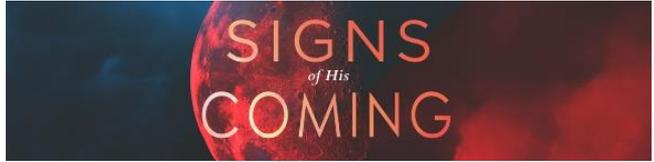


Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm
Website: www.sovereignhopebpc.org
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / jacksin710@gmail.com
Elder Loke Tat Luen: tloke822@gmail.com

Ominous Signs of the Second Advent of Christ



We live in perilous times of global deadly pestilences and devastating wars. There are many references made of Christ's second coming in His Holy Word. Jesus Himself referred to it at least 21 times, (Matt 24:27,30,42; 25:13; John 14:2,3; Rev 1:7).

The first time, Jesus came as a Suffering Servant to die on the Cross, but in His second coming, He will return as a Judge and King. He first came humbly to be slain, but He will return to judge the world. He will come in power and glory and the whole world will see Him as **He will come visibly in the clouds with His elect angels (Act 1:11). As the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, He will set up His kingdom on earth for 1,000 years where He will rule with His saints. (Rev 20:6) He will then judge the world and separate the sheep from the goats and defeat all His foes. (Matt 25:33)** Those who believe in Him will be ushered into His everlasting kingdom in the new heaven and new earth, and those who reject Him will He cast out into the eternal darkness of Hell. (Rev 20:15)

The Imminence of His Coming

No one knows exactly when He will come back and we should not speculate the date (ie. the JW's falsely said it was 1914, 1918 and then changed to 1975) for no one knows the day nor the hour of His return. Only God the Father knows and that is enough for us. Although the timing of His return is uncertain, one thing is certain - **He is definitely coming back again for God has His own sovereign timetable.** The question is: *Are we ready when He comes?* Amos 4:12 says, *'Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.'*

The Signs of His Second Coming

It was in the fullness of time (the time was ripe) that God revealed His only begotten Son to the world. (Gal 4:4) In the same way, His second coming will be in accordance to God's perfect timing. Although we do not know the day nor the hour of His coming which is compared to an expectant woman with birth pangs, God does not leave us completely in the dark. He has given us clearly in His Holy Word and ominous signs written to warn us of His impending return. Consider the following:

1. Spiritual Deception

There is a growing prevalence in the world today of spiritual conman who call themselves Christians, prophets or apostles. Both Christ and the apostles, Paul and Peter, warn us that in the last days **many false teachers and false prophets will arise from amongst them.** (Matt 24:4-5, 11, 24; Acts 20:29, 30; 2 Peter 2:1-2) They brought with them heretical teachings and practices leading to much confusion. Many will be deceived into believing that they come from God. We see a marked rise in both cultic and occultic activities over the past 40 years even during and after the pandemic. The increased influence of the Mormons, Christian Science, Seventh Day Adventist, Freemasons, Jehovah Witness and the New Agers (geomancy, black magic, astrology, witchcraft, tarot cards, Halloween, yoga etc) are on the ascendancy and **we witness a surge in interest in the supernatural as well.** This is a ripe time for spiritual deception by the evil one and He will exploit it to the fullest before the Lord returns. (2 Pet 2:1-2)

2. Natural Calamities

There shall be famines, and pestilences, like the COVID19 pandemic and earthquakes, in diverse places. (Matt 24:7)

The world is bombarded with deadly hurricanes, typhoons, famines, earthquakes, and huge forest fires are common phenomena these days. New diseases (ie monkeypox and new variants of the COVID 19 virus and Disease X to come) and pestilences (cholera) are afflicting the world in recent years. We remember soberly the many calamities and local flooding in Thailand and Malaysia. More serious epidemics, drought and famines are what climatologists and seismologists predict will happen probably within the next 20-30 years. We cannot ignore these warning signs of Jesus' second coming as it was well predicted by our Lord in both Matt 24 and Luke 21.

3. Wars and International conflict and Persecution

Matt 24: 6 *“ye shall hear of wars, and rumours of wars...”*

Global conflict and international conflicts and wars will increase with greater intensity - fighting over territorial control, fighting because of political and religious differences. Today, tension has taken on a new front in the Middle East (Gaza and Israel), tensions between US and Europe and Russia and China, India and Pakistan, North and South Korea, war cry between China and Taiwan, Myanmar crisis, the fight against terrorism and extreme religious ideology and the persecution of Christians. We are still in the midst of the ongoing 7-month-old Ukraine war and this conflict with Russia which will have a wider implication for the world and the end times. **The Bible tells us all these wars and rumours of wars ‘must come to pass, but the end is not yet.’ We await the final battle, the battle of Armageddon when Christ at His second coming will defeat all those nations who join forces to fight against Him and His people.** (Rev 16)

4. Moral and Spiritual Degeneration

There will be a sharp decline in moral standards in our society today. LGBT concerns is on the increase in many countries including Singapore, and romantic scams and crime and godlessness, obsession with (vaping, drugs, prostitution and immorality, worldly pleasures, gambling etc) worldliness are well tolerated. Many major cities in the world have become our modern-day Sodom and Gomorrah.

People have become lovers of pleasure, self-seeking, proud, covetous and hateful. Violence, demonstration, unrest and crime have become a big problem in many countries (in the streets and in homes).

The apostle Paul tells us all these in 2 Tim 3:1-5 and we are to be forewarned and be careful and vigilant of the moral and spiritual declension of our times. **There will a great falling away of many as there will be widespread spiritual deception and ecclesiastical compromise with the rise of the New Age and Ecumenical movements and false prophets and teachings with their pernicious errors to deceive many. There is a need for spiritual vigilance and discernment in these last perilous days.** (Matt 24:1-24)

5. Advancements in Medicine, Science and Technology

Daniel in Dan 12:4 says, *'But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and **knowledge shall be increased.**'* Daniel predicted that knowledge would increase in the last days. **This came true in the explosion of knowledge and information, social media and 5G networks in the 21st century, computer technology has advanced to such a stage that now we can store and have access to so much information at a quicker pace and communicate with anyone around the world in a split second with a click of a button.** It is like the invention of moveable type printing during the renaissance period that revolutionise the way information was disseminated then. We can store all our data in a cloud which can easily be accessed, and animals and humans can be implanted with a chip on the forehead, the hand of a human or in animals too. **The latest is the advent of the metaverse in the virtual world of interaction and the marvel of artificial intelligence. There is much more in the advancement of modern technology in communication and yet it is not without dangers too.**

These new inventions will make it possible for the end time dictator, the Anti-Christ with the false Prophet and the Beast to control every person under His rule. He will give to every person a number and without this number no person can work or buy anything. Rev 13:16-17 says, *'And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.'*

6. Increase in Evangelism and Global Missions

But there is one good news. There will be an increased evangelistic thrust when the gospel of redemption will be proclaimed worldwide as the day of Christ coming draws nearer. Matt 24:14 says, *'And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.'* We will see Christians moving out to fulfill the Great Commission, as they begin to witness for Him to different ethnic groups in the uttermost parts of the world. Patrick John Stone, a missions researcher tells that the Bible is translated into more than 2,500 languages. **More tribes in Asia and Latin America had been reached over the past 35 years. The greater part of the world must be reached with the gospel message before the Lord comes.**

It appears that God is waiting for the full number of His elect to come in before Christ returns including Gentiles and Jews (Rom 11:26-30, 2 Pet 3:9-10). Our

Lord is the Lord of the harvest, He will send labourers into the field (Matt 9:35-37). Are we available if He call us to be His witnesses? Will we go where Christ has never been preached even to China, India or uttermost parts of the earth? Rom 10:14-15 says, *'How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?'*

Christian Vigilant Duty

One of the blessedness of being a child of God is the prospect of the glorious hope of the soon return of our Lord and Tit 2:13-15 says, *'Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.'*

We yearn forward expectantly to that blessed day when our Lord comes, and we will be with Him for eternity. The apostle Paul, too had this same desire to be with Christ, as he tells us in Philippians 1:23, *'For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.'*

How should we as Christians conduct ourselves in the meantime as we wait for Christ return? **We are to be prepared and ready, be diligent and consecrated to pursue holiness, to do our part in global evangelism, the faithful stewardship that God has entrusted to us and be accountable for our service one day before the Bema (2 Cor 5:10).** Peter in 2 Pet 3:10-13 warns us, *'But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.'* Will we be prepared and alert when our Saviour returns suddenly?

1. Be Watchful

We have been told at least thrice by our Lord Jesus Christ to be careful and watchful, alert and vigilant in Matt 24:42 and 25:13. Do not be sleeping spiritually but working and serving the Lord with greater diligence and fervency. Mk 13:37 says, *'And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.'*

Let us watch our spiritual walk with God carefully. Paul told Timothy to *'exercise thyself unto godliness.'* Paul went on to tell Timothy in 2 Tim 4:8, *'bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.'*

When Christ comes, we will behold the glorious King reigning with holiness and truth on the earth. There is only one fitting response we can give. We will bow the knee to worship as we fall prostrate before Him with reverence and fear (Phil 12:10-11). It is

important that we need to work diligently and keep ourselves holy and pure as we await His return.

2. Be Faithful

Jesus wants us to be faithful and reliable stewards of the things He has entrusted to us. He also wanted us to be diligent. **If He has given us some skills or talents, all He requires of us is that we be faithful in exercising those gifts in the stewardship in the church to the edifying of the saints.** We must not be found slothful and lazy. Rom 12:11-12 says, 'Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.' We are in the King's business and those who serve the king have to work hard. Eternal rewards await those who are faithful and diligent. The cross that we have to bear may be heavy now, but God will reward His servants with a eternal crown one day when they are found faithful (Mat 25:26-30). Luk 9:23 says, '*And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*'

3. Be Fruitful

God wants us not only to be faithful but also fruitful Christians. John 15:6 says, '*If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*' The fruit of repentance and the work of gospel missions and evangelism are when we see men and women saved and added to the kingdom of God. **One of the greatest privileges that God has given to His church is to be a witness for Him in the world and to sow the gospel seed and bear fruit in God's own time.**

It was John Wesley who said, 'You have one business on earth - to save souls for Christ.' The preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ must continue steadfastly until Christ returns. 1 Cor 9:16 says, '*For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!*' And all of us have our part to play in fulfilling the unfinished great commission, the marching orders of Christ are given already before His ascension in Matt 19:18-20.

Conclusion

These are days of grave peril that we are living in. Jesus Christ came more than 2,000 years ago and lived a perfect life on earth for us, died on our behalf at Calvary and rose again to reconcile us back to God. We can know Him personally as our Lord and Saviour when we repent and believe in Him. It will not be long before He returns again. Unprecedented events in the world today point to His imminent coming.

For those who have yet to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, let us come to Him today before it is too late. Let us not delay any longer for there is danger in delay. God in His mercy and grace is waiting for men to come to Him in evangelical repentance of sins, to confess their sins and receive Christ into their lives that they may have abundant life and joy everlasting.

If you have backslided this year, it is time to return home for our loving Heavenly Father is waiting for us. Will you do it now before it is too late?

For those who know Christ, let us be watchful, be diligent, be faithful and fruitful as we await patiently and expectantly the Second Advent of the Great King of kings.

Jack Sin

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."
Psalm 23:6



*In Loving
Memory*



Mr Surainarayanan s/o Rajagopal Dharmalingam
Age : 66

Called home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, 27 September 2022.
Dearly missed by Wife and Children and loved ones.



Pray for Surish's family (Phengvanh,
Elishama, Abigail) as they return to
Laos this week and for the children
to grow in the fear and nurture of
the Lord.



**3 SESSIONS
BIBLE STUDY**

- 1. CONTRIBUTION OF THE PRE REFORMERS TO THE REFORMATION CAUSE**
- 2. PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF THE REFORMATION MOVEMENT**
- 3. THE LEGACY AND CONTINUATION OF THE REFORMED FAITH**



JOIN US ON ZOOM

**REFORMATION
MESSAGES**

**ZOOM ID: 818 4391 6370
PASSCODE: 482950**

SPEAKER

Rev Dr Jack Sin

**PASTOR OF
SOVEREIGN HOPE BP CHURCH**

**DATES:
6TH, 13TH & 20TH OCT 2022**

**TIME:
8.00 PM TO 9.30 PM**

THE HOLY SPIRIT & THE BELIEVER TODAY
Lord's Day Programme for Oct-Dec 2022



OCTOBER

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 2 | The Work & Nature of the Holy Spirit
(John 14:16-31) | 23 | Walking in the Spirit
(Galatians 5:1-16) |
| 9* | The Holy Spirit & Regeneration
(Titus 3:1-8) | 30 | REFORMATION SUNDAY
Why We Should Persevere
in Our Reforming Spirit
(Jude 1-9) |
| 16 | The Holy Spirit & Prayer
(Romans 8:20-34) | | |

Memory Verse

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

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 “***The Holy Spirit & Regeneration (Tit 3:1-8)***”, commencing a new quarterly series on “***The Holy Spirit & The Believer Today***”.
3. Pastor speaks next Sunday on “***The Holy Spirit & Prayer (Rom 8:20-34)***”.
4. The following Sunday School classes continue after worship service:
 - Westminster Confession of Faith – Pastor
 - Addressing Objections to the Gospel – Joseph Wee
 - Studies in Deuteronomy – Dn Kwong Leen
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. The **Annual Reformation Seminar** will be held virtually **via Zoom on Thu nights, 6, 13 & 20 Oct, 8 to 9.30 pm**. Topic for 13 Oct is “***Principles & Practices of the Reformation Movement***”. Zoom ID: 818 4391 6370. Passcode: 482950
8. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 4 Nov 2022, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
9. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
10. 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**
