



# WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

**3 OCT 2021 | SIGNS OF THE END OF THE AGE | MATTHEW 24:3-31**

Series : Jesus is Coming Back (Pt 1/5) | Speaker : Josh Yeoh

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## WELCOME

[15 MINS]

You may want to look up the following websites for icebreakers suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

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## WORSHIP

[15 MINS]

You may select songs like

1. Blessed Assurance (My King is Coming)
  2. Reward
  3. Revelation Song
- 



## WORD

[45 MINS]

### SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Watch and pray as we look for the signs of the times while we fix our eyes on Jesus.
2. Prepare ourselves and our loved ones to be ready for the end of the age and Jesus' return.
3. Reach out to the lost and proclaim the Good News until He comes.

### SERMON SUMMARY

This sermon series is important for two reasons:

1. We live in a unique generation where there is a possibility of completing the Great Commission and seeing the return of Jesus.
2. We have a unique responsibility in this hour of history to respond rightly to what Jesus has called us to do.

In [Matthew 24:3-31](#), Jesus responds to His disciples' questions by showing them clear signs that will precede His coming and the end of the age – not so that they would speculate but that they would be prepared and to prepare others. He gives us four clear signs from the passage: Disasters in the world, developments in the church, distress in Jerusalem, and darkness in the heavens before He returns. He warns us of the dangers of false messiahs and prophets, and He cautions us not to be deceived. He also calls us to be watchful and to be prepared ahead of time. The posture every believer should have is to be found “ready” and “anticipating” the return of Christ.

## **SERMON RECAP**

“[Maranatha](#)” is an Aramaic word used as a greeting and a battle cry in the persecuted church in the New Testament. Maranatha means “Come, Lord Jesus.” If we could summarise this sermon series in the next five weeks, is that we would have the same battle cry in our hearts – “Maranatha, come Lord Jesus.” This series is important for two reasons.

### **1. We live in a unique generation**

For the first time in history, the Gospel could reach all people. We live in a generation where we know where all the unreached people groups are. Entire missions organisations have been birthed to complete the Great Commission. We have all the resources we need to finish the task of world evangelisation. The prophets all through the Old Testament were longing for the day when something like this would happen. Today, Jesus is pointing us to a day when the consummation of all things will happen, and we get to partner with Him to hasten the day of His return, the day Jesus gets in full what He paid for.

### **2. We have a unique responsibility**

The Lord's instructions to us become more important the closer we get to the end of the age. We are in a generation where we are almost at the finish line. We want His words to search and strike our hearts. Loving God is not enough. Loving God biblically means to obey Him. Many of us have a sincere love for God. But in this hour of history where He is about to do something unprecedented, sincere love must transition into mature love. And this mature love obeys Him in all things. We must know what Jesus is saying to us so we can obey Him. It is His invitation for us to join in God's story and prepare for Jesus' return.

## **Four Clear Signs from Matthew 24**

Jesus gave us signs, not so that we could speculate about the future, or conjecture who the Antichrist is, or who is forming the One World Government. It's not about conspiracy but about preparation. The signs help us to prepare ourselves, our loved ones, our families, and our generations for His return. When these signs unfold, we are not to be discouraged or surprised, for these signs serve to fuel our faith. This entire study of the end times (or eschatology) can be summarised in two words – Jesus wins.

### **Sign 1: Disasters in the World (vv 4-8) – War, Earthquakes, Famine**

This sign is the beginning of birth pains before a new birth. While the world is dismayed and does not know what is happening, the church is not alarmed. We are hopeful, for we know Jesus is coming back. Despite these global disasters, the danger in this sign is that there will be false messiahs who will deceive those both inside and outside the church. But our antidote for this danger is John 10:27, “My sheep will hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” Have we listened to Jesus long enough to discern who the false messiahs are? When we listen long enough to the real thing, we can immediately know the counterfeit. Have we made it a habit to behold Christ daily?

### **Sign 2: Developments in the Church (vv 9-14) – Persecution, Pressure, Preaching**

The church will not just experience persecution, but experience it on a global scale. This pressure will cause the love of many in the church to grow cold, and many will fall away. Nominal Christians will leave but the pressure will

refine the rest of the church. The purified true church will have a greater impact in the world, and the Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached to all nations. The danger in this sign is that there will be false prophets – those who “preach peace where there is no peace” (Jeremiah 6:14). Pressure will escalate and become intense where even the wheat (true disciples) and the tares (nominal Christians) will grow together. In spite of this, the true church will endure to the end.

### **Sign 3: Distress in Jerusalem (vv 15-28) – The Abomination of Desolation**

Persecution will also happen to the nation of Israel at a very intense level akin to “the abomination of desolation” ([Daniel 11:30-31](#)). The Antichrist or “the man of lawlessness” ([2 Thessalonians 2:3-10](#)) will set himself in Jerusalem, calling himself God and will influence the whole world. The danger in this sign is that there will be false Christs and false prophets. They will lead us astray if we do not use our spiritual eyes to see what is really happening and to prepare to stand with Israel.

### **Sign 4: Darkness in the Heavens (vv 29-31) – The Second Coming**

When the end of the age comes, God is going to turn off all the lights in the sky. The sun will be darkened, the moon will cease to give us light, and lightning will suddenly flash across the earth. Jesus will then come in the clouds, in the same way He left 2,000 years ago. And as He comes, the church will be caught up to be with Him. In this sign, there is finally no danger, because we are going to be with Him and He is going to wipe every tear from our eyes, for there will be no more pain, sorrow nor death. ([Revelation 21:4](#)).

### **Conclusion**

All these signs must take place, but the end is not yet ([Matthew 24:6](#)). They are just the beginning of birth pains. Our hearts will not be dismayed, discouraged or alarmed, for those who endure to the end will be saved. And the Gospel of the Kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. May we stay faithful to the end, and be found standing as a pure and spotless Bride of Christ.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. When it comes to the topic of the End Times or Second Coming, what has been your experience? [15 Mins]**
  
- 2. In light of the coming end of the age, Jesus tells us to be prepared now and gives us sober warnings ahead of time. Read [Matthew 24:9-14](#) and reflect on Jesus’ warnings there. Do you see yourself vulnerable in any of the situations He mentions? If so, what steps will you take to be “the one who stands firm to the end” (v13)? [15 Mins]**
  
- 3. If we are waiting for the Second Coming while some have never heard of Jesus’ first coming, what are you personally doing to proclaim the Gospel to others? How is God leading you in this area? [15 Mins]**



Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

**1. Sermon Application**

- Every disciple in RiverLife will awaken to the reality and nearness of Jesus' return.
- We will evaluate how prepared we are for His coming and to truly live in light of His return.
- We will commit to share the Good News near and far.

**2. COVID-19 in Singapore**

- God's intervention as we experience a sharp increase in the number of community cases and a return to tighter social measures in society.
- God's hand to alleviate the sufferings, and for practical help to arise and be rendered to these suffering communities, especially the old and the vulnerable.

**3. Exam Period**

- Pray for all our children who are going through their exams. (PSLE until Wednesday (6 Oct), O/A levels preparation)
- Pray for the parents of these children as well for strength, wisdom and grace.

**4. COVID-19 in the World**

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a sharp reduction in cases, and a stabilised environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.
- Protection and guidance for healthcare professionals at the frontline, giving them wisdom, courage, and strength to confront this crisis.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[5 MINS]

- 1. Services Update for October.** As a result of the new measure, there will only be ONE English Adult service at 9am on Sundays. There will be NO in-person gatherings in October for children. All SuperLife classes will be done online.
- 2. New Pulpit Series: Jesus is Coming Back (3-31 Oct).** This series will unpack Jesus' prophecy on the Mount of Olives in Matthew 24 & 25, and help us gain insight on how to live with understanding of the times. The series will follow a weekly rhythm of Sunday Sermons, Tuesday Prayer Room Sessions based on Matthew 25 and Thursday Equipping Nights with Peter Tsukahira, tackling four key end-time topics.
- 3. Missions from Home.** What does Missions look like when we're unable to travel? We believe God is calling RiverLifers to sow continually and faithfully into the nations by partnering Him and adapting in the way we approach Missions. We have 104 RiverLifers who have signed up for 9 MFH teams, reaching out to India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand. Over the next few months, they will be collaborating with our Missions Partners to develop missions projects that provide prayer support, resources and raise awareness for

their ministries. We encourage all to get involved by praying, giving, or serving. Find out more about the different countries we're working with: [rlc.sg/mfh](http://rlc.sg/mfh). Join a MFH team: [rlc.sg/mfh-serve](http://rlc.sg/mfh-serve)

- 4. Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (e.g. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc.), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
- 5. Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our Two-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.

## ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

- 1. PayNow**

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200100806D.

- 2. Interbank Transfer**

RiverLife Church Bank Account: *DBS Autosave 029-902431-0*  
Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



## ONLINE DONATION TO RIVERLIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Donate digitally:

- 1. PayNow**

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200711586WDON

