

INTRODUCTION 引言

There are people who can see things way ahead of everyone else. We call them pioneers or geniuses. They sent astronauts to the moon, discovered cures for serious diseases and built the internet. You are watching this sermon on YouTube, which was created by three guys in 2005. Those inventors came up with a solution even before others realized the problem. In the Bible, the prophets can predict the future with 100% certainty. It is because their messages originated from God. Today we will study a section of a letter written by prophet Jeremiah. He served as a prophet for about 40 years during the last five kings of the southern kingdom of Judah. At that time Babylon was a rising star. It defeated Assyria and Egypt, and became the superpower of the time. Israel was the next target. But it was more than a stronger kingdom conquering a weaker nation. You may have heard the saying that human history is His (God's) story. God intended to use Babylon to discipline Judah. Many kings in the dynasty of David imitated other nations to worship idols. There was injustice in the society. Jeremiah was sent to convict such a corrupted generation. His message was clear: repent before it is too late. In the book, **29:11** is a familiar verse to most of us – “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” God’s punishment was imminent. However, even in such a hopeless situation there was still hope. Chapter 29 is part of a letter written to some Israelites who were already in Babylon. They were in the first of the three waves of exile. God had a message of hope for them. People in our time need a message of hope too. The coronavirus pandemic shocks whole world. Sickness and death cause fear. The global economy crumbles. God has a message of hope for us despite a feeling of hopelessness. From chapter 29 of the book of Jeremiah, let us keep in mind that our sovereign God always has a good purpose in what we face in life.

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Message of Comfort 安慰的信息 (v. 5-9)

God wanted to convey a message of comfort to His people. God told those refugees to do a few things. First of all, just lived a normal life. Look at **verse 5**: “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.” God asked them to build houses, but not tents. It was because they would live there for some time. They would stay for 70 years according to verse 10. Second, kept multiplying. Continue to read **verse 6**: “Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease.” Since the Israelites would stay, they might as well start their families. Seventy years are long enough to see one’s grandchildren. Be fruitful and multiply were the first commands God gave to Adam and Eve. The Israelites did that when they were slaves in Egypt. They did the same thing after they went into Canaan. Growing in population is a blessing from God. According to the Law of Moses, they could only marry Israelites. That would keep the purity of the race. Thirdly, they had to submit to the local authority. See **verse 7**: “Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” God ordered

them to pray for their captors. If Babylon did well, then so would them. Therefore, they should not even think about starting a revolution to overthrow Babylon. Just lived as law-abiding immigrants. On the one hand, they blended in to the society. On the other hand, they maintained their uniqueness as Jews. Historians said that Israelites followed the same model in all the later migrations. That helps preserve their culture, customs and religion. Besides the above three things, God added a fourth that they should not do. Look at **verse 8-9**: 8 ... “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. 9 They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the Lord. God had given them His authoritative instructions. Anyone else who claimed to have new revelation from the Lord is a phony messenger. One example of fake information can be found in this same chapter. Some false prophets told people who were still in Judah not to surrender to the Babylonians. They assured people that God would rescue them. Those who spread false hope and those who believed in them were eventually killed by the Babylonians. The four requests became a message of comfort to the people in exile. God would continue to watch over them. They would not only survive. They would thrive. They had to make adjustments. Their homeland was no more. They could not go to the Dead Sea for vacation. There was no traditional delicacy on the streets. There would be tears when they thought of the past. But God gave them peace if they would obey Him. Today, God also has a message of comfort for us. We too have to readjust to a new norm. The virus outbreak will forever change our habits. We will think twice before shaking people’s hands. We will stand six feet away when talking to a stranger. We will wash our hands more thoroughly every time we do so. For now, we will be confined at home. It is a good time to cherish the freedom and convenience we take for granted. Do not grumble that the malls and movie theaters are closed. Give thanks to God for your home, family and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Be sure to pray for our government leaders. They work long hours to collect information, discuss with experts before they can make important decisions that affect everyone. Be careful whom you listen to nowadays too. There are just too many people who intentionally use fake news to mislead people. I know you trust your good friends without any question. However, you need to check where they got their WeChat or Facebook posts. Ask God to give you wisdom and discernment. Above all, praise God because He is the ultimate source of comfort.

2. Message about Confess 悔改的信息 (v. 12-14)

God did not only give His people a message of comfort, He also gave them a message about confession. God urged the Israelites to come back to Him. Read **verses 12-13**: 12 “Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Pay attention to the key words in these 2 verses – call upon, come and pray, and seek. God promised that He would hear their prayer if they searched Him wholeheartedly. It is not going to the Lord only when we run into something we cannot deal with. But to trust Him with all our hearts. God cares more about our relationship with Him than just giving us a solution. In the past, Israel put confidence in its wealth, military strength, wisdom of the leaders or even false gods. But they refused to follow God’s instructions. Therefore, God disciplined His people. I mentioned before that Jeremiah served as an advisor to five kings. The first king Jeremiah served was Josiah. His grandpa Manasseh reigned for 55 years. He dragged the whole country into idol worship. He even set up altars in God’s temple to present offerings to pagan gods! But Josiah decided to do what God saw as right. He sent people

to clean up the temple. A high priest then found the Law of Moses. An official read the content to the king. Josiah's heart was crushed when he heard God's Word. He realized why God punished his ancestors. They did not do what God required, but they did all the wicked things God forbade. It was like a team evaluating why they lost a game. One player said: "Duh! It's because we did not follow the play-book. We didn't listen to the coach's instructions." Josiah then sent his official to ask God for guidance. The Lord spoke through a prophetess. Listen to **2 Kings 22:16-17** – 16 "This is what the Lord says: I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people, according to everything written in the book the king of Judah has read. 17 Because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods and provoked me to anger by all the idols their hands have made, my anger will burn against this place and will not be quenched." There would be more judgment to come. But God assured Josiah that since he was a noble king, he would not face any of those calamities. Josiah immediately started a spiritual reform in the country, hoping to turn the tide. He led his people to renew their covenant with God. Everyone vowed to follow the Law from then on. Next, Josiah ordered to destroyed all the shrines for idol worship. He also got rid of all the sorcerers. Finally, he declared to observe the Passover, something Israel had not been doing in centuries! Josiah brought a great revival to the nation. However, Israel returned to its sinful ways soon after Josiah was killed in a battle. Therefore, God exercised His judgment as He had planned. That was why the recipients of Jeremiah's letter were now in Babylon. But there is hope if God's people confess their sins. Let us look at **verse 14** as we go back to Jeremiah chapter 29: "I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile." God promised to forgive their sins if they humbled themselves and returned to Him. He would bring them back to their homeland. They could rebuild their city and God's temple. Most importantly, God would renew His relationship with them. God repeats similar messages throughout the whole Bible. He is the Father of the prodigal son. He is always waiting for us to return to Him and confess our sins. This time of shut-in is a good opportunity for us to reflect our relationship with God. Confess any sin that the Holy Spirit reveals in your heart. We admit our sins without any excuse. We cannot justify our sins that: "I was born that way" or "Satan tempts me." We commit sins because we disobey God intentionally. Confession is more than saying sorry to God. We also need to recommit ourselves to Him. With God's help, we determine to walk in His ways and say no to temptation.

3. Message to Confront 定罪的信息 (v. 15-19)

God sent words of hope to His people. It was a message of comfort and a message calling for confession. Thirdly, it was also a message to confront people's sins. Those who did not surrender to Babylon could not escape an upcoming judgment from God. Listen to **verse 17**: ... "I will send the sword, famine and plague against them and I will make them like poor figs that are so bad they cannot be eaten." Eventually, all those left behind in Judah would perish. In the Old Testament, fig tree is a symbol for Israel. Actually, in chapter 24 God reveals His plan in a vision of two baskets of figs. The good ones represent those in exile. Let us read **24:5** – "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Like these good figs, I regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I sent away from this place to the land of the Babylonians.'" God would take care of those who submitted to His discipline and went to Babylon. They would come back to their homeland 70 years later. God would build them up and they would once again acknowledge Him as their

Lord. As for the basket of bad figs, listen to **verse 8**: “‘But like the poor figs, which are so bad they cannot be eaten,’ says the Lord, ‘so will I deal with Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials and the survivors from Jerusalem, whether they remain in this land or live in Egypt.’” The fate of those who did not surrender to Babylon would be like bad figs that would be discarded. God used Babylon as a means to discipline both groups of people. Look at **Jeremiah 27:6** – “Now I will hand all your countries over to my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; I will make even the wild animals subject to him.” God was speaking to Zedekiah, the last king of Judah, and the few neighboring countries that formed an alliance to combat Babylon. God described Nebuchadnezzar as His servant! God used a pagan nation as a spanking rod for His wayward child. In fact, the same expression of “I carried you into exile” appears in verses 4, 7 and 14 of chapter 29. It was God using Babylon to capture His people. The rise of Babylon and its domination over other nations were all in God’s plan. The same is true for Egypt, Persia and Rome. They are simply pieces on God’s chess-board to accomplish His will. Israel was privileged to be God’s chosen people. They were supposed to reflect God’s holiness and righteousness. But they failed miserably. However, God maintains His compassion even in His discipline. Listen to **Ezekiel 18:23** – “Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked?” declares the Sovereign Lord. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?” Ezekiel was a prophet served in the final days of Judah just like Jeremiah. Can you sense God’s love in those words? Turn back before it is too late! God’s invitation is not only for Israel, but also for the whole world. We may wonder if God is judging us when a major disaster happens. Six thousand people were killed in the 9/11 event. Some people suggested that God was judging our pride in money and materialism. Over 200,000 lives were lost in the Asian tsunami in December of 2004. Someone said God punished those countries that worship idols. Now we are facing the coronavirus. Is God disciplining us? The simple answer is: we do not know! We are not God and so we can only postulate. Suffice to say, we should show compassion to people who lost their loved ones in any tragic event. Some of you may know someone directly or indirectly who are still in the hospital or even died from the virus. Every life is precious to God. Jesus told us that as the day of His second coming is getting near there will be stronger, clearer and more frequent signs. They include wars, famines, earthquakes, religious persecution, false prophets and people turning cold to the truth. Is our world coming to an end soon? No one knows. But one thing is sure. As time progresses, we are getting closer to Jesus’ return. He is coming to confront sin a final time. As Christians, we have to look at our world through the lens of the Bible. We should be grateful for God’s protection each time we dodge a catastrophe. But we need to pray for our generation. Patients need recovery from infection. All of us need deliverance from fear. Seeker friends need God’s rescue from the bondage of sin. Pray that God will change their hearts.

CONCLUSION 結論

Our sovereign God always has a good purpose in what we face in life. He has a meticulous plan for each of us. He also has a full control over the human history. He wants us to know Him and trust in Him. He watches over us even when a disaster strike. On this recent Easter Sunday, we were swept by a few waves of intense thunderstorm. Some of us may know that a series of tornados touched down in eight states in the south. One twister caused damage to a little town called Moss in Mississippi. A family with two young kids barely moved into their house several months ago. On that morning, a tornado went past their home when the family was watching an online Easter service. The house was completely blown away but all four people were spared.

How did they survive? Just 20 seconds before they were hit, they went inside a safe room. It is a closet that is built of concrete. The room was constructed according to the standards of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It is designed to withstand tornado and hurricane. After the storm, everything was gone except the safe room. The husband and father commented afterward: "The more I look at what is left of our house, it makes me think of the tomb Jesus Christ was in. We were in there (where) Jesus protected us. But after the storm was over the tomb was empty. We came out alive just like Jesus did for you." Jesus is our only hope in a hopeless world no matter what we may go through.

INTRODUCTION 引言

有些人可以預先看到別人還沒有看到的事物。我們稱他們為先鋒或天才。他們將太空人送上月球，發現了治療嚴重疾病的方法，並建立了互聯網。你現在通過油管 (YouTube) 看這篇講道，這個軟件是由三個人於 2005 年創建的。這些發明家甚至在其他人意識到問題之前就提出了解決方案。在聖經中，先知可以百分之百準確地預測未來。這是因為他們的信息是來自神。今天我們來看先知耶利米所寫的信。他在南國猶大的最後五個王在位期間服事，他曾擔任先知約 40 年。當時巴比倫是後起之秀。它擊敗了亞述和埃及，成為當時的超級強國。以色列是巴比倫的下一個目標。但這不僅僅是強國征服弱國。你可能聽說過一句話：人類的歷史就是神的計劃。神打算使用巴比倫來管教猶大國。大衛王朝的許多君王都仿效其他國家敬拜偶像。社會上也存在不公義。耶利米斥責那個敗壞世代的罪。他的信息很明確：趕快悔改，免得為時已晚。在這卷書中，29:11 是我們大多數人都熟悉的經句 – 耶和華說：「我知道我向你們所懷的意念是賜平安的意念，不是降災禍的意念，要叫你們末後有指望。」神的審判迫在眉睫。但是，即使在這種絕望的情況下仍然有盼望。第 29 章是一封寫給一些已經被擄到巴比倫的以色列人的信。那是三次被擄的第一波。神向他們傳達了盼望的信息。我們這個時代的人們也需要盼望的信息。冠狀病毒大流行震驚了全世界。疾病和死亡引起恐懼。全球經濟崩潰。儘管很多人感到絕望，神還是給我們帶來了盼望的信息。從耶利米書第 29 章的信息中，讓我們記住，主權的神要藉著我們的經歷來彰顯祂的美意。

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Message of Comfort 安慰的信息 (v. 5-9)

神要向祂的子民傳達安慰的信息。神告訴那些難民一些他們要做的事情。首先，回復正常的生活。看第 5 節：「你們要蓋造房屋，住在其中；栽種田園，吃其中所產的。」神要求他們蓋房子，但不要蓋帳篷。那是因為他們會在那裡住一段時間。根據第 10 節，他們要待 70 年。其次，不斷繁殖。繼續讀第 6 節：「娶妻生兒女，為你們的兒子娶妻，使你們的女兒嫁人，生兒養女。在那裡生養眾多，不至減少。」由於以色列人會留下來，所以他們不妨建立自己的家庭。七十年的時間足以見到自己的孫子孫女。神當初給亞當和夏娃發出同樣的命令，要他們生養眾多。以色列人在埃及作奴隸時就是那樣做的。進入迦南之後，他們也是同樣做。人口的增長是神的祝福。根據摩西律法，他們只能和以色列同胞結婚。那樣做便能保存血統的純淨。第三，他們必須服從當地的政府。請看第 7 節：「我所使你們被擄到的那城，你們要為那城求平安，為那城禱告耶和華；因為那城得平安，你們也隨著得平安。」神命令他們為俘虜他們的國家禱告。如果巴比倫繁榮的話，那麼他們也會過好日子。因此，他們不應該考慮發起一場推翻巴比倫的革命。他們就乖乖地做守法的移民。一方面，他們融入社會。另一方面，他們要保持猶太人的獨特性。歷史學家說，以色列人在後來的所有遷移中都遵循相同的模式。這有助於保存他們的文化、習俗和宗教信仰。除了以上三件事，神還提出他們不應做的第四件事。看第 8-9 節：8 ... 「不要被你們

中間的先知和占卜的誘惑，也不要聽信自己所做的夢；9 因為他們託我的名對你們說假預言，我並沒有差遣他們。這是耶和華說的。」神已經給了他們祂權威的指示。任何自稱有主啟示的人都是假先知。我們在這一章就可以找到假信息的一個例子。一些假先知告訴那些仍留在猶大國的人不要向巴比倫人投降。他們向人們保證神會救他們。那些散佈虛假希望和相信這些信息的人最終都被巴比倫人殺害。這四個要求帶給被擄的人安慰。神會繼續看顧他們。他們不僅會生存下來。他們會繼續興旺。但是他們必須調整自己的生活。他們的家園已不復存在。他們無法去死海度假。街上也沒有傳統美食。當他們想到過去時會悲傷流淚。但是如果他們順服神，神就會給他們平安。今天，神也向我們傳達了安慰的信息。我們也必須重新適應新的規範。病毒的爆發將永遠改變我們的習慣。與別人握手之前，我們會三思。與陌生人交談時，我們將保守六英尺的距離。每次洗手時我們都會洗得更徹底。現在，我們被限制在家裡。我們要好好珍惜過去所享受的自由和方便，別把一切看為理所當然。不要抱怨購物中心和電影院關門。感謝神賜給你住處、家庭以及在主裡的弟兄姐妹。別忘記為我們的政府領袖禱告。他們需要花大量時間收集信息、與專家討論，然後才能做出影響到每個人的重要決定。現在你也要小心所聽到的消息。有太多人故意使用假新聞誤導人們。我知道你毫無疑問地信任你的好朋友。但是，你需要檢查他們從哪裡收到了他們轉發的微信或臉書帖子。求神賜給你智慧和明辨的心。最重要的是我們要讚美神，因為祂是最終安慰的源泉。

2. Message about Confess 悔改的信息 (v. 12-14)

神不僅給了祂的子民安慰的信息，神還給了他們關於悔改的信息。神敦促以色列人要回轉歸向祂。讀第 12-13 節：12 「你們要呼求我，禱告我，我就應允你們。13 你們尋求我，若專心尋求我，就必尋見。」注意這兩節經文中的關鍵詞 – 呼求、禱告和尋求。神應許如果他們專心尋求祂的話，祂便會聆聽他們的禱告。我們不只是遇到無法應付的困難時才去尋找神，乃是要全心全意信靠祂。神更關心我們與祂的關係，而不僅僅是為我們解決問題。在過去，以色列相信它的財富、軍事實力、領袖甚至是偶像。但是他們拒絕聽從神的指示。因此，神管教祂的子民。我之前提到耶利米曾擔任五位君王的顧問。耶利米服務的第一個王是約西亞。他的祖父瑪拿西統治了 55 年。他把整個國家陷入偶像敬拜。他甚至到在神的殿中設立祭壇，向異教的神明獻祭！但是約西亞決定做神認為正確的事情。他派人去清理聖殿。大祭司隨後找到了摩西的律法。一位官員向王宣讀其內容。約西亞聽到神的話語時內心受到責備。他意識到為什麼神要懲罰他的祖先。因為他們沒有按照神的要求去做，但是卻做了神所禁止的一切邪惡的事情。就像一個球隊評估他們為什麼輸掉比賽。一位球員說：「很簡單！這是因為我們沒有按照戰略去做。我們也沒有聽從教練的指示。」然後，約西亞派他的官員尋求神求指引。耶和華透過一位女先知傳話。請看列王紀下 22:16-17 - 16 「耶和華如此說：我必照著猶大王所讀那書上的一切話，降禍與這地和其上的居民。17 因為他們離棄我，向別神燒香，用他們手所做的惹我發怒，所以我的忿怒必向這地發作，總不止息。」神將會有更多審判的手段。但是神向約西亞保證，因為他是一位敬虔的君王，他不會面對任何預告的災難。約西亞立即在全國發起屬靈的更新，希望能扭轉局面。他帶領人民重新與神立約。從那時起，每個人都誓言要遵守法律。接下來，約西亞下令拆毀一切供奉偶像的設施。他還清除了所有行法術的巫師。最後，他宣布要過逾越節，這是以色列幾個世紀以來從未做過的事情！約西亞為國家帶來了巨大的復興。然

而，約西亞在戰爭中喪生後不久，以色列又回到過去敗壞的光景。因此，神按照祂的計劃執行審判。這就是為什麼耶利米的收信人現在身處於巴比倫。但是，如果神的子民願意悔改認罪，他們是有盼望的。讓我們看一下耶利米書 29:14 節：耶和華說：「我必被你們尋見，我也必使你們被擄的人歸回，將你們從各國中和我所趕你們到的各處招聚了來，又將你們帶回我使你們被擄掠離開的地方。這是耶和華說的。」神應許如果他們謙卑自己回到祂身邊，祂便赦免他們的罪。神將會把他們帶回自己的家園。他們可以重建自己的城市和聖殿。最重要的是，神會更新與他們的關係。神在整本聖經中都重複了類似的消息。祂是浪子的父親。祂一直在等待我們回到祂的身邊並認罪悔改。這段閉關的時間對我們來說是一個很好的機會，可以反思自己與神的關係。如果聖靈在你心中顯明任何的罪，那麼你要趕緊悔改。我們不用任何藉口掩飾自己的罪。我們不能辯解說：「我生下來就是那個樣子的」或「是撒但引誘我的」。我們犯罪是因為我們故意違背神。悔改不僅僅是對神說對不起而已，我們還需要重新向祂委身。在神的幫助下，我們決定行在神的心意中，拒絕試探。

3. Message to Confront 定罪的信息 (v. 15-19)

神向祂的子民發出了盼望的消息。那是安慰的消息，也是呼籲他們悔改的消息。第三，它也是定罪的消息。那些不屈服於巴比倫的人將無法逃脫將要來臨的審判。請看第 17 節：...「看哪，我必使刀劍、饑荒、瘟疫臨到他們，使他們像極壞的無花果，壞得不可吃。」最終，所有留在猶大國的人都會滅亡。在舊約中，無花果樹是以色列的象徵。實際上，在第 24 章中，神用兩籃無花果的類比揭示了祂的計劃。好的那一籃果子代表被擄的人。讓我們讀 24:5 – 耶和華以色列的神如此說：「被擄去的猶大人，就是我打發離開這地到迦勒底人之地去的，我必看顧他們如這好無花果，使他們得好處。」神會眷顧那些順服祂的管教被帶到巴比倫的人。70 年後，他們將重返家園。神會建立他們，他們會再次承認神為他們的主。至於壞的那一籃無花果，請聽第 8 節：耶和華如此說：「我必將猶大王西底家和他的首領，以及剩在這地耶路撒冷的餘民，並住在埃及地的猶大人都交出來，好像那極壞、壞得不可吃的無花果。」那些沒有向巴比倫投降的人的命運就像被丟棄的無花果一樣。神使用巴比倫作為管教這兩批人的手段。看看耶利米書 27:6 – 「現在我將這些地都交給我僕人巴比倫王尼布甲尼撒的手，我也將田野的走獸給他使用。」神對猶大國最後一個王西底家和與猶大結盟的幾個鄰國說話，它們試圖聯手對抗巴比倫。神將尼布甲尼撒描述為他的僕人！神用一個異邦作為打祂任性的孩子屁股的棍棒。實際上，第 29 章的第 4、7 和 14 節中也出現了「我使他們被擄」的形容。是神利用巴比倫來俘獲祂的子民。巴比倫的崛起及它對其他國家的統治都是神的計劃。埃及、波斯和羅馬也是如此。它們只是神的棋盤上的棋而已，被用來執行神的旨意。以色列蒙福能成為神的選民。他們應該反映出神的聖潔和公義。但是他們卻一敗塗地。但是，就算是在管教中，神仍然顯出祂的憐憫。請看以西結書 18:23 – 主耶和華說：「惡人死亡，豈是我喜悅的嗎？不是喜悅他回頭離開所行的道存活嗎？」像耶利米一樣，以西結是猶大晚期的先知。從神的話中你能感覺到祂的愛嗎？在為時已晚之前及早回頭！神的呼籲不僅是給以色列的，也是給整個世界的。我們可能懷疑神是否使用每一次的天災人禍來審判我們。在 9/11 事件中有六千人失去生命。有人說神在審判我們對金錢和物質主義的驕傲。2004 年 12 月，亞洲海嘯造成二十多萬人喪生。有人說神懲罰那些崇拜偶像的東南亞國家。現在我們正面對冠狀病毒。

神正在管教我們嗎？簡單的答案是：我們不知道！我們不是神，所以我們只能猜測各樣的解釋。有一點是肯定的，我們應該對任何在悲劇事件中失去親人的人表示同情。我們當中有些人可能直接或間接認識仍在醫院甚至死於病毒感染的人。每一個生命對神都是同樣寶貴的。耶穌告訴我們，隨著祂再來的日子靠近，將會出現更強烈、更清晰和更頻繁的跡象。其中包括戰爭、飢荒、地震、宗教迫害、假先知和對真理冷淡。我們的世界即將終結嗎？沒人知道。但隨著時間的流逝，我們越來越接近耶穌的再來。祂要最後一次定人類的罪。作為基督徒，我們必須通過聖經的眼光看我們的世界。每當我們躲過一次災難時，我們都應該感謝神的保護。我們需要為這個世代禱告。求神保守病患者從感染中康復，我們所有人都擺脫恐懼。求神也拯救非信徒脫離罪的束縛。祈求神改變他們的心。

CONCLUSION 結論

主權的神要藉著我們的經歷來彰顯祂的美意。祂對我們每個人都有獨特的計劃。祂完全掌控著人類的歷史。祂希望我們認識祂並信靠祂。即使災難來臨，祂也會看顧我們。在剛過去的這個復活節主日，我們被幾陣強烈的雷雨所席捲。我們其中有些人可能知道，南部的八個州有連綿不斷的龍捲風。其中一個龍捲風在密西西比州的一個叫莫斯的小鎮上造成了破壞。有一個有兩個小孩的家庭在幾個月前才剛搬進他們的房子，結果整個建築物被移為平地。那天早上，當全家正在觀看在線復活節的崇拜時，龍捲風從他們的家上面經過。房子完全被吹走了，但所有四個人都倖免。他們是如何逃過大難的？就在他們被狂風擊中前二十秒鐘，他們走進了一個躲避的房間。那個房間是用水泥建造的儲藏室，是按照聯邦緊急事務管理局 (FEMA) 的標準製造的。說明書保證房間能承受龍捲風和颶風的侵襲。暴風雨過後，除了那個房間之外，一切都被吹走了。那位丈夫和父親隨後說：「我越看屋子唯一剩下的這個房間，就使我想起耶穌基督所在的墳墓。耶穌和我們在裡面保護了我們。但是暴風雨過去之後，墳墓是空的。我們活著從房間裡走出來，就像耶穌從墳墓中復活一樣。」無論我們面對任何遭遇，耶穌都是我們在絕望的世界中唯一的盼望。