

The Vine

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JUDGEMENT CALL

Have you watched the soccer matches on the TV? If you watch them long enough, you will certainly come across occasions when the referee makes a decision and the TV commentators will show a flashback of the action in slow motion and comment that the referee has made the wrong judgment call. I am sure the players, managers and fans will be shouting "Referee Kayu!"

The referee knows the rules of the game and he consults his linesmen and yet sometimes he still makes a wrong call. Could it be that he has been bribed by the team his decision favours or that the referee has placed bets on the team so he is more lenient with them?

Barring all unsportsmanlike like reasons, the referee is still human and he cannot fully see what the camera can capture in slow motion.

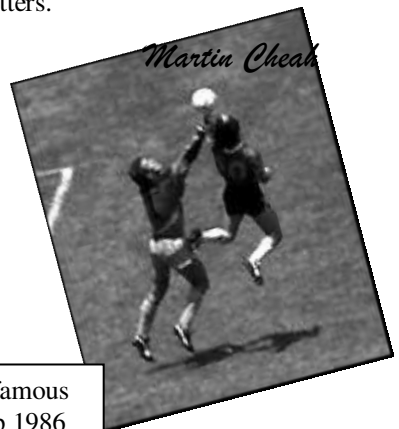
Similarly as Christians, we are called to judge, meaning to be discerning but not to be judgmental, meaning condemning. Our guideline should be found in Romans 14

1) *Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.*

3) *for God has accepted him. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.*

We are called to accept those whose faith is weak and not to condemn them. Do you sometimes think your faith is so great, then beware of the "plank in your eye."

We must be wise in our judgment but at the same time leave room for God to judge on disputable matters.



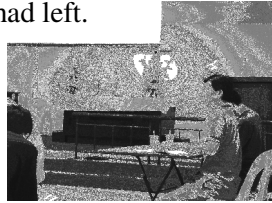
Maradona caught on camera in the infamous "hand of God" goal during World Cup 1986

JCC 37th AGM

April 10, 2005 - To many people, it is just another Sunday but for JCC members it is their Annual General Meeting and for me personally, it is the final time I have to present the accounts. Unfortunately, this year the presentation of the accounts seem to have taken up the bulk of the time. By the time all the accounts and budgets were cleared, almost half of the people had left.



It was also unfortunate that my trying to relate that the Chinese Section budget a big deficit



and yet wanted to carry out an expensive roof replacement project turned out to be a point of contention with bishop asking the Chinese Treasurer to have more faith. Indeed, I believe that my faith is not greater than hers.

Rather, given her accounting training, she must have decided to err



on the side of conservatism, which is an accounting principle. It just so happens that the English Section projected a surplus because our salary element is lower (as Swee Leong

rightly pointed out during the pre-AGM). If our salary was as much as the Chinese Section's, I believe that I too would have ended with a deficit budget because I too would not want to over inflate the budgeted income given the current economic situation and our ageing population.

Stepping down from the English Council this year, Brothers Wong Mui, Soon Eong and Martin Cheah were replaced by additions to the council, Brother James Tan and Sister Peh Ern. The meeting came to an end at about 1.00 pm. See you next year but this time I will be among those sitting in the pews.



RAMBLINGS OF THE EX-TREASURER

April 10, 2005 The 37th AGM sat through about 3 hours of discussion and finally came to an agreement to let a sub-committee make a decision on the **I**mpaired **R**oof repairs. The two roofs in question are the sanctuary roof and the flat roof.

April 18, 2005 After months of deliberation the Singapore government has finally given the green light for the construction of not one but two **I**ntegrated **R**esort projects. Promising all those who have concerns about the setting up of casinos that there will be safeguards in place and that the gaming element will only take up 5% of the whole IR floor area, which is estimated to be as big as the Singapore Zoo and the Bird Park together.

Recently, a jaguar escaped from its enclosure at the Singapore Zoo and caused an evacuation of all the visitors. I am quite sure that the jaguar's enclosure is less than 5% of the zoo area. Is this a warning of what may happen even though we try to restrict our dangerous creatures in small enclosures?

Why not just a resort? Why include a casino? Because the people who are willing to inject \$4 billion dollars will only do so if a casino is included. Any simple minded person will tell you that if he had \$4 billion dollars, he might as well put it in the bank and earn interest without the risk. So if you are willing to gamble with \$4 billion dollars, you will not be satisfied with a simple 2% interest. Imagine if the casino operators just expect to earn 10% each year - that amounts to about \$400 million dollars. If Singapore were to tax them just 5% we will be richer by \$20 million per year.

If we ever thought of rebuilding the church, now is probably the wrong time because most of the construction business will be focused on getting a piece of the \$4 billion dollar pie. However in 2009 when the project is completed, there may be excess capacity in the construction industry and we might then get them to quote us cheaply on our church building. Meanwhile that means we have about 4 years to build up our financial resources.

May the new council consider **TARGET 2009** as the year JCC building begins life anew. The building should be about 40 years old then. We have to enlarge to make space for 55,000 people.

Martin Cheah

EARTHQUAKE UNEARTHS HIDDEN WORK IN NIAS

For many years, our ex-Pastor Michael Christian laboured amongst the orphans of Nias, without pay and without recognition. Now the Tsunami and the Earthquake has revealed his work for the world to recognize.



Certainly, I am sure Michael did not expect to be famous in this lifetime, labouring in a small island off the Sumatran coast, which is largely unknown except to some diehard surfers.

As I dialogued with him over the years, he had shared about the feeling of being forgotten as he compared his poor lot with those who live in beautiful condos and houses. I think I might have reminded him that our reward may not be in this world and certainly this world is not our home.

A fresh earthquake registering 6.2 on the Richter scale was reported in the Straits Times on April 18, 2005. It was reported that some 300 residents fled up the hill to Tomorrow's Hope, the orphanage which is operated by Michael Christian. Tomorrow's Hope has been feeding Nias residents, in addition to its own 140 orphans. Sintha is staying in Medan to coordinate relief efforts and arrange for food and other daily needs to be transported to Nias.

Now maybe his lot will be better with recognition for his work by CNN, The Straits Times and other news media, including the Internet. Hopefully, support will flood in for his work. However, I hear from one of his associates that their funds are running low at the moment. May the Lord uphold His people as they labour in His field.

Martin Cheah

INTERNET TRIVIA - The Penultimate Pope

Here is a little bit of Trivia extracted from a Catholic Internet site. It concerns a prophecy (believed to be a forgery) about the number of popes before the end comes. The prophecy states that there will be 112 popes before the end. It so happens that Pope John Paul II is the 110th pope. Now the Catholics are about to elect their next pope, which is the 111th in the prophetic list.

Prophecy of St Malachy

*When I read *The Year of Three Popes* by Peter Hebblethwaite (about the events of 1978 which saw the death of Paul VI, the election and death of John Paul I, and then the election of John Paul II) he mentions the spate of editorials in the *Osservatore Romano* and the spate of letters to the editor in the *Times of London* at the time of the conclaves about what the mottos attributed to the dead pope or the next pope by St Malachy in his prophecies. Enthralled, I went to the library and looked through the microfilm of the *Times* to read the letters myself. And then I tried to track down a copy of the prophecies. The prevailing view today is that they are elaborate forgeries, probably perpetrated by a school of Jesuits in the 1600s. This is based on the clear relation of the mottos to the various popes until that period, and the need to find oblique references (such as the motto of the Pope's home diocese) to make the particular motto fit the particular pope. Nevertheless, as each new conclave comes and goes, people start to become a bit jittery about them.*

According to the prophecy, the next Pope will be the second last Pope Gloria Olivae ("Glory of the Olives"). Will we see the return of an Italian to Vatican Hill? Or will it be a Frenchman or a Spaniard?

(From the Catholic Encyclopedia 1913 edition)

The most famous and best known prophecies about the popes are those attributed to St. Malachy. In 1139 he went to Rome to give an account of the affairs of his diocese to the pope, Innocent II. While at Rome, he received (according to the Abbé Cucherat) the strange vision of the future wherein was unfolded before his mind the long list of illustrious pontiffs who were to rule the Church until the end of time. The same author tells us that St. Malachy gave his manuscript to Innocent II to console him in the midst of his

tribulations, and that the document remained unknown in the Roman Archives until its discovery in 1590. They were first published by Arnold de Wyon, and ever since there has been much discussion as to whether they are genuine predictions of St. Malachy or forgeries.

These short prophetic announcements, in number 112, indicate some noticeable trait of all future popes from Celestine II, who was elected in the year 1130, until the end of the world. The last of these prophecies concerns the end of the world and is as follows: "In the final persecution of the Holy Roman Church there will reign Peter the Roman, who will feed his flock amid many tribulations, after which the seven-hilled city will be destroyed and the dreadful Judge will judge the people. The End." It has been noticed concerning Petrus Romanus, who according to St. Malachy's list is to be the last pope, that the prophecy does not say that no popes will intervene between him and his predecessor designated Gloria olivoe. It merely says that he is to be the last, so that we may suppose as many popes as we please before "Peter the Roman".

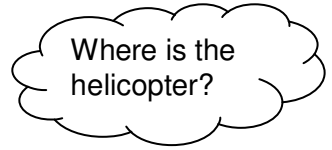
Pope No	Name	Prophecy No
262	Pius XII (1939-1958)	106
263	John XXIII (1958-1963)	107
264	Paul VI (1963-1978)	108
265	John Paul I (1978)	109
266	John Paul II (1978-2005)	110
267	Benedict XVI (2005-)	111
268	???	112

We have to read all end times prophecies with care because Jesus said in Matthew 24:36, "No one knows about that day or

hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." What we have to do then is mentioned in Matthew 24:12-14, "Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." What God wants us to do is to stand firm to the end and preach the gospel to the whole world. Are we doing that? If not, what are we waiting for? It may be closer than we think.

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE SEASIDE

One day, I was ferrying three old ladies towards the seaside to help them scatter the ashes of their dearly departed into the sea. As we sped along the highway in my father's car, I suddenly heard what sounded to me like the chopping sound of a helicopter.



It didn't occur to me that the sound was from my rear tire, which had burst, until the sound grew so loud that I looked back to see where the helicopter was and I notice smoke coming out from my rear. In a flash, I began stepping on the brakes but the brakes were not working already because of the burst tire. Fortunately, there were no cars on the road as I maneuvered my father's car across three lanes to the side of the road.

The car came to a stop and as I got out of it, the rear wheel came rolling pass me and landing somewhere a few feet in front. The car was now resting on its rims.

Thank God that the three old ladies did not suffer from a heart attack from this incident. Thank God also that this accident although could be fatal, turned out to be just a lesson on God's protection and providence for His children.

The above testimony of Pastor Samuel Wang was shared with us in the Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting.

Martin Cheah

Question

Do you know of any Bible verses pertaining to Christians dating non-Christians?

Answer

The Bible does not speak specifically of "dating", however it says:

"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial [Satan]? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols?"

[2 Corinthians 6:14-16]

These verses are commonly applied to marriage, but actually apply to any spiritual endeavor. Since marriage is one of the highest spiritual relationships we can have here on earth between people, "being married in Christ", then it would also fit dating. A man and woman was designed and created by God to have a spiritual, physical, and emotional relationship. A prime factor in the failure of marriages in our culture is the lack of spiritual relationship between a husband and wife. The Word of God says, "We love because he [Jesus] first loved us." [1 John 4:19] In other words, a married couple's "real" capacity to love one another, with a true and deep love comes only after they each have personally experienced the love of God through Jesus, which comes with our salvation.

What the Bible is clearly saying is that believers cannot marry unbelievers, therefore we are not to date an unbeliever, for one can easily find themselves getting involved in a love relationship and then violating God's clear command not to marry an unbeliever. Another verse that comes to mind that lets us know God's command regarding marriage is, "A woman . . . is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord." [1 Corinthians 7:39] The context is speaking of a Christian woman whose husband dies, but the principle is the same, when Christians marry, they must marry a believer.

When a Christian marries an unbeliever, then they will find that they have two different directions in their lives, and the unbeliever will drag down the believer into sin and will not promote a close walk with the Lord.

In addition, the Husband is to be the spiritual leader of the family, and how can that be if he is an unbeliever. Likewise, the Bible tells us, "Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring." [Malachi 2:15] God wants Christians marrying Christians because He wants godly children, children brought up to honor and adore Him.

Often times, there is the temptation to marry an unbeliever because they "are so nice, or handsome, or lovely" and that we will "lead them to Christ" later. This is defying God's commands and usually ends up in misery and/or divorce.

Tony Capoccia

www.biblebb.com and www.gospelgems.com

COMBINED CG OUTING TO LABRADOR PARK

On 19th March, the Taman Jurong and Abundance Cell Groups organized an outing to Labrador Park. They invited many people from a neighbouring block next to JCC. In all, over 60 people turned up for the outing.



The group had sing-along jamming sessions and also fun and games. They explored the highlights of the park and especially its historical sites. It was a fun day and the weather was fine.



BOYS' BRIGADE & GIRLS' BRIGADE ENROLMENT SERVICE 2005

Sunday 17th April 2005 The Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade held a combined enrolment service.

The boys and girls gathered in church around 8.00 am and went through their drills and awards presentations. At 10.30 am they went up to the service hall to be enrolled and after the service, there was a buffet lunch.





More memorable moments captured on camera...



When will the world come to an end?

*(John Lee shares his thoughts with a revisit of **THE BIBLE CODE**)*

You have heard news of the destructions wrecked by the tsunami. It did not end there, but was soon followed by a second strong earthquake that hit close by. We hope that there would be no more of it. Alas! Experts have warned that a third killer quake is yet to come! What do all these portend? Will there be any conclusion to all the human anguish at the hands of nature?

You have heard about the rising incidences of AIDS. At least, for our comfort, AIDS is preventable – How? Simply by responsible behaviour, which means no casual sex or gay associations. Unfortunately, avian flu is not so easily preventable by all the health measures that people can put in place. Referring to the outbreak of bird flu, the World Health Organization has said that “the world is in the gravest possible danger of a pandemic.” (Historical fact: The last influenza pandemic occurred in 1918-1919, and within just one year killed tens of millions, making the number of deaths in World War I look less significant.)

What else have you heard? Of wars and rumours of wars? Apart from the stirrings in the Middle-east, potential flashpoints are numerous in Asia – Think of potential sparks from the North Korean nuclear ambition, the multilateral territorial disputes over some islands, the China-Taiwan imbroglio, and so on. Above all these, The One Huge War that is being waged around the world is that between the terrorists and all nations. This is the war that has no geographical boundaries, a war that extends worldwide.

Have you heard enough yet? How about false prophets and their prophecies? You may recall that as we turned the century, the doomsday list became a popular interest of wannabe horoscope experts, fortune-tellers, fengshui diviners and enthusiasts of all descriptions who wanted to make a reputation for themselves as budding clairvoyants or spiritualists.

Sadly, quotations that are out of context, incomplete or fragrantly distorted often make their way into the minds of the gullible and whip up unnecessary hysteria to the point that some naïve individuals are even led up the garden path to self-destruction by suicide cults or false preachers of martyrdom. A case in point is that the name of French physician and astrologer, Nostradamus, has often been cited out of place to propagate falsehoods. Famously, or rather infamously, the Internet crackled with the following prophecy attributed to Nostradamus at the height of the obliteration of the World Trade Centre towers in America:

*"In the City of God there will be a great thunder,
Two brothers torn apart by Chaos,
while the fortress endures,
the great leader will succumb,
The third big war will begin when the big city is
burning
(Nostradamus 1654)"*

You may be amused to know that Nostradamus must have made the forecast from his grave if it was not all the creative work of somebody else with nothing better to do than to put the gullibility of people around the world to the test. (Nostradamus kicked the bucket in 1566!)

Some modern-day “prophets” conveniently bank on Scripture to lend credence to their claims by quoting wars and revolutions, nation rising against nation and kingdom against kingdom, great earthquakes, famines and pestilences, and fearful events and great signs from heaven. (See Luke 21:8-10) So astrologers have “support”, even from Scripture, to look to the stars for signs of the end of the world. If these “prophets” favour quoting from the Bible, it is fair for us to return them the favour:

“If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. That prophet has

*spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.”
(Deut. 18:22)*

Do not be afraid. If the Bible is properly quoted, we should find the truth, and the truth will set us free from fear. We can ask Jesus about when the world will come to an end and when He will come again to meet us in Person, but His disciples did ask these questions and the answers were given and have been recorded in all the Gospels:

“Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.” (Underlining mine)

Unlike today’s “prophets”, Jesus’ answer to the questions in our mind about His second coming is not meant to put fear in us, but to enlighten for the purpose that we ought to be prepared (be sober) at all times rather than being geared up with tension only at the moment of reckoning. Indeed, we won’t know when exactly the time will be, and it is not God’s intention for us to know. “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” (Matt. 25:13) If there is anyone who claims to know and he is to be believed, then the Bible is not to be believed, and we can ignore the parable of the ten virgins. Certainly, we know that anyone who makes such a claim, yet quote Scripture, would be self-contradictory. Hence, it is wise of us to keep our distance from such a person as we heed the warning from our Lord to be “always on the watch”(Luke 21:36):

Truth be told, the day of the Lord’s second coming is not even within our means to guess. We can know something about what the world will be like at that time and, when it comes to pass, the truth of the Scriptural pronouncements will be confirmed. However, this does not mean that when we do behold the events that match the descriptions in the Bible, then the moment of the Lord’s coming is being pinpointed. Modern-day prophecies have been plentiful due to the profusion of awesome happenings – dramatic progress in science

and technology, momentous environmental goings-on with rapid degeneration of Earth's eco-system, calamitous tendencies of governments and nations, the real threats of nuclear and natural disasters of unprecedented magnitudes, etc. Yet, most of them never come true with the passage of the prophetic dates. Of those that are still "alive", meaning that we still have time to wait for their fulfillment, will they be different? I don't know, but Dr Mark Chan of Eagles Communications provided food for thought when he wrote, "Depending on one's ecclesiastical tradition, the gift of prophecy has either ceased with the Apostles, or it continues to be exercised by contemporary prophets who claim to bring God's revelatory word for specific situations." Whatever a Christian's ecclesiastical bent, however, it can be said that modern-day prophecies are not of the same breed as historical prophecies that have been accepted by Bible scholars and affirmed as testifying to the veracity of Scripture as the Word of God.

Remember Michael Drosnin and his book, *The Bible Code*? When it was first published in the year 1997, the book was listed as the number one bestseller. (I contributed to the bestseller rating too by purchasing a copy*, though not with fervour over the claims but out of curiosity. Fortunately, the curiosity did not kill me as it would a cat. ☺) It was certainly published in good time to catch people who were in a whirl, struck as they were by the millennial fever. For good measure, the media were also whipped up in frenzy. In case you need a reminder, the author claimed that the Bible in Hebrew contains a hidden code that predicts the exact dates of events, one of which being the humongous event called the Apocalypse ("the 'End of Days' had already begun.") The secret code had predicted exactly when, where and by whom then Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would be assassinated, so it was claimed, and countless more other incidents. Throughout history, doomsayers had been found to make false calls on "future" events. Now, there have also been assertions of predictions in the Bible code that did not come true. Michael Drosnin remains atheistic despite his fabulous earth-shaking assertions about the code's revelations of the apocalyptic events. It confounds me greatly by just a quick perusal of the book from chapter to chapter that here is one author who does not believe in

God, yet would refer to the Bible liberally to validate the Bible code. This is his own admission in Pg 75*, “I had proof that there was a code, but not proof there was a God.”

What Drosnin believes bears likeness to the New Age movement’s fundamental concept of benevolent aliens. I quote him, “The Bible code is, **in fact**, an alternative form of contact scientists searching for intelligent life beyond this planet have suggested: ‘the discovery of an alien artifact or message on or near Earth.’” (*Pg 71**, *emphasis mine*.) Furthermore, in Pg 75*, “The code seemed ... to be from someone good ... who wanted to warn us of a terrible danger so we could prevent it ourselves.” He went on to mention what the Book of Revelation states about the Final Battle. Drosnin’s outright declaration about the coded message coming from some good alien, together with his denial of God coupled with his paradoxical substantial usage of Scripture for backing, throws up considerable misgivings about the reliability of all the claims he made in his book about the Bible code.

May I say, **in fact**, that Drosnin is a smart guy (formerly a journalist) who knew how to cover himself with an appropriate all-encompassing caveat: “The code may be neither ‘right’ nor ‘wrong’. It probably tells us what might happen, not what will happen.” (*Pg 142**) So, he can’t possibly be wrong whichever way events turn out. Moreover, if there is any scary prediction in the book, nobody needs to be hysterical over it because it might or might not happen; i.e., the code does not really point anywhere.

Also, **in fact**, it is not too difficult to accept what Drosnin says about the End of Days, “According to the Bible code, it had already begun. This was the beginning of the long-prophesied Apocalypse” (*Pg 66**) which actually means that the finale of “the end” is not here yet and we still do not know when it will be. What do you think this makes of the value of the Bible code? Isn’t this similar to what Christians have always been telling one another to be prepared, for the second coming of Christ is near? We know the warning of Scripture (e.g. Book of Revelations) to be prepared, lest we are caught by surprise when Christ comes like a thief,

unexpected, but “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” (Mk 12:32) We don’t need a code to tell us this, for it is plainly there in the Word.

Just in case you have read the book and come across the prophecy about WWII in Year 2000 or ____, and imagination gets the better of you to interpret it as possibly referring to the terrorism war that is worldwide, let me straighten the fact that Drosnin is not connecting WWII with the current state of terrorism in the world, for he says, “According to the Bible code, that is how World War III might begin – with an atomic attack on Jerusalem, followed by an invasion of Israel. (Pg 103*)

I am sorry that after so many words, I have still not given you the answer to the question “When will the world come to an end?” Let me confess, and apologize for your disappointment, if any, and set the record straight that I do not have the answer; and I do not believe that anybody has the answer, given that it is not God’s will for us to know. Let us just follow our Lord’s instruction to be prepared at all times. Ignorance of the day and the hour is bliss, since nobody will just sit back and wait for the arrival when his time can be more blessedly spent. We are always on our toes, like a conscientious student or a disciplined soldier who is constantly in readiness for an unannounced test, whether in the classroom or battlefield. We neither doubt God’s Way in keeping Christ’s second coming under wraps nor hearken to the fools’ self-flattery of knowing the unknown. The complacency of fools will kill them but whoever listens to the Lord will be at ease, without fear. (Ref: Solomon’s advice against rejecting wisdom, Prov. 1:32-33)

* All page numbers above refer to my paperback copy of THE BIBLE CODE by Michael Drosnin, published in 1997 by Orion Books Ltd, London. I believe the book has also been produced by other publishers.

How do we know the Bible is true?

There have been hundreds of books written on the subject of the evidences of the divine inspiration of the Bible, and these evidences are many and varied. Most people today, unfortunately, have not read any of these books. In fact, few have even read the Bible itself! Thus, many people tend to go along with the popular delusion that the Bible is full of mistakes and is no longer relevant to our modern world.

Nevertheless the Bible writers claimed repeatedly that they were transmitting the very Word of God, infallible and authoritative in the highest degree. This is an amazing thing for any writer to say, and if the forty or so men who wrote the Scriptures were wrong in these claims, then they must have been lying, or insane, or both.

But, on the other hand, if the greatest and most influential book of the ages, containing the most beautiful literature and the most perfect moral code ever devised, was written by deceiving fanatics, then what hope is there for ever finding meaning and purpose in this world?

If one will seriously investigate these Biblical evidences, he will find that their claims of divine inspiration were amply justified.

Fulfilled Prophecies

The remarkable evidence of fulfilled prophecy is just one case in point. Hundreds of Bible prophecies have been fulfilled, specifically and meticulously, often long after the prophetic writer had passed away.

For example, Daniel the prophet predicted in about 538 BC that Christ would come as Israel's promised Savior and Prince 483 years after the Persian emperor would give the Jews authority to rebuild Jerusalem, which was then in ruins. This was clearly and definitely fulfilled, hundreds of years later.

There are extensive prophecies dealing with individual nations and cities and with the course of history in general, all of which have been literally fulfilled. Only the Bible manifests this remarkable prophetic evidence, and it does so on such a tremendous scale as to render completely absurd any explanation other than divine revelation.

Unique Historical Accuracy

The historical accuracy of the Scriptures is likewise in a class by itself, far superior to the written records of Egypt, Assyria, and other early nations. Archeological confirmations of the Biblical record have been almost innumerable in the last century. Dr. Nelson Glueck, probably the greatest modern authority on Israeli archeology, has said: "No archeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the Bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries."

Scientific Accuracy

Another striking evidence of divine inspiration is found in the fact that many of the principles of modern science were recorded as facts of nature in the Bible long before scientist confirmed them experimentally. A sampling of these would include:

Roundness of the earth (Isaiah 40:22)

Almost infinite extent of the sidereal universe (Isaiah 55:9)

Law of conservation of mass and energy (II Peter 3:7)

Hydrologic cycle (Ecclesiastes 1:7)

Vast number of stars (Jeremiah 33:22)

Law of increasing entropy (Psalm 102:25-27)

Paramount importance of blood in life processes (Leviticus 17:11)

Atmospheric circulation (Ecclesiastes 1:6)

Gravitational field (Job 26:7)

These are not stated in the technical jargon of modern science, of course, but in terms of the basic world of man's everyday experience; nevertheless, they are completely in accord with the most modern scientific facts.

Unique Structure

The remarkable structure of the Bible should also be stressed. Although it is a collection of 66 books, written by 40 or more different men over a period of 2,000 years, it is clearly one Book, with perfect unity and consistency throughout.

The individual writers, at the time of writing, had no idea that their message was eventually to be incorporated into such a Book, but each nevertheless fits perfectly into place and serves its own unique purpose as a component of the whole. Anyone who diligently studies the Bible will continually find remarkable structural and mathematical patterns woven throughout its fabric, with an intricacy and symmetry incapable of explanation by chance or collusion.

The one consistent theme of the Bible, developing in grandeur from Genesis to Revelation, is God's great work in the creation and redemption of all things, through His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Bible's Unique Effect

The Bible is unique also in terms of its effect on individual men and on the history of nations. It is the all-time best seller, appealing both to hearts and minds, beloved by at least some in every race or nation or tribe to which it has gone, rich or poor, scholar or simple, king or commoner, men of literally every background and walk of life. No other book has ever held such universal appeal nor produced such lasting effects.

One final evidence that the Bible is true is found in the testimony of those who have believed it. Multitudes of people, past and present, have found from personal experience that its promises are true, its counsel is sound, its commands and restrictions are wise, and its wonderful message of salvation meets every need for both time and eternity.

Daily Delights

Have you booked your leave yet? Coming up next month on May 28th to 30th will be the Church Retreat. Following up on last year's SPIRITUAL DELIGHT, this year's retreat is called DAILY DELIGHTS.

The theme of this retreat is evangelistic and the speaker Mr Gn Chiang Tat is from Singapore Youth for Christ.



Advantages of this retreat is that traveling time is short because it is at Kota Tinggi Waterfalls Resort; the cost is one of the lowest in recent years, only \$160 per adult (quad sharing) and the youths are involved in the planning committee so they will add some spark to the retreat. Bring the whole family, we have programs for the kids, the youths and even the senior citizens.



Hurry book early so that the retreat committee can finalize its plans and confirmations in good time. Get the application forms from brother Young Kwang or any of the retreat committee members –



Kim Keong; Kin Siong; Thomas Tan; Cassidy Yam; Celeste; Peter Cheong or William Tan.