

The Subtle Danger of False Prophecies

Another day and another false prophecy into the bin. If you don't know, some Christian group in Sydney was raising awareness (ramping up over the past few weeks) that a Tsunami would hit the city at 9pm on the 20th of September, 2018. The warning was that 400,000 lives would be lost, and people needed to repent and trust in Jesus before it was too late.

And here we are a few days later with no tsunami in sight. Another false prophecy which has brought rightful scoffing and jeers.

A few years ago we had something similar happen, this time with a bigger global awareness—or at least in Australia and the United States. A man named Harold Camping predicted the end of the world on May 21, 2011. This prediction appeared to have more negative impacts for those who listened, as many of his followers sold all their property and valuables, opting to wait for the end of the world with nothing else.

It's easy to have a little chuckle at these stories. But there's a double edge to my (right) scepticism towards any prediction of Jesus' return: the hardening of my heart to Jesus' return in general.

In re-reading 2 Peter 3 I was gently rebuked for my apathy. I may be more discerning about false prophecies, but am I equally prepared for Jesus' return? Honestly, things could be better.

Peter makes his point in verses 1-13 that the apparent delay is no delay in God's part—but a work of God's patience. Patiently waiting for more people to repent, providing an amnesty that his forgiveness would be known. And just as God has done in the past, he will bring his judgement—in a swift and unexpected time (like a thief in the night).

The great challenge lies in verses 14-18: keep growing in holiness and godliness; do not be carried away with error and false teaching; grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. I'm challenged, but also encouraged, that holiness and godliness are a life-long project. But in the face of another false prophecy, I'm reminded of the particular need and urgency to keep pursuing them both.

Let's also encourage each other to pursue this together. Verses 14-18 are addressed to the church wide, so let us take up this task of encouraging each other in our holiness, our godliness, our knowledge and our discernment together.



23 September 2018 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week: Isaiah #10— Comfort! Comfort!

Isaiah declares "Comfort! Comfort!". Comfort from the hopelessness of sin is not only possible, but assured, because of the incomparable God. Isaiah's prophecy gives hope to the hopeless, and prompts the once hopeless to declare the hope that is found only and mightily in God.

Next Week:

Isaiah #11 [Isaiah 43-48]



Today's Service

Welcome and Singing

You Alone Can Rescue

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

Never Alone

Holy Communion

Offering

Community News

Bible Reading

Isaiah 40; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Sermon

By Pastor Ben Ho


Song of Response

Behold Our God

Stay Connected

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 slechurch.org.au

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 83 Ryans Road, St Lucia 4067

Check out slechurch.org.au/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

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Financial Update

Last Week	\$4,476.55
Weekly Required	\$5,520
Shortfall 2018	\$0.00

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

PRAISE GOD THAT JESUS IS THE KING!

Praise God that all human kings in scripture, in all their strengths and flaws, help us yearn for, and rejoice in, the true and better King. Praise God that Jesus never failed, never stopped trusting His Father, and wins the ultimate battle on behalf of His people: us!

PRAISE GOD THAT COMFORT FROM

hopelessness and sin is not only possible but assured. Praise God that this assurance is based not on our performance, but on our incomparable God. Praise God that this hope is fully and finally revealed in all its wonder and glory through Jesus Christ. Pray that we would never forsake or substitute this hope in our lives.

PRAY FOR THE SALT CAMP as it draws to a close today. Pray for the teens as they encounter the wonder of being known personally by God (from Psalm 139) and the joy and privilege of knowing God personally (from Psalm 23). Pray that this would lead to profound assurance and confident faith in Jesus.

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES as they enter into a short period of rest and school holidays. Pray for our families to enjoy this time of rest together. Pray that this time would also be a time of renewal of family bonds, affection, and that our families would grow in spiritual maturity.

Community News

BLOOM #3 – 20 OCT 1:30-4PM

At our last Bloom session for the year, we will gather to hear answers to *your* questions about God's design for woman. The afternoon will include a Q&A session with a panel of speakers, book reviews, and testimonies from women who will share their journey in discovering and living out God's design for women.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet with other women to wrestle and think through how we can live out God's design practically and wholeheartedly in every aspects of life.

MISSION DISCUSSION GROUP

Do you have a heart for cross-cultural mission? Are you interested in being better equipped to serve in, or to support, inter-cultural missions? If so, please give your name and contact details to Elder Mike Husband or to Shaopeng Chen so that we can arrange an initial meeting to organize and ongoing discussion—perhaps once per month. Topics for discussion might include:

- Understanding other cultures and languages
- Understanding short term and long term mission
- Open access and creative access nations
- Understanding mission organization requirements and screening processes
- Supporting missions and missionaries—prayer, finance, practical support
- Possible short term trip opportunities

Serving

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Bryan	Joshua
Preach	Ps Ben	Ps Ben
Bible Read	Jansen <i>Dan Lowe</i>	TBA <i>Jessica</i>
M.Tea	Yee Lin Lilian Sheu	Tania Winnie W.
Wash Up	SOS Dan	SOS Dan
Welcome	Ken Steph Amy <i>James</i> <i>Marcus</i> <i>Leya</i> <i>Marilyn</i>	Ken Steph Amy <i>James</i> <i>Marcus</i> <i>Leya</i> <i>Marilyn</i>
Stewards	Meng Yin David Chong <i>Nethanel</i> <i>Yong Seng</i> <i>Sarah</i>	Meng Yin David Chong <i>Nethanel</i> <i>Yong Seng</i> <i>Sarah</i>
Piano	Dan Lowe	Liesl
Guitar	Mark	Shao Peng
Bass	Ivan	Chuan Yuan
Drums	Sharne	Ariel
Vocal	Shaun	Sarah/Alisha/ Joachim
PA	Matt <i>Jowin</i>	Reuten <i>Chris</i>

Comfort! Comfort! (Isaiah 40-42)

1. Introduction: 150 years of utter hopelessness

2. A New Word—Comfort! Comfort!

A. Speak tenderly... sins forgiven! (40:2, 42:1-7)

B. Cry out... the LORD is coming! (40:3-5, Mark 1:2-4)

C. Cry out... Behold the incomparable God! (40:6-8, 12-31)

3. Our Cry (40:9-11, 42:10-13)

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

4. Conclusion