knows everything. As we have an omniscient God, are we still knowingly trying to hide something from Him, or do we approach God sincerely with a broken and contrite heart? In our lives, we may be confused on where we are supposed to go, or we may have lost our way or direction in this life.

But, if a Person who knows the future is leading you, would you be interested? It is comforting that though we face uncertainty in the future, our God knows the future and He will lead his covenant people along unto eternal life (Psa 25:4-5).

## 2. An Omnipresent God who is With Us All the Time (v7)

The doctrine of the nature of our God is that He is present everywhere. The psalmist gives illustrations that in heaven and hell, and that God is there (v8). Adolf Hitler, who was responsible for killing 6 million Jews and many others, he committed suicide before the Allied Forces got to him and seemingly, he escaped the judgment on earth. But there is a soul to be judged according to Heb 9:27 and in hell, there is judgement as well, and Hitler will face the eternal judgment with severe everlasting consequences.



So, what are heaven and hell like? Scripture states that heaven is real (e.g., John 14:2) and so is hell. In Luke 16:19-31, Jesus spoke of a Lazarus the beggar who is in heaven (because he knows the Lord) and a rich man who died and he was in hell, and both of them are conscious in eternal existence in the afterlife. Heaven, which is mentioned about 600 times in the Bible, is where God dwells, the elect angels are, and the redeemed of God who died before us, they are with God now in heaven.

So, if a man dies, is it a good thing? It depends as it is not necessarily a bad thing if he dies in Christ and is saved in the Lord. We see in 2 Kings 22:20 that Josiah died before he saw the destruction that God brought upon Judah. Only those who have finished their work in this life, would God bring them to heaven. As for hell, it is a literal place of eternal torment in a lake of fire with no return. The great revivalist George Whitefield once preached about the realities of hell in such a graphic and vivid way, that a woman was awakened, and interrupted him, and pleaded with him not to let anyone go to this terrible place called hell and was soundly converted. There is no way out of hell once a person without Christ dies and, and it will be forever and ever, and we need to consider our lives soberly before God whom we will meet one day.

**The omnipresent God is ever and always with us, for everywhere His right hand holds us (v10) and His light will dispel darkness (v11). Are you comforted or discouraged by His presence?** After each calamity like the recent COVID global pandemic and its serious effects (which is not over yet), some have asked, "Where is God when it happened?" In John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, the children asked, "Where is Mr Interpreter?" He appeared and said he was there with them all the time, though they neglected him. Indeed, God's presence does not mean we will not face trials and tribulations in life. Isa 41:10 says, "*Fear thou not, for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*" Since we have a God who is with us, it gives us much confidence and faith in our testimony for Him. Indeed, Satan throws us so many distractions that draw us away from God. **Have we neglected the worship and service of God because of our busyness in our secular work, leisure or studies?**

### 3. An Omnipotent God who is Still on The Throne (v13)

There was a scholarly debate in the 1980s called *Open Theism* when some liberal theologians or scholars accused the God of the Bible of not being all powerful and limited in what he can do or know. let it be known that we have an omnipotent God who is supreme over all, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made (v14) and Dan



4:35). The power of God is presented in the creation of the world and the human soul. (Gen 1:27, 2:21-24) God is concerned about us and our role in creation, even we came into being (v.16). Whatever is decreed by God will come to pass, in the fullness of time, and corresponding with His justice, righteousness, and holiness (v16). Thus, David proclaimed, *"How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them!"* (v17).

The past 3 to 4 decades have been a season of great medical and technological advancement. Some medical professionals have succeeded in splitting cells to clone another creature of the similar genetic code like Dolly the sheep and one Korean scientist claimed that since animals can be cloned, so can humans too one day and he can and has done it (and he was later exposed as a fraud in his dubious research). Cloning requires both DNA and embryo cells and while it is possible to make a duplicate of the cell type, the chances of successfully duplicating a creature without variations, and without complication, are extremely slim the embryo cell may reject the new DNA and die. It is possible that the embryo may not survive having the original genetic material removed from its nucleus and some embryos may have to be destroyed and killed in the process as well. **But as humans made in the image of God, we are not just cats or dogs that can be easily cloned.**

We are made in the image of God and we are very different from animals. You may be able to clone an animal but how long can it live and is it in a better condition than the natural process? **But to clone a human, you need more than just human embryonic cells you need a soul, and only the Almighty God can give you that and will he approve of it? That is still a big unknown to the medical world and we should not trifle with secret things that belongs to our sovereign God alone.**

Another ethical concern is the issue of abortion. Some people choose to believe that life does not begin at conception with the formation of the embryo, and therefore embryos are not really human beings. There are those who say that before a certain number of weeks into pregnancy, the foetus is not a human being yet and therefore one can arbitrarily choose to abort the baby. There is a huge debate in the US recently after the Supreme Court judgement which ruled against abortion who claimed that their human rights are violated. However, God sees our substance when we were still unformed in our mother's womb, and the creation of the human embryo is a wonderful mystery of God (vv15-16) and we are a person even in our mother's womb not a thing or zygote to be treated lightly. **Therefore,**

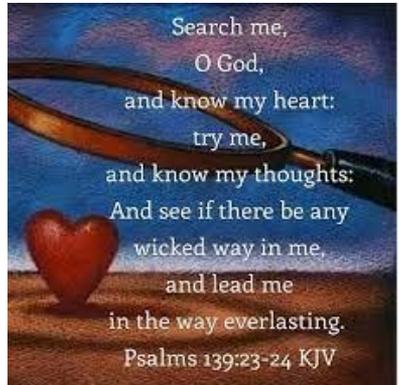
**the human embryo is a soul, a living being, (see Exo 21:22) and as a Reformed church we believe in the sanctity of life and we do not support the indiscriminate abortion of unborn babies based on the whims and fancies of fallen men or women.**

In v19, the “wicked” does not refer to personal enemies, but public enemies of God. There was a certain German Nazi officer who was involved in the killing of Jews in the holocaust. After the war, he changed his appearance and went into hiding. But he was eventually caught, brought back to Israel for trial, and was hanged for his crimes. Likewise, justice and truth would catch up with perpetrators of evil.

The psalmist opened up his heart and asked God to search and examine, for he wrote in v23, “*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts...*” If a doctor wants to check your heart condition, would you be willing to let him do so? Instead of hiding, let us lay bare our hearts before God to allow His light to examine our lives. We need to ask ourselves, are we ready for the search light of the heavenly Father to examine us? Let us seek to do this daily before the Lord.

### **Conclusion**

Finally, the psalmist concluded, “*And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*” (v24). **The Word of God is a light to our pathways and it directs our lives.** Are you on the road which is wide and broad but ultimately leads to destruction (Matt 7:13)? Or are you on the strait and narrow path in the will of God which leads to everlasting life (Matt 7:14)? Have we backslided and going against God in full knowledge or are we still walking in the straight and narrow way?



As we approach the final quarter of 2022, **let us prayerfully consider and contemplate our lives, allowing God to examine us, and come to Christ in faith and evangelical repentance if we do not know the Lord personally as our Saviour and for believers a deeper commitment, service and devotion unto Christ before He comes to judge us and the world very soon.**

Jack Sin

# SEEKING RECONCILIATION WITH GOD

25 September 2022, Sunday 10:00 am

Speaker: Rev Dr Jack Sin.



Come and find out - "How"

## VENUE:

Sovereign Hope BPC  
160, Paya Lebar Rd, 04-06,  
Orion@Paya Lebar, S (409022)

Those interested to come please contact Dn Yue Kay at 97450311

# Church Annual Congregation Meeting & Lunch Fellowship 28 Aug 2022



Eld Loke sharing a word of exhortation to the members.



Monthly Church Session Meeting  
(Pastor, Dn Kwong Leen, Eld Loke, Dn Yue Kay)

# GODLY COUNSEL FOR PILGRIMS & STRANGERS (STUDIES IN 1 PETER)

LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FOR JUL-SEP 2022

## JULY

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- 3 Our Salvation & Eternal Hope (1 Pet 1:1-12)
- 10\* Sojourning in the Fear of God (1 Pet 1:13-25)
- 17 Of Lively Stones & Royal Priesthood (1 Pet 2:1-10)
- 24 Of Pilgrims & Strangers (1 Pet 2:11-25)
- 31 Guide for The Believers Domestic Life (1 Pet 3:1-9)

## AUGUST

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- 7 Christian Apologetics in Practice (1 Pet 3:10-15)
- 14\* Keeping a Good Conscience (1 Pet 3:16-22)
- 21 Godly Demeanour in Afflictions (1 Pet 4:1-8)
- 28 How to be Faithful Stewards of God (1 Pet 4:9-11)

## SEPTEMBER

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- 4 When We Suffer for Christ (1 Pet 4:12-19)
- 11\* Models in Meek Service (1 Pet 5:1-7)
- 18 Sober and Vigilant Stand Against Evil (1 Pet 5:8-14)
- 25 Seeking Reconciliation with God (2 Cor 5:11-21)

**SOVEREIGNHOPE**  
Sible presbyterian church

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## Memory Verse

1 Pet 4:16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Sunday Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks this morning on “**When We Suffer for Christ**” (1 Pet 4:12-19), the quarterly series on **Godly Counsel for Pilgrims and Strangers (studies in 1Peter)**.
3. Pastor speaks next Sunday on “**Models in Meek Service**” (1 Pet 5:1-7). There will be evangelism at Macpherson Estate after Sunday School and lunch. Do inform Dn Yue Kay if you able to join the team.
4. Sunday School classes continues after worship service:
  - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
  - Studies in Deuteronomy – Dn Kwong Leen
  - Addressing Objections to the Gospel – Joseph Wee
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a video study on Fundamentals of Theology on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church.
7. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 7 Oct 2022, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
8. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
9. 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**

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