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你信这话吗?

Do you believe this?

俄罗斯挥军攻打主权独立国乌克兰震惊了世界。此战役能力悬殊，但乌克兰却给予顽强的反抗；我们看到许多让人愤慨和心酸的新闻和画面。俄罗斯是拥有核子弹的大国，欧美的回应和处理得非常小心拿捏，一度让大家担心这会不会是第三次世界大战的开端，一场毁灭性的核子战争。

这场战争来的突然，让还在疫情当中的人们不知所措。本来看到疫情快过去而经济开始有点转机，战争再次带给经济复苏路上许多的变数。

疫情和战争提醒我们当认识世界的脆弱与短暂性。自第二次世界大战后，世界大部分地区享有约七十年的和平；经济，科技，医药，各个领域都快速地发展，我们都以为这样的情景会永远持续下去。这次的疫情和战争把我们从幻想带回到真实。原来人类是那么的不可靠，虚伪，贪婪，脆弱，无助……人未能掌控明天。

当门徒询问有关末世的预兆时，耶稣回答：“你们要谨慎，免得有人迷惑你们。因为将来有好些人冒我的名来，说：‘我是基督’，并且要迷惑许多人。你们也要听见打仗和打仗的风声，总不要惊慌，因为这些事是必须有的，只是末期还没有到。民要攻打民，国要攻打国，多处必有饥荒、地震。”（太24:3-7）

耶稣也告诉我们那日子没有人知道，我们不能预知确切的日子但我们可以看到它的预兆，并肯那日子是越来越近了。

圣周即将来到。在疫情和战争中面对耶稣的受难与复活我们会有怎样的领受呢？

耶稣的受难让我们面对死亡，耶稣的复活让我们面对永生。让我们在圣周勇敢面对生命的主，正视我们生命的光景，生命的优先次序；真诚回应主的声音，勇敢地走在主指定的道路上。

耶稣对马大说：“复活在我，生命也在我。信我的人，虽然死了，也必复活；凡活着信我的人必永远不死。你信这话吗？”（约11:24-26）

耶稣今天也同样地问我们：你信这话吗？

The news of the Russian army attacking Ukraine shook the world. Despite the difference in military power, Ukraine is putting up a good fight. We have seen many news and images that have brought us anger and heartache. Russia, being a nation with nuclear weapons, could spark the beginning of World War 3 in nuclear warfare, which is why European countries and the US must be delicate in their responses and reactions.

The sudden war gave the world which is still in the midst of the pandemic no time to respond. Right when

Photo taken by President at Singapore River Coleman Bridge Underpass,
Singapore, November 2021
会长摄于2021年11月新加坡，新加坡河地下通道。



it seems that the pandemic could be coming to an end and the economy is bettering, the war brought about unforeseeable changes to the economic outlook yet again.

The pandemic and war remind us how fragile and temporal our world is. Since the Second World War, most parts of the world have gotten to enjoy 70 years of peace; the economy, technology, medicine, and other areas have developed rapidly, and we are expecting things to carry on in the same trajectory. But this pandemic and war bust our dreams and brought us back to reality. Such is the reality of mankind—unreliable, hypocritical, greedy, vulnerable, helpless... Human beings are not in control of tomorrow.

When the disciples asked about the signs of end times, Jesus answered, "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end times have not come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places." (Matthew 24:3-7)

Jesus tells us, no one knows when that day will be, we cannot predict the exact day but we can see its signs, and know that day is nearing.

We will soon enter the Holy Week. Amid the pandemic and war, what is our reflection of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection? In Jesus' crucifixion, we face death; in His resurrection, we face eternal life. This Holy Week, let us come before the God of Life with boldness, reflecting upon our life and priorities; responding sincerely to God's call, and walking courageously on the path where the Lord is leading us to.

Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:24-26)

Today Jesus is asking us the same question: Do you believe this?

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