

SOVEREIGNHOPE  
bible presbyterian church

*presents*



CHRISTMAS

*Eve Service*

**WHEN  
GOD  
BECAME  
MAN**

24 DEC  
Friday  
8 PM

SPEAKER  
REV PHILIP HENG

LOCATION  
160 Paya Lebar Road Orion @ Paya Lebar  
#04-06 Singapore 409022

ALL ARE WELCOME

Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022  
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm  
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## Spiritual Insights from the First Advent of Christ

As we approach the end of 2021 we joyfully and soberly remember the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, even after an exacting year of facing a severe pandemic crisis and other challenges.

It is a grim reminder that though we are living in perilous days, we need also to know and rehearse the meaning and implications of the first coming of our Lord.

The 2 Gospels of Mathew and Luke recorded the first coming of our Lord in His birth and we will meditate on the theme of the birth of Christ from the book of Luke 2. We note that it has 3 salient points, namely the 3Fs:



### 1. Fulfilment of Prophecy vs 1-7

The holy family was the centre of focus here in this chapter. Note that Joseph and Mary, though betrothed, were considered as husband and wife by Jewish customs, even though the actual marriage ceremony had not been fully affected. So, Joseph and Mary were legally married before the birth of Jesus though their marriage was not consummated physically until after Christ's birth. When presented with the news that she would conceive the holy Son of God, Mary responded with pure faith and obedience by saying, "*Behold, I am the hand maid of the Lord; be it unto me according to your word*" (Lk 1:38).



It is instructive how the holy family ended up in Bethlehem, for nothing happens by chance but by the will of the Lord. The census and tax required by Emperor Augustus brought the holy family back to Bethlehem, as Joseph came from the lineage of David, though Mary was pregnant with child, (vs 4) fulfilling Micah's prophecy in Mic 5:2 given about 520

BC. A third of the Bible is in prophetic context and every biblical prophecy is or will be fulfilled including the life, death, resurrection and the second coming of Christ which is yet to be. Micah 5:2, written in 520 B.C. says: *“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”* (This is a verse predicting the first coming of the Messiah. According to Matthew 2:4-6 Jesus fulfilled this prophecy to the last detail).

## 2. Fear Overcame by the Shepherds vs 8-24



The angels appeared, not to the religious or political elite but to a group of humble shepherds in the field. The first words that were spoken were *“Fear Not”* (vs 10).

We are living often in a world of phobia, anxiety and morbid fear especially in these past 24 months of the global pandemic with more than 5.3 million deaths and about 270 million infected worldwide and now with the new and highly contagious variant, Omicron. These words are relevant for all of us today as well. The coming of Christ gives us the victory over fear for all who will humbly seek and worship and believe in Him. Are you still cringing in morbid fear of the health crisis or some personal trial or the ultimate fear of death? There is hope and comfort in the Saviour of the world born in Bethlehem. Come and seek Him and trust in Christ as your God and Saviour, as the wise men of old did with their presence and presents. Perfect love from God casts out all fear and we live with faith and grace each day, looking up to the Lord.

## 3. Faith Honoured in Two Persons vs 25-40

There were many who got it wrong, especially King Herod and the Pharisees, but there were at least two people who got it right during the first Christmas season. Besides the wisemen and the shepherds, two senior persons, Simeon and Anna, were noted by the gospel writer in the holy Scriptures and they both served the Lord and waited patiently for the consolation of Israel. In the first coming Christ at the temple. They were rewarded with the privilege of seeing Christ in His 5 weeks old infancy in the temple and gave their blessing and prophecy. We need the patience of the Lord too in our walk of faith. True faith will be tested and will pass the test and be honoured by God. Let us learn to wait patiently



upon the Lord and obey his holy will. Let us be the people of God that will seek and remember and honour Christ humbly in these last perilous days.

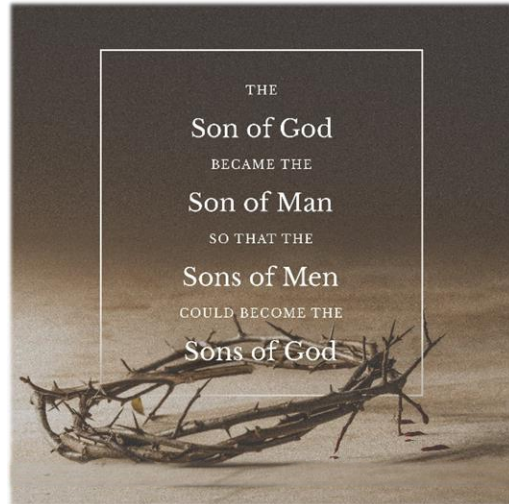
## Conclusion



Paul said that Christ on earth was God in the flesh born of a virgin, which is the mystery of godliness, and that He died, resurrected and ascended. 1 Tim 3:16 has this important message that this good news of His life is to be faithfully preached unto the Gentile world, would be believed on in the world by some and received up into glory.

We will remember the glorious incarnation of Christ in our special church service. May the Word of everlasting life from the Lord be preached peradventure some may be saved by His sovereign will. The word of God has rich practical and relevant insights for our lives even in the midst of this despairing world with a raging health crisis and we do well to know and keep these words of truth in our hearts and act upon them.

Our Lord Jesus' birth is the fulfilment of all Old Testament prophecies concerning His First Coming and His Life and Death. It is our prayer that the Incarnate Lord Jesus will transform our lives as we seek Christ as our Lord and God, repent of our sins and put our heart and our focus on knowing Christ in a saving relationship, as He leads and guides us in the straight and narrow way.



Jack Sin



## A Testimony of Salvation by Brother Kelvin Lim

My name is Kelvin Lim, and I am very thankful to the LORD for this opportunity to testify about His grace that brought forth salvation unto me some twenty-six years ago. Jesus said, "*I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance*" (Luke 5:32).

Since birth, I lived with my maternal grandparents as both my parents were working. My grandmother was a staunch Taoist and an idol worshipper. She disallowed me to befriend any Christian neighbours. But the LORD is good! He allowed me to be exposed to His children early in my childhood. During those days, I was introduced to this weekly meeting in the neighbourhood whereby adults and children would gather around a house to sing songs and read from a book and talk about it. But I was too young to comprehend what was going on. For me, it was the cold drinks and cookies that attracted me most.

After my grandparents passed away, my aunt took care of me. At that time, I was about 12 years old. It was during this time that I got into the wrong company. It was also the time when I began to rebel against my parents! By then, I was already secretly smoking cigarettes and started glue-sniffing. After that, it escalated to sleeping pills and marijuana. By the time I was 14 years old, I started to stay overnight on weekends. My friends and I would frequent night spots such as discos. We would consume alcohol and become drunk most of the time, but sometimes we would take drugs and become high. When we lost our sobriety, we did many unspeakable, foolish, and shameful things. Guilt and sin were not in our dictionary then!

When my aunt got married, I had to move in with my parents. For me, living with parents has never been normal. Things appeared fine on the surface, but I was never happy around my parents. Living with them added restrictions to my freedom. By then, I was already smoking and drinking heavily. The more they tried to restrict me, the more I rebelled! I would run away from home for days and weeks. Police reports were made, and I was found and brought home unwillingly. This frequent running away from home affected my studies, not to mention my misbehaviour in school and the many disciplinary issues I had with the school rules. Finally, I decided to stop studying and my parents had to agree reluctantly!

Not too long after leaving school, I was introduced to heroin, at barely 15 years old. My life was a mess. I was always pestering my family and friends for money to feed my addiction. There were frequent quarrels at home because of money and other issues as well. Friends avoided me deliberately because of my unpredictable behaviour. Then I got involved in a secret society. Belonging to a gang gave me a sense of belonging, but also led to the involvement of many illegal activities. Fights were not uncommon because of benefits, but I was never caught for it. Instead, I was arrested for bookmaking, as operating a gambling den was a main source of income for us. Yet, none of my gang members posted bail for me, not to mention visiting me in prison. And so, from the age of 17 to 28, Prison(s), Drug Rehabilitation Centre (DRC(s)), and even the

Singapore Armed Forces Detention Barracks (SAFDB) were home to me more than my parents' house.

Recalling back, I was arrested for the possession of a controlled drug, and tested positive for consuming heroin, and for being Absent Without Official Leave from National Service in 1995. While awaiting trial for my offences in SAFDB, I had the opportunity to attend Chapel services and Christian Counselling(s) organised by Military Christian Fellowship. Through those Christian activities, I had the opportunity to hear the Word of God and to read the Bible. I even managed to get hold of a personal copy of the Bible to read in my cell. This led me to read from Genesis to Revelation and to search for the truth myself.

Psalm 19:7, *"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul."* From the Bible reading, I concluded that Jesus is God, and there is none other. He is the living and true God! *"So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Romans 10:17). I am very thankful to God for His mercies and grace. Though the saving grace of God reached me at the age of 24, but my faith was young, and my flesh was weak. Upon release from SAFDB, I looked for a church to worship the LORD but was not able to find one! There were too many occasions when I was not able to resist temptation and sinned against the LORD who loves me and died for my sins. Whenever I was reminded of these truths, I became very sad that I relapsed repeatedly into heroin addiction and needed to commit crimes to feed my addiction. Life became so meaningless and hopeless that I began to have suicidal thoughts. Five years had gone by since I came to know the Lord Jesus Christ, but I was still caught in the bondage of addiction. I really wanted to stop but did not know how, except to cry out within the heart to the LORD, save me!

Isaiah 55:7, *"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."* While I was lost in thoughts regarding where to seek help to wean off my heroin addiction, the LORD reminded me of a Christian drug rehabilitation centre known as The Helping Hand. I managed to get hold of the number and called for help. Praise God for the prompt interview given by the staff and the approval for admission into the 12 months programme. On 14th February 2000, I walked into The Helping Hand (THH) with nothing literally except an addiction to heroin and three pending charges: two counts of impersonation and one count of possession of pirated VCDs.

Thanks be unto God for The Helping Hand! Jesus said, *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28). By God's grace, I successfully stopped my heroin addiction then and have been free from it till now. Praise the Lord! Next, after 9 months in The Helping Hand, the Police dropped all the charges and let me off with a stern warning. This is hard to believe for someone with a criminal record. It was impossible for those charges to be dropped as they were repeat offenses. I was prepared to serve the jail term regardless of its length of time. I just wanted to make things right with God and man. But I never imagined that those charges

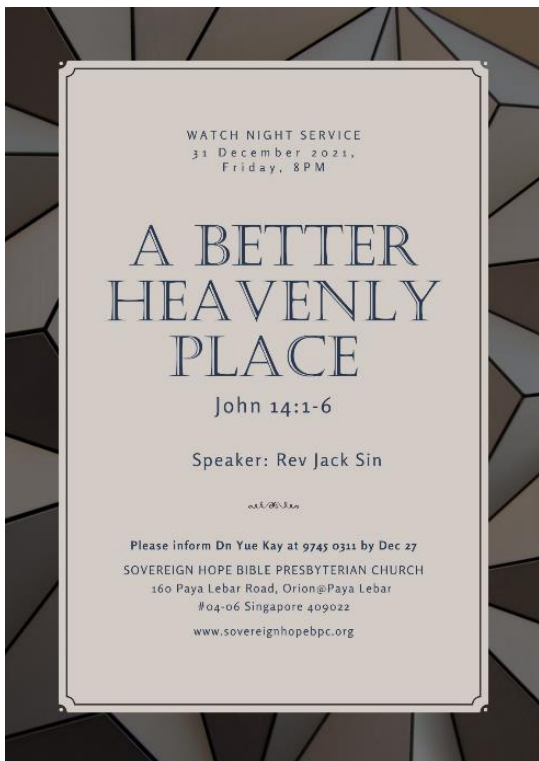
would be dropped. Indeed, the LORD is good! *“The things which are impossible with men are possible with God”* (Luke 18:27). Lastly, the Central Narcotics Bureau granted my application of an International Passport without any objections!

The LORD used The Helping Hand to transform my life and mould me into a person of His will. As I recommitted my life to the LORD, He had blessed me with abundance beyond comprehension. It was there that I got to know my one and only Christian girlfriend who happens to be my current wife. The LORD gave us three boys, *“Io, children are a heritage of the LORD”* (Psalm 127:3). Without the Lord Jesus Christ and His sanctifying grace upon me, how could I ever stop heroin addiction, not to mention having my own family today. Together as a family, we worship and serve the LORD in Gethsemane Bible-Presbyterian Church.

Jesus said, *“I am the door, by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture . . . I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly”* (John 10:9-10). All glory and honour to the LORD our God, Hallelujah!

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**Come and join us  
at the closing  
hours of 2021...  
Watchnight Service  
31 Dec 2021  
8pm.**





## Memory Verse

1 Tim 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Christmas Eve Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Rev Philip Heng speaks tonight on “**God Became Man**” (1 Tim 3:16).
3. Rev Jack Sin speaks this Sun on “**Biblical Separation Learnt & Practiced**” (Neh 13:1-31), concluding the quarterly theme of “**A Biblical Paradigm for Triumphant Christian Service**”.
4. Rev Jack Sin speaks at **Watchnight Service (8pm)** on “**A Better Heavenly Place**” (1 Tim 3:16)
5. Weekly Sunday School classes after worship service as follows:
  - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
  - Understanding Biblical Eschatology & related Topics – Joseph
  - Studies in Numbers – Dn Kwong Leen
  - Burmese Bible Class - James
6. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a study on Church History in China on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
7. 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.
8. Neighbourhood Bible Class meets on every first Friday of each month on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
9. Fide Vitae is giving a 20% discount on all books for the month of December.
10. Those who wish to bring a new friend to the worship service, kindly inform the safety officer Dn Yue Kay or Pastor at least a day in advance.
11. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at [sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com](mailto:sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com).
12. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
13. 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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