

## Finishing the Story Well

Two of my favourite film franchises are essentially long-running series. Star Wars and its 9 movies focused on the Skywalker family and the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), 23 films focused on a group of superheroes defending the world from the threat of the mega-threat Thanos. And this year we've seen two movies which sought to bring those long-running stories to a close: Avengers Endgame and Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker.

On Thursday evening I was invited to see the final Star Wars movie. I really enjoyed it, but I noticed a few glaring issues which further reviews have raised and clarified. Without spoiling any details, let's just say that I didn't think that the movie ended in the most satisfying way, try as it might. On the other hand, Avengers Endgame left me profoundly satisfied that they had brought their movie franchise to a gratifying conclusion. So, what happened?

A lot of the blame can fall squarely on Star Wars episode 8: The Last Jedi with its wasted opportunities and confusing storyline, and what is now become clear that the main writers and producers of the final three Star Wars movies had little or no unifying ideas/story when they began production of them. So, while the final movie (Episode 9: The Rise of Skywalker) was entertaining (and, as a fan, enjoyable) I still couldn't help but feel a sense of lack.

This observation led me to thank God for the Bible. Here's why.

Imagine for a moment that the Bible only consisted of the book of Romans. It would be utterly confusing. Some nice words about loving each other in Rom 14 but everything else would make little sense. What if you had just the New Testament letters and some of the early books like Genesis and Exodus? Would that be sufficient? No. Imagine for a moment that the Gospels burst onto the scene of the Bible and basically say that the answers to all the questions and expectations in Old Testament don't really matter. Would that make sense? No.

The Bible works wondrously together as a consistent whole. Every book of the Bible adds to and builds God's progressive revelation that is fully and finally revealed. The idea of a unified cinematic universe is generally quite new. But in the Bible we already have that—and it is wonderfully real. The Bible contains a climax and future ending which is way more satisfying than what the best film franchise could produce.

This year I enjoyed the finish to the MCU and found the Star Wars finish ok. Praise God that His Word finishes our story in an infinitely better way.



22 December 2019 | Service Times: 9am & 11:00am

## 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](http://www.slechurch.org.au).

### This Week:

#### Strong to Save, Strengthens to Save

The LORD is the Rock who is strong to save and strengthens to save. God's strength is worthy of our deep love and exuberant praise.



Christmas Day: Psalm 27

## Today's Service

**Welcome and Singing** O Holy Night  
You Alone Can Rescue  
The First Noel

### Holy Communion

### Offering

### Community News

**Bible Reading** Psalm 18  
**Sermon** By Pastor Ben Ho  
**Song of Response** Rock of Ages

## Stay Connected

 [facebook.com/slechurch](https://facebook.com/slechurch)  
 [slechurch.org.au](http://slechurch.org.au)  
 +61 490 760 152  
 [info@slechurch.org.au](mailto:info@slechurch.org.au)  
 83 Ryans Road, St Lucia 4067

Check out [slechurch.org.au/groups](http://slechurch.org.au/groups) to find a group that you can join.

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# Say hello

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

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## Our Pastors

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### SENIOR PASTOR BEN HO

**Mobile:** +61 433 581 335

**Email:** ben.ho@slechurch.org.au

### PASTOR STEVEN TRAN

**Mobile:** +61 411 621 159

**Email:** steven.tran@slechurch.org.au

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## Financial Update

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Last Week	\$4,056.18
Weekly Required	\$5,750.00
Shortfall 2019	\$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

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## Prayer Points

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**PRAISE GOD THAT THE WICKED IN OUR WORLD** will not get away with their wickedness. Praise God that His justice is not limited to this life, but His justice will reach through eternity. Praise God that He sees all and will repay it.

**PRAISE GOD THAT OUR PERSONAL WICKEDNESS AND REBELLION AGAINST HIM HAS BEEN FORGIVEN.**

Praise God that in Christ, by faith alone, we receive redemption and reconciliation with God. Praise God that we no longer fear His judgement or condemnation now that we are in Christ.

**PRAY THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO LIVE FOR JESUS,** thinking and reflecting on the gospel and how to shape our lives around it. Pray that we would make the hard and difficult choices which most

honour God rather than place ourselves at the centre. Pray that we would trust and hold onto God's promises as we do so.

**PRAY FOR THE ONGOING DROUGHT AND BUSHFIRES ACROSS AUSTRALIA.**

Pray for God to relieve our parched nation with rain—knowing that He alone is the one who can send it.

**PRAY FOR EACH OTHER**— many of us are tired and weary at the end of the year. Pray for good rest over the coming weeks as we spend time with family and friends. Pray that we would use this time of rest to refresh our relationship with God, and renew ourselves to serve in 2020.

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## Community News

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### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Wednesday 25 December, 9am and 11am services. This is another wonderful opportunity (as with all other weeks of the year) to be inviting your friends and family along to hear the good news found in Jesus Christ.

Please bring a plate of morning tea to share between services.

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## Serving

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	Today	Christmas Day
<b>Chair</b>	Randy	Simeon
<b>Prayer</b>	Winnie <i>Randy</i>	
<b>Preach</b>	Ps Ben	Ps Ben
<b>Bible Read</b>	Jansen <i>Ps Steven</i>	Simeon <i>Simeon</i>
<b>M.Tea</b>	Matt & Helen	ALL to bring a plate
<b>Wash Up</b>	SOS Central	SOS Central
<b>Welcome</b>	Philip Mee Lan Esther	Philip Mee Lan Esther
<b>Stewards</b>	Ken Richard Simeon <i>Cam</i> <i>Josiah</i> <i>DT</i>	
<b>Piano</b>	Liesl	Liesl
<b>Guitar</b>	Mark	Mark
<b>Bass</b>	Kevin	Kevin
<b>Drums</b>	Jordan	Jordan
<b>Vocal</b>	Alisha	Alisha
<b>PA</b>	William <i>Matt T.</i>	Matt T. <i>Stan</i>

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## Strong to Save, Strengthens to Save [Psalm 18]

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1. Introduction: the things we love

2. The LORD is Strong (2-19)

A. The ROCK... who hears and acts (2-6)

B. Strength displayed (7-19)

3. The LORD Strengthens (31-45)

4. Who the LORD is Strong For and Strengthens

A. David: his servant, king, anointed

B. David's offspring

C. Those in Christ

5. Conclusion